

DATED

ISLAMIC UNITY SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

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In The Name of Allah Most Merciful Most Compassionate Constitution of the Islamic Unity Society

1. Name

The name of the society shall be the **ISLAMIC UNITY SOCIETY** (hereafter referred to as 'society' or 'IUS').

2. Aims & Objectives

2.1 The objectives of the society are to promote, social and cultural cohesion within a multi-cultural Britain based on Islamic principles (in accordance with the school the Ahlulbayt), through empowering the youth. The society aims to do this by:

2.1.1 Advancing education concerning Islam through the promotion of non-discriminatory and non-extremist practices within the community and encouraging tolerance.

2.1.2 Providing facilities in the interests of social welfare and recreation of the youth of the community.

2.1.3 Assisting the development of youth through a holistic approach as defined by the following key areas:

(a) Physical Development

(b) Mental Development

(c) Social Development

(d) Emotional Development

(e) Spiritual Development

2.2 In furtherance of these objectives but not otherwise the society shall have the following powers:

2.2.1 To arrange lectures, functions, discussions, seminars and trips.

2.2.2 To arrange social activities including dinners, outings and sports for members.

2.2.3 To purchase, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any real and personal estate.

2.2.4 To obtain, collect and receive money and funds by way of contributions, donations, subscriptions, legacies, grants or any other lawful method and to accept and receive gifts or property of any description, whether subject to any special trust or not.

2.2.5 Subject to such consents as may be required by law to sell, let, mortgage, dispose of or turn to account all or any of the property or assets of the society.

2.2.6 To invest the monies of the society not immediately required for its purposes 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.

2.2.7 To do any other lawful things as may be necessary to further the said objects.

- 2.2.8 To work in harmony with but be completely independent of other organisations.
- 2.2.9 To liaise and establish network links with other known student societies within the world and act on an intermediary in the sharing of information and resources.

3. **Membership**

3.1 **Membership Rules**

Membership shall be open to anyone sharing the aforesaid aims and objectives and shall be further categorised into full and associate membership.

- 3.1.1 Full membership shall be open to anyone over the age of 16 who agrees to abide by the aforesaid principals.
- 3.1.2 Associate membership shall be open to any other persons under the age of 16. The board of trustees reserve the right to change the status of any member from associate to full and vice versa. The trustees shall not be required to give reasons for accepting or rejecting any applications and its decision shall be final.
- 3.1.3 It will be recumbent upon full and associate members to pay annual membership fees and/or other such dues as may be prescribed from time to time and undertake to observe the rules and regulations of the society at the prevailing time.
- 3.1.4 Applications for membership shall be made to the board of trustees, the trustees shall not be required to give reasons for accepting or rejecting any applications. The decision of the trustees shall be final. It is acknowledged that no new applications for membership will be accepted in the event a resolution for dissolution of the society has been passed under clause 10.
- 3.1.5 Subject to clause 3.1.4, any applicant whose application has been rejected may apply again in writing after a period of six months from the date of such rejection.
- 3.1.6 The trustees may waive the subscription requirement of an existing member or an applicant on compassionate or other grounds.
- 3.1.7 Full members shall qualify to vote at a General Meeting and shall be eligible to be appointed as a trustee after payment of the equivalent of one year's subscription. Associate members may participate in all activities of the society except that they shall have not be eligible to be appointed as a trustee nor any right to vote at any General Meeting.
- 3.1.8 The board of trustees may suspend or terminate the membership of any officer or member of the society who is found to be responsible for performing or for causing to be performed directly or indirectly grave acts or omissions harmful to the interests and ideals of the IUS.
- 3.1.9 Any member who is reasonably suspected of such an offence shall be summoned to appear before a meeting of a suitable sub-committee appointed by the board of trustees to investigate the issue. At the meeting the member concerned shall be given every reasonable opportunity of defending himself/herself and having heard all the evidence a simple majority verdict of the sub-committee, followed by ratification by the trustees, shall decide the result.

3.2 Rights

3.2.1 All full members shall have the right to vote at the General Meetings and enjoy all the rights and privileges offered by the society.

3.2.2 All members shall abide by the constitution and bye-laws.

3.3 Fees/Subscription

3.3.1 All annual membership fees and/or other dues referred to in clause 3.1.3 shall be due and payable on a fixed day each year as decided by the trustees.

3.4 Disqualifications

3.4.1 Any member who fails to pay annual subscriptions applicable to him/her three months after the date they are due as set in 3.3.1, shall thereupon cease to be a member unless the board of trustees directs otherwise.

3.4.2 Members who have lost their membership for non-payment of fees and dues as referred to in clause 3.4.1 shall be reinstated on payment of the arrears.

3.5 Resignation

3.5.1 Any member resigning from the society shall submit their resignation in writing to the Secretary but shall be liable to any subscription in arrears or any other claim.

3.6 The Register of Members

3.6.1 The trustees shall keep and maintain a register containing the names and relevant information of all members, the date of commencement of the membership and whether subscriptions have been paid or not.

4. Trustees

The trustees as charity trustees have control of the society and its property and funds. The trustees have the power to exercise any powers of the society which are not reserved to a General Meeting.

Appointment of trustees

4.1 There shall be at least two trustees, all of whom must be full members.

4.2 The trustees on adoption of this constitution shall be:

[NAMES]

4.3 Subsequent trustees may (on condition they would not be disqualified under clause 4.4) be:

4.3.1 elected, by ordinary resolution at a general meeting;

4.3.2 appointed, by a decision of the trustees, on the basis that they consider the appointment is necessary to fill a casual vacancy; or

- 4.3.3 appointed, by a decision of the trustees.
- 4.4 A trustee automatically ceases to be a trustee if he or she:
 - 4.4.1 is disqualified under the Charities Act 2011 (and / or any successor legislation) from acting as a charity trustee;
 - 4.4.2 is incapable, whether mentally or physically, of managing his or her own affairs;
 - 4.4.3 is absent without permission from three consecutive meetings of the trustees and is asked by a majority of the other trustees to resign;
 - 4.4.4 ceases to be a full member of the society;
 - 4.4.5 resigns by written notice to the trustees (but only if at least two trustees will remain in office); or
 - 4.4.6 is removed by a resolution passed by all the other trustees after they have invited the views of the trustee concerned and considered the matter in the light of any such views.
- 4.5 A technical defect in the appointment of a trustee of which the trustees are unaware at the time does not invalidate decisions taken at a meeting.

Chair

- 4.6 The board of trustees may appoint one of their number to be chair of the trustees (**Chair**). The Chair shall be appointed for such term as the trustees determine and may be removed by resolution of the trustees.

Trustee meetings

- 4.7 The board of trustees shall aim to meet at least quarterly. Trustees shall keep proper minutes of all meetings and resolutions. The minutes shall be distributed to the board of trustees within two weeks of the meeting date.
- 4.8 Meetings of the trustees shall be chaired by the Chair. If the Chair is not present or is unable to chair the meeting, the trustees present shall elect a chair from amongst themselves to chair that specific meeting, who shall exercise the powers of the Chair during that meeting.
- 4.9 Quorum of a meeting of the trustees shall be two trustees. Decisions of the board of trustees shall be taken by a simple majority of those trustees present (in person or remotely) at the meeting. No proxy votes shall be permitted. In the event of an equality of votes the chair of the meeting may have a second or casting vote.
- 4.10 A resolution which is in writing and signed by a majority of the trustees is as valid as a resolution passed at a meeting and for this purpose the resolution may be contained in more than one document and will be treated as passed on the date of the last required signature.
- 4.11 A procedural defect of which the trustees are unaware at the time does not invalidate decisions taken at a meeting of the trustees or by written resolution under clause 4.10.

Sub-committees and advisory boards

4.12 The trustees may appoint such sub-committees or advisory boards as they see fit from time to time.

5. Disputes

5.1 In the event of a dispute between members or an allegation of unfair treatment or dismissal, the board of trustees can be engaged in the dispute resolution process as part of the complaints procedure and the outcome will be determined by a simple majority. If the board of trustees cannot resolve the matter, the issue will be referred to a suitably independent committee appointed by the board of trustees under clause 4.12.

5.2 If disharmony is not resolved by the committee appointed under clause 5.1, the board of trustees shall have the option to formally request an advisory opinion from a panel of Islamic scholars on the particular matter (appointed by the trustees under clause 4.12) whose opinion shall be binding.

6. Official reports

Trustees shall ensure compliance with charity law with regard to the keeping of accounting records and the preparation and transmission of audited annual accounts.

7. General Meetings

7.1 A General Meeting shall be called as and when necessary.

7.2 At all General Meetings, 10 members or one-third of the registered full members whichever is the lower of the two shall constitute a quorum.

7.3 If the meeting commences with a quorum, any subsequent lack of quorum during proceedings shall NOT nullify any resolution adopted at such proceedings.

7.4 Any General Meeting postponed for lack of quorum shall be re-summoned on the date to be announced at the adjourned general meeting but within 21 days of adjournment and no quorum shall be required in the subsequent General Meeting so called.

7.5 The notices to the General Meetings shall be given to members at least one week prior to the meeting.

8. Interpretation of the Constitution

8.1 The board of trustees shall have the right to interpret this Constitution and decide on any matters not provided for in this Constitution. Such decisions of the board of trustees shall be binding on all members unless otherwise repealed at a General Meeting.

9. Alterations and Amendments to the Constitution

9.1 The board of trustees shall circulate any proposed amendments to the Constitution with the notice of the General Meeting at which the amendment proposed is discussed.

9.2 A resolution for an amendment to the Constitution shall not be passed unless it is voted upon by a majority of the voting members present.

9.3 If a proposed amendment fails to obtain the requisite number of votes a similar proposal shall not be introduced until after the expiration of 30 days from the date of last such voting.

9.4 No amendment shall be made that would cause the society to cease to be a Charity in Law.

10. Dissolution

10.1 The society shall not be dissolved except by a resolution passed by a 75% majority of the board of trustees (for the avoidance of doubt, a resolution under this clause 10.1 may be passed by the trustees as a written resolution under clause 4.10).

10.2 If upon the winding up or dissolution of the society there remains after the settling of all liabilities any property whatsoever this shall not be paid to or distributed among members of the society but shall be given or transferred to such other charity or charities established for similar purpose as the board of trustees shall decide. The trustees shall be responsible for the orderly winding up of the society's affairs.

Ends

ADOPTED AT A MEETING HELD AT [PLACE] ON [DATE]

SIGNED

Name

Signature

[name and signature of chairman of meeting]

WITNESSED

Name

Address

.....

.....

Occupation

Signature