

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM BRITISH CHAPTER  
CONSTITUTION April 1999

**1 Name**

The name of the association shall be the International Association for Religious Freedom British Chapter (hereinafter referred to as the Chapter).

**2 Aim**

The aim of the Chapter shall be to support the principles and work of the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF).

**3 Objects**

The objects of the Chapter shall be:

- (a) to hold seminars, lectures and other meetings related to the IARF;
- (b) to publish a newsletter and other leaflets or material as appropriate;
- (c) to engage in such other lawful activities as may be appropriate in furthering its Aim.

**4 Membership**

- (a) Membership of the Chapter shall be open to all individuals and organisations that are in sympathy with the principles and work of the IARF or the Chapter.
- (b) The annual membership subscriptions (individual and corporate) shall be such sums as may from time to time be determined by general meeting of the members, provided that any duly approved variation to the amount of subscription shall not take effect until the beginning of the next financial year immediately following the general meeting at which such variation was approved.
- (c) Applications for membership shall be made in writing, either by letter or by form, and shall be subject to the approval of the Committee at its discretion.

**5 Financial Year**

The financial year of the Chapter shall be from 1 January to 31 December, ie the calendar year.

**6 Officers and Committee**

The Committee shall consist of four officers (Chair, Deputy Chair, Secretary, Treasurer), the Newsletter Editor, and up to five (5) other ordinary members.

All officers and committee members shall be elected annually and shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting following the one at which they were elected.

**7 Casual Vacancies**

In the event of a casual vacancy occurring on the committee, the remaining members of the committee shall have the power to co-opt a member of the Chapter to fill that casual vacancy. Any person so co-opted shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting following the date of his/her co-option.

**8 Meetings**

The Annual General Meeting of the Chapter shall be held between 1 March and 31 May each year, normally as part of the programme of the Annual Meetings of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.

Other meetings shall be arranged from time to time by the committee.

## **9 Quorum**

The quorum at a meeting of the committee shall be four 4. The quorum at a general meeting shall be ten 10, or 10% of the total membership, whichever is the lower.

The Chair of any meeting, whether committee or general, shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberative vote.

## **10 Notice of Meetings**

Written notice of any general meeting, and of the business to be conducted thereat, shall be sent by the Secretary to all current members of the Chapter not less than 21 days before the date of the meeting.

Other meetings, seminars, conferences and activities shall be publicised as appropriate (eg in The Inquirer and The Unitarian and the Chapter's Newsletter).

## **11 Termination of Membership**

The membership of any individual or organisation shall be terminated:

- (a) if the individual or organisation resigns;
- (b) if the appropriate subscription is unpaid for not less than two (2) years;
- (c) if a decision to that effect is made by not less than a two-thirds majority vote at a general meeting called for the purpose of considering a recommendation from the committee, provided that appropriate notice of the meeting shall have been given and that the individual or organisation, having been informed of the recommendation, has sufficient opportunity to present an argument against the proposed termination, either in writing or by personal presentation at the general meeting when the recommendation is considered.

## **12 Financial**

The Chapter shall maintain and operate such accounts as may from time to time be considered appropriate. Signatories shall be authorised by the committee. An independent financial examiner shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting, to serve until the next following Annual General Meeting.

## **13 Amendments to the Constitution**

This constitution may amended by not less than a two-thirds majority vote at a special general meeting called for the purpose.

## **14 Dissolution**

The Chapter may be wound up by not less than a three-fourths majority vote at a special general meeting called for the purpose. In the event of such winding up, all remaining assets of the Chapter shall be transferred to the International Association for Religious Freedom to be used as the IARF may see fit.

END