

# STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR RECONCILIATION RESEARCH (IARS) AS A REGISTERED ASSOCIATION ACCORDING TO GERMAN ASSOCIATION LAW<sup>1</sup>

## § 1 Name and Seat

The association bears the name:

International Association for Reconciliation Studies. The association adopts the acronym IARS. It should be entered in the register of associations and bear the suffix "e.V." The association is formally based in Jena.

## § 2 Business year

The business year is the calendar year.

## § 3 Purpose of the association

The association pursues exclusively and directly for charitable purposes as defined by the "tax-privileged purposes" section of the tax code.

The purpose of the IARS is to promote science and research; in particular, IARS supports the academic disciplines of Reconciliation Studies. The association promotes scientific research on Reconciliation Processes worldwide and is committed to the collaboration of scientists and practitioners.

The IARS is a non-profit, non-governmental organization and is subject to the German Association Law.

Reconciliation research is an academic approach that aims to support all parties involved in conflict by providing information on conflict resolution based on the values of peace promotion and nonviolent conflict resolution. Parties involved in conflict are free to use or to reject this information. IARS maintains the independence and distance necessary for academic work and reconciliation research. IARS must not under any circumstances be used as a political instrument or for unilateral position strengthening in any conflict.

IARS operates according to high scientific standards, ethical norms, and academically proven practices. IARS prioritizes: equal treatment of persons regardless of gender identity, equal participation opportunities for scientists from different regions of the world, as well as inclusion and participation across social groups.

In order to achieve the stated purpose, the IARS has the following objectives:

1. Establishment of worldwide exchange among the many academic disciplines in the field of reconciliation research.
2. Intensifying exchange among practitioners, politicians, and reconciliation researchers.
3. Identification and promotion of group and individual research projects.
4. Providing resources for studying and teaching the subject of reconciliation.
5. Organization of conferences and workshops on topics related to reconciliation.
6. Development and quality assurance of educational programs on reconciliation research e.g. curricula.

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<sup>1</sup> The document uses the generic masculine for reasons of better readability. In no case should female or other non-masculine gender identities be excluded. According to § 3 of the statute, the association promotes the equality of all gender identities.

7. Collaboration among scientific communities in order to strengthen combined efforts to achieve common understanding.

IARS carries out the following activities:

1. Creation of a newsletter promoting exchange among association members of activities, publications, job opportunities and cooperation calls.
2. Organization of an IARS conference, which should generally take place at least every two years in different locations. Conference contributions will be published in proceedings. Further, regional workshops and conferences on specific topics are supported, as well as partnerships for conferences and workshops.
3. The IARS consults regularly on the current status of reconciliation research, new research directions and specific projects.
4. IARS initiates a program for the dissemination of digital teaching materials among its members and a homepage, to facilitate access to these materials.
5. IARS members are called upon to identify IARS-appropriate collaborating partners from their in-field practice. Individual partners may become part of the IARS Advisory Board. Other people or institutions are listed as “cooperation partners”.
6. IARS forms a working group for teaching. This group will support institutions in their efforts to build reconciliation study programs and develops criteria for a list of such programs. Such activities will be published on the IARS website. Qualified programs can receive a certificate of support and recommendation from the IARS.
7. The administrative and scientific board of the IARS meets regularly with other scientific associations and intensifies joint activities.
8. IARS will establish and support a peer-reviewed scientific journal published in an online form.

#### **§ 4 Non-profit Activity**

The association is a non-profit organization; it does not pursue any economic profit.

#### **§ 5 Use of funds**

The association's funds may only be used for statutory purposes. The members do not receive any financial gain from the association's resources.

#### **§ 6 Prohibition of benefits**

No one may benefit from expenses that do not contribute to the purpose of the association or by disproportionately high remuneration.

#### **§ 7 Membership**

Membership is open to both individuals and academic institutions that support the goals of IARS. The acquisition of a membership requires the completion of an online form and the acceptance of the administrative association board.

##### **§ 7.1 Termination of membership**

Membership can be terminated by: a posted or e-mailed resignation letter addressed to the President, by a decision of the administrative board, by the passing away of members, or by the dissolution of an institution. The decision to end a membership can be made if the membership fee has not been paid for at least three years and after receipt of at least four payment reminders. In such a case and by agreement of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the general assembly, the membership will be terminated. If an association member acts contrary to the association's goals and endangers the reputation and credibility of the IARS, this person's membership may also be terminated by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote of the administrative

board. In this case, the excluded member has the right to request a review of the decision by the General Assembly of the IARS. If the General Assembly does not vote to expel the member by a ¾ majority, then the previous decision of the administrative board is declared invalid and the membership continues.

### **§ 7.2 Membership contributions**

Membership fees are to be paid annually in advance and can be adjusted by the administrative board. The amount of the membership fees is decided by the general assembly. Institutional membership is possible.

Upon request and under special circumstances, such as being affected by war or poverty, individual members or prospective members can be exempt from membership fees by the general assembly.

### **§ 8 The units of organization**

The units of organization include:

1. The Administrative Board, including the Presidency
2. The General Assembly and the Regional Alliances
3. The Scientific Board, including the representatives of the Regional Alliances
4. The Advisory Management Board
5. The Teaching Working Group
6. The Office

In addition, the office of financial auditor/treasurer (§ 9).

#### **§ 8.1 Administrative Board and Presidency**

The administrative board consists of:

1. A President
2. Two Vice-Presidents, preferably from different regions of the world
3. A secretary

#### **§ 8.2 Tasks of the Administrative Board**

The administrative board has the following tasks:

1. Preparation and invitation to the meetings of the General Assembly.
2. Implementation of decisions by the General Assembly.
3. Admission of new members and, if necessary, decision on the exclusion of members.
4. Adjustment of the annual membership fees.
5. Drafting of a financial plan, each covering a two-year period, and submitting it to the General Assembly.
6. Decisions on urgent financial matters up to 1000€ annually. These decisions do not require prior consultation with the General Assembly, but must be subsequently made transparent and justified. The General Assembly may increase the budget for an announced purpose.
7. Drafting an annual report on the activities of the association.
8. Decisions on all cooperation agreements and regulations of the association's cooperation with universities, foundations, non-governmental organizations, and political and international organizations, which are agreed in writing.
9. Decisions on all other matters not regulated by another body of the IARS. If one of the other association bodies is temporarily inactive, the administrative board can make impending decisions on behalf of the other.

#### **§ 8.3 Election, Term, Administrative Board decision**

The members of the Administrative Board are elected individually by the members of the General Assembly for a term of two years. If a member of the Board of Directors resigns during the term, a replacement shall be nominated by the Administrative Board through a majority vote. The decisions of the Administrative Board are usually made by simple majority decision of the board members present. Decisions regarding the expulsion of a member of the association requires a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote. Invitations to board meetings must be sent to members by email or regular post at least two weeks in advance. Members who participate remotely in board meetings, e.g. via Skype or Zoom, are entitled to participate in votes.

## **§ 8.4 Presidency**

The association is led and publicly represented by the Presidency. The Presidency consists of a President and two Vice-Presidents. In cases of the President's absence, the President is fully represented by the two Vice-Presidents. Presidents and Vice-Presidents are elected by the General Assembly for terms of two years. A person can be president for a maximum of four years. Additionally, a person can be either President or Vice President for a total of a maximum of eight years

### **§ 8.4.1 Function of the Presidency**

1. Representation of the association, both internally and externally, whereby the President and Vice-Presidents each have the right of individual representation according to BGB § 26.
2. Conducting meetings of the Administrative Board, the General Assembly, the Committee and the Office.
3. Organization of financial support and new contacts for the association.
4. Draft the Opening Speech for IARS Conferences.

## **§ 8.5 General Assembly**

Members of the General Assembly must be members of the association. The General Assembly meets once a year and fulfils the following functions:

1. Election of the Administrative and Scientific Board.
2. Election of the President and Vice-President.
3. Election and renewal of the Advisory Management Board.
4. Decisions regarding the financial plan.
5. Reception of the report of the administrative board.
6. Decisions on the expulsion of a member (by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority).
7. Discussion of all IARS activities.
8. Decisions on the acceptance and modification of the association statutes and the dissolution of the association.
9. Decision on honorary memberships in the association and the exemption from membership fees.

The General Assembly is convened by the board once a year. In addition, the General Assembly is convened (also by the board) if it is in the interest of the association or if at least 20% of the members of the association requests the board for a meeting of the General Assembly.

Invitations to the General Assembly must be sent to all members via email or by post at least four weeks in advance. The decision-making process requires that at least 20% of the members are physically present. The agenda of the meeting must be communicated to the President of the IARS at least six weeks in advance. It may be supplemented by a simple majority vote at the general meeting.

At the beginning of the members' meeting, a notetaker is to be elected.

Each member has one vote. The right to vote can only be exercised in person or for another member following the submission of a written power of attorney.

A protocol must be written on the resolutions of the members' meeting, which must be signed by the chair of the meeting and the notetaker.

### **§ 8.6 Scientific Board**

The Scientific Board is elected by the General Assembly and is to consist of five to ten outstanding scientists from the field of reconciliation. At least 30% of board members should be young scholars. The scientific board devotes itself to the following tasks:

1. Regular discussion of the state of science and developments in the field of reconciliation research.
2. Provision of information on new research findings through newsletter contributions.
3. Applications for conferences, workshops and research projects.
4. Organization of magazine publishing and peer review process in collaboration with the Office.
5. Organization of publications subsequent to IARS conferences.
6. Selection of members of the Teaching Working Group.

### **§ 8.7 Advisory Board**

The Advisory Board consists of public figures, artists, senior scientists in the field of reconciliation research and practitioners who can help the association achieve its goals. The members of the Advisory Board are elected by the General Assembly and must be proposed by at least three IARS members. Board members are invited to attend the General Assembly and the IARS Conference. They advise all organs of the association and give impetus to the future development of the association. The members of the council remain in office for ten years. This term may be extended by the General Assembly.

### **§ 8.8 Teaching Working Group**

The members of the Teaching Working Group are proposed by the scientific board and elected by a simple majority decision. All IARS members can be elected. The members are elected for two years and can be re-elected a maximum of three times, so they may serve a maximum of eight years'. The Teaching Working Group consists of three members and is dedicated to the following tasks:

1. Support for institutions that wish to begin teaching in the field of Reconciliation Studies.
2. Decisions on the recognition of a Bachelor's, Master's or Doctoral Student's Program of Reconciliation Research, as recommended by the IARS.
3. Provision and promotion of digital teaching material on the association website.

### **§ 8.9 Secretary Staff**

As a member of the administrative board, a Secretary or Assistant supports the President or the Presidency in any tasks that arise. He or she works with the scientific board on publications. Additional Assistants are selected by the President as members of the President's Office. A Secretary Member can be an employee of the university where the President works, or from another university in the IARS circle. The IARS strives to provide independent funding for office work and the association's homepage. The Office is responsible for maintaining the association's homepage.

### **§ 9 The Treasurer**

The members' assembly elects a cashier for the duration of two years. He or She must not be a member of the Board. Re-election is possible.

### **§ 10 Authorization of the Administrative Board**

The Administrative Board is authorized to make amendments to the articles of association as required by the authorities (court, tax office, notary, etc.) or as decided by a board resolution with a simple majority.

### **§ 11 Dissolution of the Association**

The association can be dissolved by a majority decision of the General Assembly. In the event of a dissolution, the association's assets will go to the Friedrich Schiller University in Jena with the condition that the sum is used to promote reconciliation research at the University of Jena and at other academic institutions such as Waseda University in Tokyo and George Mason University.

**This statute was ratified on August 10, 2020 in Jena, Germany, by the founding members of the IARS. Individual institutions of the IARS may issue special statutes within the framework of these statutes for their activities.**

### **§ 12 Association Founds<sup>2</sup>**

If the association for any reason is forced to close (due to planned or unplanned reasons) all financial means at its disposal will be transferred to Association of Peace/Friedrich Shiller University without any consideration or refund from the side.

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<sup>2</sup> This par. was ratified on the Second Board meeting – 06.11.20 Friday, 19:10 - 19:23 CET