

CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION

1. NAME:

1.1. The Association shall be known as The Socio-Legal Studies Association (referred to in this constitution as “the Association”).

2. OBJECTS:

2.1. The objects of the Association shall be to advance education and learning and in particular to advance research, teaching and the dissemination of knowledge in the field of socio-legal studies.

2.2. In furtherance of the above objects the Association may:

- (i) organise or assist in organising meetings, conferences, lectures and courses of study.
- (ii) conduct or commission research, investigations and surveys and publish the results
- (iii) print, publish and distribute books, pamphlets, statements, recordings and papers relative to the objects and work of the Association
- (iv) make representations by way of written or verbal communication to governmental and other institutions on matters appearing to the Association to be relevant to the purposes of the Association
- (v) obtain, collect and receive funds by way of grants, donations, subscriptions, legacies and other lawful methods, and apply such funds to the furtherance of the objects and not otherwise.
- (vi) employ and make payments to persons and parties upon such terms and conditions as may appear appropriate to the Executive Committee
- (vii) become affiliated to any institution having similar or related objects
- (viii) do all such lawful other things as may further all or any of the objects of the Association.

2.3. In furtherance of the above objects, the Association shall be non-discriminatory in regard to all other matters.

3. MEMBERSHIP:

3.1. Persons or organisations engaged presently or formerly in teaching, practice, research of study in the field of socio-legal studies, social sciences or the law, or whose membership would in the opinion of the Executive Committee of the Association further the objects of the Association, shall be eligible for membership.

3.2. Admittance of applicants to membership shall be decided by the Executive Committee.

3.3. The Executive Committee shall from time to time prescribe such rates of annual subscription and such classes of subscription as seem to them appropriate

3.4. It shall be open to the Executive Committee to terminate for reasons appearing to them good and sufficient the membership of any member PROVIDED THAT they shall give one months notice of their intention to a member so affected.

4. HONORARY OFFICERS:

4.1. There shall be 5 Honorary Officers. The Honorary Officers shall be a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Membership Secretary, all of whom (with the exception of the Vice-Chairperson) shall be elected from among members by an Annual General Meeting and shall hold office for a period of three consecutive years.

4.2. The Executive Committee shall elect a Vice-Chairperson from among their members.

4.3. An Annual General Meeting may at its discretion elect a President and one or more Vice-Presidents and may prescribe their terms of office.

5. MANAGEMENT:

5.1. The affairs of the Association (excepting those matters reserved to a General Meeting by this

constitution) shall be directed by an Executive Committee of not fewer than 15 members and not more than 25 members, not including co-opted members.

5.2. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Honorary Officers as defined in Clause 4.1. together with members of the Association elected at an Annual General Meeting, subject to the provision of Clause 5.1.

5.3. The Executive Committee shall be entitled to co-opt additional members, but the number of co-opted members shall not at any time exceed one-third of the total membership of the Committee.

5.4. The Executive Committee shall meet for business at least twice a year.

5.5. A meeting of the Executive Committee shall be valid only when a quorum of members (being 10 members) is present.

5.6. Each member of the Executive Committee shall be elected for a term of three consecutive years. At the end of such term they may be nominated for re-election for another three consecutive years, but once they have served six years they must resign and are not eligible for re-election to the Executive Committee until the space of at least one year has passed.

5.7. The Executive Committee may appoint sub-committees and shall determine their membership, duration and terms of reference. All sub-committees shall make regular reports on their work to the Executive Committee.

5.8. The Executive Committee may co-opt any other person to serve as a member of the Committee, provided that the number of co-opted members of the Executive Committee shall not exceed 8 at any one time.

5.9. The Executive Committee shall ensure that one of its number is designated as the Scottish Representative (see Paragraph 10 of this Constitution).

5.10. At least one member of the Executive Committee shall be a postgraduate student who shall act as the postgraduate representative.

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS:

6.1. An Annual General Meeting shall be held. It shall be convened by the Honorary Secretary on the instructions of the Executive Committee. The Honorary Secretary shall give to all members at least one calendar months notice in writing of the holding of such a meeting.

6.2. The quorum of such a properly convened Annual General Meeting shall be twenty members present.

6.3. The Annual General Meeting shall conduct the following business:

- a. Elect Honorary Officers and Executive Committee members;
- b. Receive the Annual Report of the Executive Committee;
- c. Receive a duly audited statement of the Association's accounts;
- d. Discuss such other matters and motions as shall be necessary;
- e. Discuss and vote on amendments to the constitution;
- f. Appoint an auditor.

7. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING:

7.1. The Honorary Secretary shall convene a special general meeting at the request of the Executive Committee or at the request, in writing, of twenty members of the Association, and shall give at least one calendar month's notice in writing of such a special general meeting to all members.

7.2. The quorum for such a special general meeting shall be twenty present.

8. ELECTION OF HONORARY OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

8.1. The Honorary Secretary shall invite from all members nominations for such offices as are due to fall vacant. Nominations of paid-up members shall be made in writing by at least two members and shall be signed by the person nominated indicating his or her willingness to serve. Whenever elections are required they shall take place at the Annual General meeting and shall be decided by secret ballot of all paid up

members present.

8.2. Those elected shall take office from the date of the Annual General Meeting. Honorary Officers and members duly elected shall serve for the periods set out in this constitution (para 5.6).

9. FINANCE:

9.1. The financial resources of the Association shall be applied by and at the direction of the Executive Committee solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Association as set forth in this constitution, and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise by way of profit to any member of the Association or Executive Committee, provided that nothing therein shall prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper remuneration to any employee (or agent) of the Association or the repayment of out-of-pocket expenses incurred as a direct result of the carrying out by any Honorary Officer, member of the Executive Committee or other authorised persons of duties in connection with the Association's business.

9.2. The Executive Committee shall by resolution determine upon whose signature or signatures cheques may, for the time being, be drawn upon the Association's current or deposit accounts with their bankers.

9.3. The financial year shall run from the 1st day of January to the 31st day of December next following. Once at least in every year the accounts of the Association shall be independently audited for presentation to the AGM.

10. SCOTTISH BRANCH:

10.1. There will be a Scottish Branch of the Association, whose activities shall be open to all members of the Association.

10.2. For the avoidance of doubt there shall be no separate membership of the Scottish Branch of the Association.

10.3. The Scottish Branch of the Association will have a chairperson who will normally represent the Scottish Branch on the Executive Committee. In the event of the chairperson being unable to do so, the chairperson of the Scottish Branch will nominate another member of the Executive Committee to represent the Scottish Branch.

10.4. The Chairperson of the Scottish Branch shall be responsible for overseeing the organisation of the Scottish Branch and for presenting an Annual Report, including a Financial Statement, to the Executive Committee and to the Annual General meeting of the Association.

11. AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION:

Amendments to this constitution shall be by resolution passed by no fewer than two-thirds of those members present and voting at the Annual General Meeting. Such a resolution shall not be considered unless:

- a. Notice of intention to move the resolution be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee at least six weeks before the Annual General Meeting;
- b. Such a resolution be proposed by at least six members;
- c. Notice of such a resolution be given to all members not less than fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting;

12. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP:

Honorary Life Membership may be awarded by the Association, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, to any member of the Association who gives service to the Association which is clearly over and above the level of commitment normally shown by members of the Association or the Executive.

13. DISSOLUTION:

The Association may, at any time, be dissolved by a resolution properly proposed and accepted in accordance with Clause 11 above. Such resolutions shall give instructions for the disposal of any assets held in or by the Association provided that, if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities incurred by, or on or on behalf of the Association, such property shall be given or transferred to

such other charitable institution or institutions as the Annual General Meeting, with the approval of the Charity Commissioners or other authority having charitable jurisdiction, may determine.