



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SUICIDE PREVENTION CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1: NAME AND HEADQUARTERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Association is named the "International Association for Suicide Prevention and Crisis Intervention" abbreviated as "IASP". The activities of the Association encompass all countries, which are represented as individual or organizational members of the Association.

IASP headquarters are located at the registered office designated by the Board.

ARTICLE 2: PURPOSES OF THE ASSOCIATION

Section 1: The Association is established to prevent suicide and suicidal behaviour, to alleviate its effects, and to provide a forum for academicians, mental health professionals, crisis workers, volunteers, and suicide survivors. The association is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purpose.

To these ends, the Association will:

- (a) bring together the available knowledge and expertise for effective action to address the issues of suicidal behaviour worldwide and to improve the validity of the information being assembled;
- (b) monitor the progress of suicide prevention activities on a global scale;
- (c) encourage the collection of valid up-to-date national data on issues of suicidal behaviour;
- (d) create opportunities for bringing people together to exchange knowledge and experiences;
- (e) make available expertise for the development of guidelines for suicide prevention programs;



- (f) improve the supply of appropriate information to governments, relevant international and national organizations, groups and the general public on issues of suicidal behaviour;
- (g) raise the awareness of governments, relevant international and national organizations and groups, and to the general public about issues of suicidal behaviour; and
- (h) encourage policy makers and opinion leaders to assess the impact of their activities on the problem of suicidal behaviour.
- (i) make distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt under section 501 (c) (3) of the internal revenue code of the United States of America or corresponding section of any future United States of America federal tax code.

Section 2: The activities of the Association will include but not be limited to:

- (a) cause to be written, and printed or otherwise reproduced and circulated, gratuitously or otherwise, periodicals, magazines, books, leaflets or other documents or films or recorded tapes; and to form and maintain a library of literature and other material in connection with the Association's objects;
- (b) hold exhibitions, meetings, lectures, classes, seminars and courses either alone or with others;
- (c) foster and encourage research into any aspect of the objects of the Association and its work and to disseminate the useful results of any such research;
- (d) co-operate and enter into arrangements with any authorities, national, local or otherwise;
- (e) accept subscriptions, donations, devises and bequests of and to purchase, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire and hold any real or personal estate maintain and alter any of the same as are necessary for any of the objects of the Association and (subject to such consents as may be required by law) sell, lease or otherwise dispose of or mortgage any such real or personal estate;
- (f) issue appeals, hold public meetings and take such other steps as may be required for the purpose of procuring contributions to the funds of the Association in the shape of donations, subscriptions or otherwise;



- (g) draw, make, accept, endorse, discount, execute and issue promissory notes, bills, checks and other instruments, and to operate bank accounts;
- (h) take and accept any gift of money, property or other assets, whether subject to any special trust or not, for any one or more of the objects of the Association;
- (i) invest the moneys of the Association not immediately required for its objects in or upon such investments, securities or property as may be thought fit, subject nevertheless to such conditions (if any) and such consents (if any) as may for the time being be imposed or required by law and subject also as hereinafter provided;
- (j) make any charitable donation either in cash or assets for the furtherance of the objects of the Association;
- (k) establish, become a member of or support any charitable association, corporation or body having objects of a similar nature to those of the Association and to affiliate, or otherwise associate with the Association any such association, corporation or body and to subscribe or guarantee money for charitable purposes calculated to further the objects of the Association;
- (l) employ and pay any person or persons to supervise, organize, carry on the work of and advise the Association;
- (m) pay out of the funds of the Association the costs, charges and expenses of and incidental to the formation and registration of the Association;
- (n) pay out of the funds of the association the cost of any premium in respect of any insurance or indemnity to cover the liability of the Board members or any of them in respect of any negligence default breach of duty or breach of trust provided that any such insurance or indemnity shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the trustees knew to be a breach of trust or which was committed by the trustee in reckless disregard of whether it was a breach of trust or not; and to do all such other lawful things as shall further the above objects or any of them.

ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASSOCIATION

Section 1: IASP membership consists of:

- (a) **Individual membership** is for individuals who are regularly engaged in suicide studies, clinical management of suicidal patients, and/or suicide prevention activities, and/or



support groups and those who are interested in furthering the work of the Association.

- (b) **Organizational membership** is for national or international voluntary or other non-profit organizations (incorporated or unincorporated) working in the field of suicide studies, clinical management of suicidal patients, and/or suicide prevention activities under the terms of their governing document, and help and support groups for those affected by suicide.
- (c) **Student, Volunteer, Lived Experience and Retiree membership¹** is for full time students, persons with lived experience, volunteers and retirees who are regularly engaged in suicide studies, clinical management of suicidal patients, and/or suicide prevention activities, and/or support groups and those who are interested in furthering the work of the Association.
- (d) **Associate membership** is for individuals and organizations who are interested in working toward the goals of the Association, but who are not qualified or able to pay for full ordinary membership.
- (e) **Honorary membership** is a special honor for select senior members of the Association. Honorary membership is a lifetime membership.

ARTICLE 4: DUTIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEMBERS

Section 1: The activities of the Association shall be supported by membership dues, voluntary contributions, and net earnings of events, such as congresses. Thus all ordinary members of the IASP, have a duty to the organization to pay their annual dues.

Section 2: The annual dues for ordinary members and fees for sponsoring associate members will be recommended by the Board subject to ratification by the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 5: GOVERNMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

Section 1: The government of the Association is made up of:

- (a) the General Assembly;
- (b) the Board;



(c) the Council of National Representatives.

ARTICLE 6: GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Section 1: The General Assembly shall consist of all the ordinary and honorary members.

The General Assembly shall be considered in session when half of the eligible ordinary and honorary members are present. If this number is not present within 15 minutes after the time designated for the opening of the General Assembly, a vote of two-thirds of those present can declare the assembly to constitute a quorum (a reduced quorum), however there must be a minimum of 50 members for a reduced quorum to be constituted.

Section 2: To revise the Constitution a vote of a two-thirds majority is required;⁴

Section 3: All elections and decisions at General Assembly meetings, unless otherwise prescribed in special regulations of the Constitution, are determined by a simple majority.

ARTICLE 7: BOARD

Section 1: The Board shall be composed of the President, the General Secretary, the Treasurer, two Vice-Presidents, a representative of the College of Presidents, two Lived Experience representatives, and the Co-Chairs of the Council of National Representatives. All the above positions will be duly elected by the membership or through their appropriate bodies.

The Board will also invite two external persons with expertise through a selection process to sit on the Board.

Section 2: The President or, in his/her absence, one of his/her delegates designated in writing, will represent the Association formally in dealing with authorities and third parties; will execute the decisions of the General Assembly, the Council of National Representatives, and the Board; will call the Board into session; and will preside in assemblies and meetings of the Association.

Section 3: The duties of the General Secretary shall include:



- (a) Discharge all duties assigned to him/her by the General Assembly, the Council of National Representatives and the Board.
- (b) Regular presentation of administrative reports to the Board and to the members.
- (c) Maintain the archives of the Association.

Section 4: The Treasurer shall prepare financial reports for the Board and the General Assembly.

Section 5: A quorum for a meeting of the Board shall constitute a minimum of two thirds the elected Board members.

A resolution will be passed by the Board on a majority basis.

ARTICLE 8: COUNCIL OF NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Section 1: Once every four years, regular and honorary members will elect one National Representative for their own country of residence.

The National Representatives as a group constitute the Council of National Representatives.

Section 2: The Council of National Representatives shall elect two Chairpersons from among themselves

The Chairpersons shall serve as members of the Board.

ARTICLE 9: THE COLLEGE OF PRESIDENTS

Section 1: The College of Presidents shall comprise of all willing past presidents of IASP who hold ordinary or honorary membership.

Section 2: The Purpose of the College of Presidents is to bring together the wealth of knowledge and experience from past Presidents of IASP to strengthen the wisdom of the association and be a source of counsel.

Section 3: The College of Presidents shall elect from amongst themselves, a representative to sit on the Board, as a member.



ARTICLE 10: BYLAWS

The Association shall be governed in part by a set of Bylaws, maintained as a separate governing document. The Board may propose amendments to the Bylaws, which must be approved by a majority vote of the Council of National Representatives in order to take effect.

ARTICLE 11: DISBANDING OF THE ASSOCIATION

- Section 1:** The disbanding of IASP can occur only by a vote of two-thirds of the qualified members. In the event of disbanding of the Association, any surplus in the Treasury will be donated to a charitable institution. Any outstanding deficit is to be borne according to dues paid by all the regular members by means of an assessment. The Board is responsible for the carrying out of the dissolving of the Association.
- Section 2:** Every member of the Association is responsible for payment of the debts and liabilities of the Association until one year after he/she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required not exceeding fifty dollars (U.S.).
- Section 3:** Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the country in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

ARTICLE 12: IN GENERAL

- Section 1:** Any notice to be given to or by any person pursuant to this Constitution shall be in writing except that a notice calling a meeting of the Board need not be in writing. The Association may give any notice to a member either personally or by sending it by post to him/her or to his/her registered address or by leaving it at that address.
- Section 2:** The right to appeal any administrative and organizational decision of the Board to the jurisdiction of the General Assembly shall be exercised within 60 days of the announcement of the decision of the Board.



- Section 3:** All decisions of the Association require only a simple majority vote, except where the rules and regulations for voting otherwise indicate. The election of members of the Board will be conducted by secret ballot; other business will be conducted by secret vote when so requested by a vote of one-third of the voting body.
- Section 4:** The Association in General Assembly shall have power to alter or repeal the Constitution and to make additions or alterations. The Board shall adopt such means as they deem sufficient to bring the Constitution to the notice of members of Association.
- Section 5:** In their relationship with the IASP, members shall acknowledge the jurisdiction of the place of residence of the Association, and the law valid in this place of residence as binding upon themselves.

ADOPTED: IASP GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1997, ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA.

PRESIDENT: Professor Robert Goldney

DATE: 25 March 1997

SIGNATURE: *Robert Goldney*

AMENDMENT: 1 ADOPTED: IASP GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2005, DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA.

PRESIDENT: Professor Brian Mishara

DATE: 15 September 2005.

SIGNATURE: *Brian L Mishara, Ph.D.*

AMENDMENT: 2 ADOPTED: IASP GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2007, KILLARNEY, IRELAND.

PRESIDENT: Professor Brian Mishara

DATE: 31 August 2007

SIGNATURE: *Brian L Mishara, Ph.D.*

AMENDMENT: 3 ADOPTED: IASP GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2009, MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY.

PRESIDENT: Professor Brian Mishara

DATE: 30 October 2009

SIGNATURE: *Brian L Mishara, Ph.D.*

AMENDMENTS (including general amendments to clarify language): 4 ADOPTED: IASP GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2013, OSLO, NORWAY.

PRESIDENT: Dr Alan Berman

DATE: 27 September 2013

SIGNATURE:



AMENDMENTS (including general amendments to clarify language): ADOPTED: IASP EXTRAORDINARY POSTAL VOTE SEPTEMBER 2016.

PRESIDENT: Professor Ella Arensman

DATE: 1 September 2016

SIGNATURE:

AMENDMENTS (including the according changes to wording in a number of clauses): ADOPTED: IASP GENERAL ASSEMBLY NORTHERN IRELAND 2019.

PRESIDENT: Murad Khan

DATE: 21 September 2019

SIGNATURE:

AMENDMENTS (including removal of bylaws into a separate document):

ADOPTED: IASP EXTRAORDINARY POSTAL VOTE DECEMBER 2025.

PRESIDENT: Professor Jo Robinson

DATE: 15 December 2025

SIGNATURE: