

The Afghanistan Society is the working name of the Afghan Refugee Information Network (ARIN) as agreed with the Charity Commission of England & Wales in 2019. The Afghanistan Society is therefore governed by this constitution.

AFGHAN REFUGEE INFORMATION NETWORK (ARIN) Constitution

1. The name of the institution shall be called the AFGHAN REFUGEE INFORMATION NETWORK (hereinafter call the Charity).
2. The objects of the Charity shall be:-
 - (i) the relief of poverty and sickness and promotion of health amongst Afghan refugees and their families, and
 - (ii) the promotion of education concerning the country and people of Afghanistan.
3. Membership shall be open to any person interested in furthering the objects of the Charity.
4. The Charity shall be administered by a Committee who shall consist of :-
 - (i) (a). Four ex officio members namely: the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, acting as Co-Chairs, the Honorary Treasurer and the Honorary Secretary.
(b). 5 (five) elected members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting to hold as in this constitution provided for a term of office commencing at the end of the Annual General Meeting at which they are elected provided that at every subsequent general meeting after the first Annual General Meeting one third of the elected members for the time being or if their number is not three or a multiple of three then the number nearest to one third shall be those who have been longest in office since their last election but as between persons who became member on the same day those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree amongst themselves) be determined by lot provided that any competent member may be re-elected, and
(c). Not more than five co-opted member by the Committee to hold office until the Annual General Meeting following their co-option.
 - (ii) Proceedings of the Committee shall not be invalidated by any defect in the election or qualification of any member.
 - (iii) No person shall be entitled to act as a member of the Committee whether on a first or any subsequent entry into office until after signing a declaration of acceptance and willingness to act in accordance with the provisions and agreed Statement of Values.
 - (iv) Any member of the Committee who is adjudged bankrupt or makes a composition or arrangement with his creditors for who is incapacitated from acting or who communicated in writing to the Committee a wish to resign shall therefore cease to be a member.
 - (v) The Committee shall hold at least three ordinary meetings in each year and any such other ordinary meetings as may be required and a special meeting may be summoned at any time by the Chairman or any three other members upon at

- least 14 days clear days' notice being given to all other members of the matters to be discussed.
- (vi) There shall be a quorum when any four members of the Committee are present at a meeting thereof.
 - (vii) At meetings of the Committee every matter shall be determined by the majority of the members present and voting on the question provided that in the case of equality of votes, the Chairman of the meeting shall have the second or casting vote.
 - (viii) Any resolution if the Committee may be rescinded or varied from time to time by the Committee.
 - (ix) The Committee shall cause proper records to be kept of all proceedings of meetings of the Charity, of any sub-committees and of all professional advice obtained.
 - (x) Within the limits prescribed by this constitution the Committee shall have full power from time to time to make and rescind regulations for the conduct of their business.
5. The title of all real and personal property which may be acquired by or on behalf of the Charity shall be vested in a Corporation lawfully entitled to act as a custodian trustee or in not less than three nor more than six individuals who shall enter into a Deed of Trust setting forth the purposes and conditions under which they hold such property.
6. (i) An Annual General Meeting of the Charity shall be held in the month of June in each year at which all persons who are members of the Charity shall be entitled to attend and vote. The following officers shall be elected at the AGM: Chairman, Vice Chairman, acting as Co-Chairs, Secretary and Treasurer. The Annual Report and accounts shall be presented to the AGM. The quorum of the AGM to be 20% of the members entitled to attend and vote thereat.
- (ii) The first AGM shall be convened by the Committee.
 - (iii) The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Charity shall be respectively the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Annual General Meeting provided that if both are absent from the Annual General Meeting the Chairman may nominate a person to preside at the meeting and in the event of failure so to nominate the persons present at the Annual General Meeting shall before any other business is transacted choose one of their number to preside at the meetings.
 - (iv) An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Charity may be called at any time by the Committee. The quorum of the EGM shall be 20% of those entitled to vote thereat.
 - (v) At least 21 days' notice shall be given of meetings of the Charity to each person entitled to attend at his/her last known contact address provided that the accidental omission to give notice of such a meeting to or the non receipt of notice of a meeting by any person entitled to received notice shall not invalidate proceedings at the meeting.
7. (i) After payment of any expenses of administration the Committee shall as and

when they shall think fit apply or cause to be applied the yearly income of the Charity and also the cash and investments and other property thereof if and insofar as the same may be applied as income in furthering the objects of the charity.

- (ii) Every appropriation of the benefits of the Charity shall be made by the Committee at meetings thereof and not separately by any individual member or members thereof provided that the Committee appoint a Sub Committee consisting of the Chairman of the Committee and not less than one other member of the Committee and in cases of urgency the benefits of the Charity up to an amount or value not exceeding £1,000.00 in any one case may be applied by such Sub Committees.
8. The Committee may appoint Sub Committees which may include members who are not members of the Committee with a view to furthering the purposes of the Charity. These Sub Committees to report their acts and proceedings fully and promptly back to the Committee.
 9. The Committee shall have power exercisable from time to time as may in their absolute discretion think fit:-
 - (i) (a) to collect donations (whether periodical or otherwise)
(b) to issue appeals for donations and periodical reports on the activities of the Charity
(c) to accept donations grants or interest free loans with or without conditions.
 - (ii) to employ research or administrative staff not being a member of the Committee whether on a full-time or part-time basis or on a consultancy basis and to remunerate them by payments or salaries, wages or fees.
 - (iii) to reimburse Committee members for reasonable out of pocket expenses incurred in carrying out the work of the Committee having been authorised to do so by a quorate meeting of that Committee or on presentation of proper accounts.
 10. Notwithstanding the provisions of Clause 7(i) hereof all sums of cash at any time belonging to the Charity not needed as a balance for working purposes shall be accumulated for a period not exceed 21 years but the Committee may at any time realise investments of accumulated income and apply the proceeds thereof as income.
 11. The Committee may invest any monies required for investment in or upon any investments for the time being authorised by law for the investment of trust funds or in the purchase of the freehold land in Great Britain or in or upon the debentures (as defined by the Companies Act 1948) or preferred or preference or ordinary or deferred shares (excluding partly paid shares) or stock of any company having a paid up capital or not less than £1 ~~in~~ provided that such debentures shares or stock are or will on issue or allotment be dealt with in or quoted on a recognised Stock Exchange.
 12. The Committee may from time to time open and maintain in the name of the Charity a bank account or bank accounts at such bank or banks as they shall from time to

time decide and may at any time pay any monies held on account of the charity to the credit of any such account or accounts and all cheques and orders for the payment of money shall be signed by at least two members of the Committee or in any other manner as the Committee may decide.

13. The Committee may:-

- (i) Acquire any freehold or leasehold land estate and property whatsoever which is necessary for the carrying out of the purposes of the charity provided that no property forming part of the permanent endowment of the Charity shall be sold or otherwise disposed of without the consents required by the Charities Act 1960 or any statutory re-enactment thereof.
- (ii) Effect and keep on foot insurance against every kind of risk affecting the property of the Charity and against any injury damage or loss which may arise or occur or be occasioned by or through any agents servants or other persons in the employ of the Committee or acting on their behalf or by or through any other means whatsoever and to effect and keep on foot insurances on the life or health or against accident to the servants or agents of the Charity and to effect and keep on foot insurances against any risk or liability of any description to which the property of the charity or its servants or agents may or might become in any way subject.
- (iii) To promote the publication of all types of literature for the purposes of the Charity, whether publication be by the Charity or by the Charity contributing to the publication by others, whether by employing persons not being members of the Committee to prepare reports, or by paying fees for articles or reports whether the publication be in pamphlet, journal or book form and in particular to promote the publication of a journal by the Charity.
- (iv) Attend, arrange, pay or contribute to or sponsor meetings, conferences, seminars
- (v) To borrow and raise money and to give security thereafter by mortgaging or charging any part of the property of the Charity provided that no property forming part of the permanent endowment of the Charity shall be mortgaged or otherwise disposed of without the consents required by the Charities Act 1960 or any statutory re-enactment thereof.
- (vi) To support subscribe to or lend money or property belonging to any other charity having similar objects.

14. (i) Proper books or accounts shall be kept on behalf of the Committee and entries therein of all receipts and payments and such accounts shall be audited annually by a qualified Chartered Accountant to be selected by the Committee.
- (ii) The Committee shall present to the Annual General Meeting of the Charity the report and accounts of the Charity for the previous year.

15. The Charity may be dissolved by a resolution supported by not less than 20% of those present and voting at an AGM or EGM called for that purpose of which at least 21 days' notice shall have been sent to all members of the Charity. Such resolutions may give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the Charity provided that if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and

liabilities, such property shall not be paid to or distributed among the members but shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions have objects similar to the object of the Charity as the Committee may with the approval of the Charity Commissioners determine.

16. The Committee shall not be bound in any case to act personally but shall be at liberty to employ any agent or servant to transact any business or whatever nature required to be done in furthering the purpose of the Charity and shall be entitled to be allowed and paid all charges and expenses incurred by them in the administration thereof.
17. In the execution of the trusts hereof no member of the Committee shall be liable for any loss to the property of the Charity arising by reason of any improper investment made in good faith (so long as he shall have sought professional advice before making such investment) or for the negligence or fraud of any agent employed by him or any other member hereof in good faith (provided reasonable supervision shall have been exercised) or by reason of any mistake or omission made in good faith by any member hereof or by reason of any other matter or thing than wilful and individual fraud or wrongdoing or wrongful omission on the part of the member who is sought to be made liable.
18. Any members of the Committee for the time being hereof being a solicitor or other person engaged in any profession shall be entitled to charge or be paid all usual professional or their charges for work done by him or his firm in connecting with the execution of trusts thereof.

Amendments

- (i) The Constitution shall only be amended at an Annual General Meeting or and Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose.
- (ii) Any alteration to the Constitution must receive the assent of not less than 20% of members present and voting.
- (iii) The membership must be given 28 days' notice of any amendment.
- (iv) No amendment shall be made to this Constitution which would cause the Charity to cease to be a Charity at Law.

This is a true copy or the Constitution adopted by the members at a meeting held on 20th October, 1986.

(signed) ELIZABETH WINTER, CHAIRMAN

(signed) ROSALINDA HAYWARD, HONORARY SECRETARY.

This is an amended copy of the Constitution, proposed by ARIN Trustees Elizabeth Winter and Robert Arguile, 23rd May 2019 for the Annual General Meeting on 20 June 2019.