



## **Global Refugee Led Network (GRN) CIC**

### **CONSTITUTION**

Global Refugee-Led Network

#### **United Kingdom**

##### **Article 1**

The Global Refugee Led Network (GRN) is a non-profit organisation governed by the England and Wales Community Interest companies' regulator.

##### **Article 2**

The organisation's headquarters are in England. The Association shall be of unlimited duration.

#### **VISION**

##### **Article 3**

Our vision is to build a global network of refugees and refugee-led initiatives to bolster refugees' ability to make meaningful contributions to decision-making processes.

It aims to advocate for refugee agency and self-representation, strengthening the collaboration between the Network members, relevant global initiatives and other stakeholders, to guarantee positive changes to the global refugee architecture, including the development and humanitarian systems. Furthermore, we aim to enhance refugee inclusion on local, national, and international levels.

## **MISSION:**

### **Article 4.**

We are a group of refugee-led initiatives, networks, and advocates that works with and for refugees to:

- (i) increase refugee participation in shaping policies,
- (ii) build refugee capacity to engage locally, nationally, regionally, and globally, and
- (iii) strategically advocate for and promote inclusive human rights approaches to forced displacement

## **AIMS**

### **Article 5**

The Global Refugee Led Network shall:

- Advocate with relevant stakeholders increase refugee participation in policy making process. Refugees have agency, therefore, GRN work to ensure that they have an active, effective, and relevant role in the refugee response at the local, national, supranational, international level. This shall include advocating for countries to ratify the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, as well as other relevant international laws, and to develop corresponding national refugee legislation.
- Improve refugee access to protection, rights, and shelter. We work to improve the refugee response at all levels by sharing experiences and best practices between refugee-led organizations and by strengthening collaboration among refugee-led networks and other NGOs. We shall advocate for the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and other people in need of protection to be respected and promoted world-wide.
- Advocate for Pathways as Humans will always be in the move. We work to increase complimentary pathways as well as fair sharing of responsibilities between countries.
- Advocate for access to decent work as it is the key for empowerment and inclusion. We work to ensure the issuance of work permits from the moment of arrival, use labour mobility scheme as an additional pathway across all skills; levels to respond to labour market needs in host countries.
- Advocate for integration, It takes equal partners to shape the community we live in together. We work to ensure access to basic services including access to education, increase our political participation by extending voting rights after a given period of stay and make language courses easily available as soon as possible after entry.

## **RESOURCES**

### **Article 6**

The Association's resources are derived from:

- Grants;
- Donations and legacies;
- Sponsorship;
- Public subsidies;
- Any other resources authorised by the law.

The funds shall be used in accordance with the Organization's social aims.

### **Article 7**

GRN as a network is committed to upholding the following values and principles:

- Using a rights-based approach
- The humanitarian principles of non-discrimination, impartiality, humanity, independence and accountability to affected populations
- The principle of "Do no harm"
- Building solidarity and collaboration amongst civil society actors in the six regions
- Working responsibly and with respect, accountability and transparency
- Upholding the rights of all persons, in particular refugees, stateless persons and forcibly displaced persons, as outlined in:
  - The international refugee rights regime, which includes, inter alia, the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol
  - International human rights law
  - International humanitarian law
  - Relevant national and regional instruments
  - International customary law
  - Autonomy and independence

## **MEMBERS**

### **Article 8**

Membership is open to all refugees, affected people, refugee-led organisations, refugee led initiatives and individuals committed to advocating for the rights of refugees and other people in need of protection in the six Regions

Membership is not open to governmental, inter-governmental, para-governmental and para-military bodies; national human rights institutions; or members of the media. It is also not open to individuals who work for these organisations/bodies.

All members are required to adhere to the core principles of GRN, outlined above. Members are also required to adhere to any additional codes of conduct or good practice, values statements or principles endorsed by the GRN general membership.

## **Article 9**

As full members, organisations have the following rights:

- If a vote is called in the Annual General Meeting of the GRN, to exercise one vote.
- To stand for elections to positions on the Board of Directors (duties of board of directors in Article 11).
- Individuals applying for associate membership also have the right to nominate, vote or stand for elections, nor to be elected or appointed to positions on the Steering Committee.

## **Article 10**

- Application for Membership
  - All prospective members must apply for membership by filling out the GRN Application for Membership Form. Applications require the endorsement of two individual or organisational members.
  - All applications for membership are to be approved by the Membership Subcommittee. The Secretariat will undertake background checks with members that have been provided as referees in the application form. If referees are uncontactable or not provided, the Secretariat will check with existing members in the relevant country.
- Termination of Membership

Membership of the Network may be terminated by the Steering Committee on the following grounds:

- On the request of the member;
- If a member is found to have advocated or supported a breach of human rights through their actions.
- If a member is found to be in breach of the criteria for membership.
- If a member is found to be in serious breach of any Code of Conduct or Good Practice, or other statement of principles endorsed by the general assembly.
- A comprehensive complaints procedure has been developed and approved. It will be reviewed periodically by the GRN Steering Committee. Members may

also terminate their own membership of the Network by filling out an GRN Termination of Membership Form.

GRN as a network hold member consists of regional chapters, funding members, associate members, supporting members

## **ORGANS**

### **Article 11**

The Organisation shall include the following organs:

- a) The General Assembly consisting of representatives of member organisations.
- b) The Board of Directors elected by the General Assembly, with provision for additional positions to be appointed by the elected Board of Directors.
- c) The Auditor.
- d) A Secretariat functioning under the direction of a Secretary General and subject to overall supervision of the Board of Directors.

### **Board of Directors**

### **Article 12**

The Board of Directors is authorised to carry out all acts that further the purposes of the Association. The board of directors meets **once a month** or as often as the Organisations business requires.

### **Article 13**

- The Board of Directors is accountable to the General Assembly, comprising GRN members who are organised and represented in regional chapters.
- Board of Directors Members will be elected by the regional chapters for a two-year term and may only serve for a maximum of **two consecutive terms in the same position**.
- Each Region will elect two representatives. The representatives will automatically become members of the Board of Directors.
- All members of the Board of Directors will have equal voting rights, except for the appointed non-voting members.
- To ensure age, gender and diversity, the Board of Directors must appoint one woman and one man from a refugee background to the Board of Directors if one woman and one man from a refugee background have not already been elected.
- The Board of Directors will develop a Strategic Plan in consultation with GRN members.
- The Secretariat will prepare an Annual Report to be approved by the Board of Directors for presentation to GRN members.
- Decisions of the Board of Directors will preferably be taken by consensus. If a consensus cannot be reached, a Board of Directors Member may request that a resolution be put to the

vote. Consensus-based decisions and resolutions cannot proceed unless there is support of over 50% of Board of Directors members.

- The Constitution will be reviewed by the Board of Directors within two years of its endorsement.
- An GRN GSOR summit must be organised at least every two years.
- The Board of Directors may appoint individuals for two-year terms as advisors, based on their specific expertise and dedication. Appointed advisors may provide advice to the Board of Directors individually or collectively. The Advisory Committee will provide strategic and operational advice to the Board of Directors and to the Secretariat, through the Chair and the Secretary General respectively. The Advisory Committee is part of the organisational memory of the Network.
- A Board of Directors member may be removed from office in accordance with the criteria in section 2.3 upon the vote of a two third majority of the Board of Directors.

## **Article 14**

The Chair shall:

- Provide leadership to the Board of Directors and ensure that Board of Directors members understand and fulfil their individual and collective responsibilities, including by ensuring the appropriate orientation of new Board of Directors members.
- Approve the agenda for Board of Directors meetings prior to circulation and ensure timely distribution of meeting documents.
- Chair Board of Directors meetings, including ensuring their timely commencement, that discussion remains task-focussed, that Board of Directors members are afforded equal opportunities to speak, and that all required decisions are legitimately made, and preferably by consensus.
- Ensure that the Board of Directors is accountable to the membership and that decisions of the Board of Directors are appropriately communicated to GRN members.
- Act as a sounding board and guide for the Secretary General.
- Review and report to the Board of Directors on the performance of the Secretary General, in line with agreed frequency and format.

## **SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE SECRETARIAT**

### **Article 15**

- The Secretary General shall be the head of the Secretariat. The Secretary General shall implement the decisions of the Steering Committee and the Board of Directors. The Secretary General is responsible for managing the Secretariat, including appointment, termination of

staff and other personnel based on the GRN Personnel Policy. The Secretary General is accountable to the Board of Directors.

- The Secretariat shall normally be situated in any one of the countries in the region where GRN has member/s. The Secretariat shall have staff and other infrastructural facilities required for undertaking the programmes and activities of GRN.
- GRN shall enter contracts, acquire and dispose of immovable and movable properties and when necessary, institute legal proceedings through the Secretary General on behalf of the Board of Directors.
- The Secretary General shall be the ex-officio secretary to the Board of Directors without voting power.

## **VARIOUS PROVISION**

### **Article 16**

The Treasurer is responsible for the Association's finances. Proper accounts of GRN shall be kept by the GRN Secretariat for all income and expenditure and shall be audited annually by a qualified Chartered Accountant. The General Assembly shall appoint an Auditor who will audit the Associations' accounts every year. The audited financial accounts shall be approved by the GRN Treasurer and endorsed by the Board of Directors as well as reviewed and endorsed by the General Assembly. The financial year shall begin on 1 January and end on 31 December of each year.

### **Article 17**

- Proposals for amendments to these Statutes must be delivered to the Board of Directors in writing. The Chair in conjunction with all other office bearers shall then decide on the date of a special meeting of the Board of Directors to discuss such proposals, giving at least four weeks (28 days) clear notice.
- The original language of the Statutes shall be English and its interpretation shall be based on the English version.

### **Article 18**

Should the Organisation be dissolved, the available assets should be transferred to a non-profit organisation pursuing public interest goals like those of the Organisation and likewise benefiting from tax exemption. Under no circumstances should the assets be returned to the founders or members. Nor should they use a part or a total of assets for their own benefit.

*The present Statutes have been approved by the Board of Directors of the Global Refugee Led Network (GRN) at the headquarters in England.*

Chairperson  
Amer Alkayed