

Association of Afghan Academics in Sweden (AoAAS)

Statute

Preamble

We, the members of [the Association of Afghan Academics in Sweden], recognizing the paramount importance of academic freedom, democracy and human rights, hereby establish this association as a non-political and independent entity solely devoted to these principles.

Article 1: Name

The name of the association shall be " **the Association of Afghan Academics in Sweden**"

Article 2: Aims and Objectives

The association is a non-profit organization dedicated to aims and objectives mapped as follows.

1. Supporting Academic Careers

- To support the academic careers of members in their host countries through networking, resources, and professional development opportunities.

2. Advocacy for Freedom and Rights

- To advocate for academic freedom, democracy, and human rights in the members' country of origin by raising awareness, engaging in policy discussions, and supporting relevant initiatives.

3. Academic Collaboration and Public Awareness

- To support and enhance initiatives such as academic collaboration, public awareness campaigns, and informed dialogues aimed at achieving the association's main goals.

4. Connecting with Afghan Migrants and Diaspora

- To establish and strengthen connections with Afghan migrants in Sweden for raising awareness, spreading knowledge, and building capacity within the community.

Article 3: Membership

1. Types of Membership

○ ***Regular Membership***

- Regular membership is open to any individual who supports the purpose and objectives of the association.
- a) Regular members should hold a former or current Afghanistan citizenship, possess knowledge, awareness and academic work experiences including but not limited to teaching or research at a higher educational institution. b) The members have to uphold and believe in the human rights charter, freedom of expression and democratic values.
- Regular members are required to pay semiannually (every six months) membership dues as determined by the Board of Directors.

○ ***Honorary Membership***

- a) Honorary membership may be granted to individuals who are willing to engage in academic freedom, democratic practices and excellence in knowledge world wide especially in Afghanistan. b) Honorary membership may also be granted to individuals who made significant contributions to the fields of academic freedom, human rights, or the association itself.
- Honorary members are exempt from the citizenship requisiteness as stated in clause a in article 1, but not from clause b.

- Honorary members are exempt from paying membership dues.

2. Rights of Members

- *Regular Members*

- Right to vote in general meetings.
- Right to stand for election to the Board of Directors.
- Right to participate in all association activities and events.
- Right to access association resources and publications.

- *Honorary Members*

- Right to attend general meetings and participate in discussions (without voting rights).
- Right to be recognized for their contributions to the association and its mission.
- Right to participate in all association activities and events.

3. Obligations of Members

- *Regular Members*

- Adhere to the association's statutes, values, policies, and code of conduct.
- Actively participate in association activities and contribute to its mission.
- Pay membership dues in a timely manner.

- *Honorary Members*

- Uphold the association's values and support its mission.
- Serve as ambassadors for the association, promoting its work and objectives.

4. Termination of Membership

- Members can withdraw voluntarily from the association after completing membership dues and approval by the Board of Directorate.
- Membership may be terminated for any member who fails to adhere to the association's statutes or code of conduct.
- Membership may also be terminated for non-payment of dues (for regular members) after a grace period as determined by the Board of Directors.
- Membership may be terminated by a decision of the General Assembly if a member:
 - a) Violates the association's statutes or policies.
 - b) Engages in activities that contradict the association's mission or harm its reputation.

Article 4: General Assembly

1. The General Assembly is the supreme governing body of the association.
2. It shall meet at least three times a year [at least one in person meeting].
3. The General Assembly shall:
 - Elect the Board of Directors.
 - Approve the annual budget and financial reports.
 - Develop annual activity plans for the association.
 - Make decisions on important matters concerning the association including but not limited to amendments in the association's statute, budget allocation, dissolution or establishment of committees and the association, new membership, and structural framework of the association.

Article 5: Governance

1. The association shall be governed by a Board of Directors consisting of [3] following officers:.

President: The President is the chief executive officer of the association and is responsible for providing leadership and direction to the organization.

Responsibilities:

- Preside over all meetings of the association and the Board of Directors.
- Represent the association in official capacities and public functions.
- Oversee the implementation of policies and decisions made by the Board of Directors.
- Ensure the association operates in accordance with its statutes and mission.
- Report to the General Assembly on the activities and progress of the association.
- Sign in and out official documents on behalf of the association.

Vice President: The Vice President assists the President in their duties and serves as the acting President in their absence.

Responsibilities:

- Support the President in carrying out their responsibilities.
- Assume the duties of the President if the President is unable to perform their functions.
- Oversee specific projects or committees as delegated by the President.
- Assist in the planning and coordination of association activities and events.
- Manage the association's financial matters and act as the Financial Officer.

Secretary: The Secretary is responsible for maintaining the association's records and ensuring effective communication within the organization.

Responsibilities:

- Keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the association and the Board of Directors.
 - Maintain and update the association's official documents and records.
 - Handle correspondence on behalf of the association.
 - Ensure that all members are informed of meetings, events, and important updates.
2. Board members shall be elected on a periodic electoral basis by the General Assembly for a term of [2] years.
 3. The Board of Directors shall:
 - Implement and oversee the implementation of the association's activities.
 - Manage the association's finances.
 - Represent the association in external matters.
 - Implement the enactments stipulated by the general assembly.

Article 6: Committees

1. The General assembly may establish committees to carry out specific tasks.
2. Each committee shall be chaired by a member of the association and report to the Board of Directors.
3. The association shall initially have two committees:
 - **Academic and Educational Committee:** Focused on overseeing academic programs, educational initiatives, and professional development opportunities for members.

- **Cultural and Social Activities Committee:** Organizing cultural and social events to foster community engagement, cultural exchange, and social integration.

Article 7: Finances

1. The association's funds shall be derived from:
 - Membership fees
 - Donations and grants
 - Fundraising activities
2. The Board of Directors shall ensure proper financial management and transparency.

Article 8: Policies

1. Non-Political Stance

- The association is a non-political entity and shall not engage in or endorse political activities or affiliations.

2. Independence

- The association operates independently and is not influenced by any external political, governmental, or religious entities.

3. Academic Freedom

- The association is dedicated to promoting, advocating for and supporting academic freedom, ensuring that scholars can pursue knowledge and research without fear of repression or censorship.

4. Human Rights Advocacy

- The association advocates for the protection and promotion of human rights, both locally and globally, and supports initiatives aimed at safeguarding these rights.

5. Equality and Non-Discrimination

- The association upholds the principles of equality and non-discrimination, ensuring that all members and activities are conducted in a manner that respects and promotes these values.

6. Transparency

- The association is committed to transparency in its operations, decision-making processes, and financial management, ensuring accountability to its members and stakeholders.

7. Membership Conduct

- All members are expected to adhere to the association's code of conduct, which includes respect for others, commitment to the association's values, and ethical behavior in all activities.

Article 9: Amendments

1. Amendments to this statute may be proposed by any member of the association.
2. Proposed amendments must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly.

Article 10: Dissolution

1. The association may be dissolved by a decision of the General Assembly, approved by a two-thirds majority.
2. In the event of dissolution, the association's assets shall be distributed to organizations with similar objectives. This shall be in accordance with the laws and regulations for associations in Sweden.