

KURD-AKAD UK - The Network of Kurdish Academics and Professionals

CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The name of the Association shall be KURD-AKAD UK (Kurdish Academics and Professionals Network, UK - Tora Akademîsyen û Pisporên Kurd UK).

2. GENERAL PRINCIPALS

2.1. Aims:

- a) Encouraging the scientific analysis of the issues affecting Kurds
- b) Working towards the expansion of educational opportunities within the Kurdish community and increasing Kurd's educational achievements
- c) Lobbying on a British and European level
- d) Supporting students and disadvantaged groups in Kurdistan
- e) Working in conjunction with other Kurdish organisations in diaspora

2.2. Objectives:

1) The association aims to:

- a) Encourage professional and intercultural exchange of knowledge and experience by co-operating with other communities and organisations
- b) Promote academic discussions on social, political and cultural aspects of migration
- c) Combine and target resources of education to develop the educational potential of Kurdish communities
- d) Represent the interests of Kurdish communities and promote their integration into the wider society
- e) Support social projects that aim at empowering women and children in the field of education
- f) Raise awareness of Kurdish culture, society and politics

2) To achieve its objectives, the Association aims to work collaboratively with other associations and organisations as far as this serves its objectives.

3) The Association shall carry out, participate in and contribute to study tours, educational trips, conferences, academic seminars, congresses and panel discussions with academics, professionals and politicians.

3) MEMBERSHIP

- a) Membership of the Association shall be open to all persons of Kurdish origin or any person who has an interest in the Kurdish society and culture who supports the aims and objectives of the Association.
- b) Any person wishing to become a member must sign, and submit to the Association, a written or online application for membership.
- c) The Management Committee may, at its discretion, refuse any application for membership.
- d) Any member wishing to withdraw from membership must sign, and submit to the Association, a written notice. On receipt by the Association they will cease to be a member.

e) Any member may be expelled from membership by way of a resolution passed by majority vote at a general meeting providing at least 21 days' notice of the proposed resolution has been given, in writing, to the member concerned. The member will be entitled to be heard on the resolution at the general meeting at which the resolution is proposed.

f) The annual membership fee will be set by members at the Annual General Meeting.

g) Benefits of membership:

- Contribute to the work of Kurd-Akad UK
- Attends events and activities to improve skills in academic and professional life
- Participate in social and cultural events allowing networking
- Take part in domestic and international trips to allow networking
- Be informed of events by Kurd-Akad UK and other Kurd-Akad organisations

4. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Kurd-Akad UK will not discriminate on the grounds of gender, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, sexuality, disability, religious or political belief, marital status or age.

5) MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

a) The policy and management of the affairs of the Association shall be directed by a Management Committee, which shall meet as necessary and not less than four times a year.

b) The members of the Management Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Association and remain in office until a new committee is elected. Members of the Management Committee may be re-elected however they must not serve more than two consecutive terms.

c) The Management Committee consists of 7 persons (two chairpersons (male and female), two deputies, a treasurer and two secretaries) and 2 substitute members. We will aim for equal representation of genders.

d) The management committee' duties are as follows:

- Implementing the decisions of the meetings of members
- Calling and preparing the meetings of members. The meetings of the members are led by the chairperson or one of the deputies.
- Setting the budget for every business year, keeping the account and issuing the annual report.
- Admitting new members and terminating membership should the need arise.
- Concluding and terminating employment contracts.

e) The Management Committee may appoint Sub-Committees as considered necessary, and shall determine their terms of reference, powers, duration and composition. All acts and proceedings of such Sub-Committees shall be reported back to the Management Committee as soon as possible.

6. MEETINGS

6.1 Annual General Meetings

a) The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held within fifteen months of the preceding AGM.

- b) All members will be notified in writing at least 3 weeks before the date of the meeting, giving the venue, date and time.
- c) Nominations for the committee may be made to the Secretary before the meeting, or at the meeting.
- d) The Annual General Meeting will transact the following business:
 - Consideration of the annual report provided by the Management Committee.
 - Consideration of the annual statement of accounts.
 - Election of the Management Committee.
 - Any other competent business.

6.2 Committee Meetings

- a) The Committee meetings may be called by the Co-chairs or Secretary.
- b) The Committee members must receive notice of meetings at least 7 days before the meeting.
- c) The quorum at a meeting of the Committee shall be not less than 1/3 of the full members entitled to vote.

6.3 General Meetings

- a) General Meetings are open to all members and will be held at least once a year or more often if necessary.
- b) All members will be given two weeks' notice of such a meeting, giving the venue, date, time and agenda, and notice may be by telephone, email or post.
- c) The quorum for a General Meeting shall be 10% of the membership or 5 members at the time, whichever is the greater number.

6.4 Special General Meetings

The Co-chairs of the Association may at any time at his/her discretion, and shall, within fourteen days of receiving a written request by not less than 33% members having the power to vote and giving reason for the request, call a Special Meeting of the Association for the purpose of altering the Constitution or of considering any matter which may be referred to him/her by the Management Committee for any other purpose. The proposed changes to the Constitution, or other matter to be considered at this Special Meeting, shall be distributed in writing to the membership at least 14 days prior to the date of the Special Meeting.

6.5 Rules for Meetings

- a) Unless otherwise specified in this Constitution, all questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote. In the event of a tie, the Co-chairs have the casting vote.
- b) The minutes of the Committee Meetings shall contain a record of all proceedings, resolutions and decisions. These minutes should be available to the membership at all times.

7. FINANCE

- a) Finance shall be raised by the Management Committee through fund raising events, subscriptions, donations or grants.
- b) All money raised by or on behalf of the Association is only to be used to further the aims of the Association.
- c) The Treasurer shall keep proper accounts of the finances of the Association. At the end of the financial year the Treasurer will prepare an annual statement of accounts.

d) The financial year of the Association shall commence from 1st April and end on 31st March of the following year.

e) A bank account shall be opened in the name of the Association with a bank or building society, as the Management Committee shall from time to time decide. The Management Committee shall authorise, in writing, three members of the Management Committee, one of whom shall be the Treasurer, to sign cheques on behalf of the Association. All cheques must be signed by not less than two of the authorised signatories, who cannot be related or resident at the same address.

8. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Alterations to the conditions may be proposed at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose. Any such proposal to alter the Constitution must be given in writing to the Secretary at least 21 days before the meeting at which the proposed alteration is to be considered. The proposed alteration must be distributed, in writing, along with the official notification of the meeting to the membership at least 14 days before the meeting. Any alteration to the Constitution will require the approval of two-thirds of those present and eligible to vote.

9. DISSOLUTION

If the Management Committee, by a simple majority, decides at any time, on ground of expense or otherwise, that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Association, it shall call a Special Meeting of the Association. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred equally to any charitable organisation with similar aims and objectives to the Association.

Adopted by its members at a meeting held on _____ (date)

Name: _____ Signed: _____ (Co-chair)

Name: _____ Signed: _____ (Co-chair)

Name: _____ Signed: _____ (Secretary)

Name: _____ Signed: _____ (Treasurer)