

STATUTE FOR THE MALTESE PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Section 1: Name and Office

- 1.1 The Trade Union shall be called ‘The Maltese Psychological Association’. Hereinafter referred to as the “Association”.
- 1.2 The registered office of the Association shall be that of the Malta Federation of Professional bodies, Sliema Rd., Gzira GZR06

Section 2: Aims and Objectives

2.1 The main objective for this Association is to regulate the relations between members and employers or employers’ Association.

Other objectives are

- 2.2 To establish and maintain standards in the profession.
- 2.3 To mediate as an official representative: with state bodies and other foreign organisations.
- 2.4 to formulate, update, and maintain ethical and professional guidelines as required by the profession at large, which however are consonant with and responsive to the Maltese culture.
- 2.5 To organise and encourage further education, enrichment, research and support;
- 2.6 To serve as a locus of discussion, sharing of resources and coordination of work.
- 2.7 To consider and deal with any professional concerns that may arise.
- 2.8 To maintain with such particulars as Council shall determine, a register of members of the Association, which shall be kept at the registered office of the Association.

2.9 In furtherance of the objectives of the Association, to acquire and dispose of any property, and to invest in funds of the Association in accordance with the provisions of the Statute.

2.10 To do all such acts and things that are, or may be deemed incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects of the Association or any one of them.

Section 3: Membership Regulations

3.1 The Association shall consist of qualified psychologists, associates and affiliates who have chosen this Association to represent their interests, to contribute towards their professional well-being, and to serve as their regulatory professional body.

3.2 The Association distinguishes three types of membership:

TYPE 1: FULL MEMBERSHIP

Such members are in possession of a warrant issued by the Malta Psychology Board. According to the Psychology Profession Act, persons may be eligible for a warrant by satisfying the following requirements:

- (a) is a Maltese citizen, or is otherwise permitted to work in Malta under any law; and
- (b) is of good conduct; and
- (c) is in possession of the Masters Degree in Psychology conferred from the University of Malta or of another professional qualification as the Board may deem equivalent; and
- (d) satisfies the Board that he has received adequate experience in the practice of the profession of psychology for an aggregate period of at least two years full-time or its equivalent in part-time following the completion of such degree or such other professional qualification under the supervision of a registered psychologist.

TYPE II: ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Persons possessing a first degree in psychology or equivalent and a Master's degree or equivalent in psychology and are under their first two years of supervision.

TYPE III: AFFILIATE MEMBER

Persons possessing a post-graduate diploma in psychology, or a graduate degree in psychology or any other professional training related to psychology.

3.4 In the case of practicing psychologists, these regulations do not constitute licensing criteria.

3.5 Foreigners who wish to become eligible as full members of the must serve an adaptation period upon approval of their competence in accordance with the EEC directive (89/44/EEC) on a General system for recognition of higher education diplomas on completion of professional education and training.

3.6 The Council shall have the power to accept or reject any application for membership of the Association without the necessity of giving any reason, subject to the power of the Association in General Meeting to overrule any such decision of the Council by a majority of at least two-thirds of all the members of the Association.

3.7 Each member of the Association shall on being admitted to membership, pay an annual subscription in advance at the rates established by Council.

3.8 If a member fails to pay the subscription fee within three months from the date of which notice in writing is given, such member shall not be entitled to vote at any General Meeting; and failure to pay within six months from the date of the aforesaid notice entails the forfeiture of all rights and privileges of a member of the Association.

3.9 If any member knowingly commits any breach of the rules of the Association or knowingly declines to comply with any reasonable decision or directive of the Council or of the Association taken in conformity with these rules, or acts in a manner which, in the opinion of the Council, is prejudicial to the interests of the

Association, such a member shall be liable to expulsion or suspension or to such other disciplinary measures as the Council may decide; subject however, to the member's right to be heard at a Council Meeting called for such a purpose.

Section 4: Termination of Membership

4.1 Membership of the Association shall cease

- (a) By resignation, in which case three months previous notice in writing through registered post shall be given to the secretary.
- (b) By exclusion or removal according to the provisions of the Statute.

4.2 Any person whose membership of the Association has ceased shall cease to have any further interest or claim on the funds of the Association and shall be liable to pay all subscriptions that may be due and payable up to 31st December of the year in which his or her membership shall have ceased.

Section 5: Book of Accounts

5.1 The Council shall cause proper book of accounts to be kept, giving a true and fair view of the state of the Association's affairs.

5.2 At least once every year, the accounts of the Association shall be examined and the correctness of the balance sheet certified by the auditor or auditors of the Association.

5.3 Each year, the treasurer shall prepare a financial statement duly audited, and lay it before the Association at its Annual General Meeting.

5.4 All books and registers of the Association shall be kept at its registered office and shall be open to the inspection of any person having an interest in the Association.

5.5 The funds of the Association are to be used for the sole purpose of reaching and implementing the objectives set by this Association.

Section 6: Composition

- 6.1 The Council shall be composed of an Honorary President (henceforth referred to as President) and six other members.
- 6.2 Council members, including the President shall be elected for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-election.
- 6.3 The President may not remain in office for more than two consecutive terms.
- 6.4 Five members of the Council shall be elected from among the full and associate members, of whom at least four shall be elected from the full members; Voting for such Council members shall be by the full and associate members voting together (*each branch must have a representative*).
- 6.5 One member shall be elected among and by the affiliate members as their representative.
- 6.6 The President shall be elected from among the full members and by all full and associate members voting together.
- 6.7 Members of the Council elected by the members of the Association shall vote for the allocation of the various posts in the first Council Meeting after the General Meeting. These members will elect the honorary Vice-President, honorary treasurer, Honorary Secretary, honorary PRO (all henceforth referred to only by their term of office), and any other honorary officials as Council determines.

Section 7: Duties of Council Members

- 7.1 The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association, and shall be the Chairperson of and preside at meetings of the Council. The President shall delegate tasks to the Vice-President of the Association as directed by Council. The President shall perform duties customary to that office, and such additional duties as directed by Council.

7.2 The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President.

7.3 The Treasurer shall represent the Association in assuring the receipt and expenditure of funds in accordance with the directives established by the Council, and may be held under such bond as may be determined by the Council. The Treasurer shall perform the duties customary to the office, and such additional duties as may be directed by the Council.

7.4 The Secretary shall serve as executive officer of the Association. The Secretary shall perform duties as may be delegated by the Council, and may be held under such bond for such amount as may be determined by Council.

7.5 The PRO shall perform duties concerning all public relations.

Section 8: Election of Council Members

8.1 A General Meeting shall elect three members to conduct the elections of Council members.

8.2 At least seven (7) days have to elapse between opening date for nominations, and the General Meeting at which elections shall be held.

8.3 Voting for Council members shall take place at a General Meeting by secret ballot.

8.4 Processing of election results shall take place during the General Meeting.

Section 9: Powers and Functions of the Council

The Council shall:

1. Conduct broad, long term directions for the Association.
2. Formulate and execute operational policies.
3. Act on reports of special committees as are responsible to the Council.

4. Exercise such powers and functions as may be necessary or desirable in the best interests of the Association.
5. Be responsible for identifying issues and establishing priorities.
6. Facilitate, guide and assist the effective functioning of the various branches in the Association.
7. The President, subject to confirmation by the Council, shall appoint the members of all committees in accordance with, and except as otherwise specified in the bye-laws.

Section 10: Meetings of the Council

- 10.1 The Council shall normally meet every two months but at least twice a year. The first Meeting will be held within a month following the General Meeting.
- 10.2 Each member of the Council shall have one vote. Four members of Council constitute a quorum.

Section 11: General Meeting

- 11.1 The General Meeting shall consist of full and associate members of the Association. Affiliate members may attend but have no voting power.
- 11.2 The General Meeting will be called at least once a year by the Association's Council. Notice of the dates when the General Meeting is going to be held shall be sent to all members at least one month prior to the proposed date of the Meeting.
- 11.3 The General Meeting will be chaired by the Association President, or in his/her absence by the Vice-President. In absence of both, the chairperson will be elected from among the members present.
- 11.4 The Quorum for all General Meetings shall be not less than one-third of all full and associate members of the Association.

11.5 The General Meeting shall:

- (a) Elect the President and members of Council.
- (b) Determine the policy of the Association.
- (c) Consider the Association's accounts.
- (d) Discuss motions tabled by members.
- (e) Revise or amend Statutes by two-thirds majority.
- (f) Consider other matters designated by the Council.

11.6 Motions shall be carried by a simple majority of votes. In the case of an equality of votes, the chairperson of the Meeting shall have a casting vote.

11.7 An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called at the request of no less than half of the full and associate members of the Association.

Sections 12: Amendments to the Statute

12.1 The Statute of the Association may be amended if such amendment is approved by not less than two-thirds of the voting members during a General Meeting attended by at least one-third of the above mentioned members of the Association. If however, after thirty minutes from the beginning of the General Meeting, one-third of the Association's members are not present, the voting members there present shall constitute the quorum necessary for the purpose of amending the Statute.

12.2 Every member who wishes to propose amendments to the Statute should forward such proposals to the Council not later than two weeks from the date of the notice calling the next General Meeting, in order that such proposals be presented at such General Meeting. Every proposed amendment shall be circulated to all members not later than one week before the date of the General Meeting.

Section 13: Representation of the Association

13.1 The Association shall be represented by the President and the Secretary or any other person or persons appointed by the Council for this purpose.

Section 14: Bye-laws

14.1 The Association shall have power to draw up bye-laws to regulate its procedure.

Section 15: Sub-committees

15.1 The Council shall have the power to delegate specific tasks to a sub-committee for such propose.

Section 16: Dissolution, Affiliation and Amalgamation

16.1 The Association may be dissolved at a General Meeting convened for the purpose and approved by at least seventy-five percent of the paid-up voting members. If the resolution for dissolution is approved, the outgoing Council shall forthwith liquidate the affairs of the Association, and if there be any surplus assets on realisation, these shall be transferred to a registered charitable institution.

16.2 Motions for amalgamation or affiliation with any other Associations may be considered when seventy-five of its paid up voting members are in accordance with this.

Section 17: Subdivision of the Association

17.1 In order to provide for the particular needs of speciality branches in the profession of psychology, the Association shall be divided into three branches, these being:

- (a) The Clinical and Counselling branch, wherein members are admitted as full and associate members depending on their qualifications.
- (b) The General psychology branch, wherein members specialising in other areas of psychology are admitted as full and associate members according to their qualifications.

(c) The Affiliates of Psychology Branch wherein members satisfying the requirements for Affiliate members stated herein previously are admitted.

17.2 Each branch shall have at least one representative on the Council of the Association, which representative shall regularly report the proceedings of the branches to the Council. If such a representative is not elected during the General Elections, than the members of the relevant branch shall vote for a representative who would then be co-opted by the Council.

17.3 Each Branch shall be run by a representative committee determined by members of that branch.

17.4 Each branch committee shall formulate its own regulations of procedure and by-laws, provided that these shall be consonant to the Statutes and regulations of the Association, and subject to the approval of the Council.

17.5 When one area of psychology included in the General Psychology Branch can demonstrate a membership of at least five, it can formally request the Association to form its own speciality branch and the privilege of having a representative on Council.