

UNINCORPORATED ASSOCIATION MOVEMENT FOR THE ABOLITION OF WAR CONSTITUTION

Adopted at AGM November 2003, amended at AGM November 2019 (para 7)

1. NAME

The name of the Association is The Movement for the Abolition of War (“MAW”)

2. ADMINISTRATION

Subject to the matters set out below MAW and its property shall be administered and managed in accordance with this constitution by the members of the Executive Committee, constituted by clause '7' of this constitution ("the Executive").

3. AIMS AND OBJECTS

- i. To spread the belief that the abolition of war is both desirable and possible.
- ii. To raise awareness of constructive alternatives to war for resolving national and international disputes.
- iii. To develop research-based materials and strategies to educate pupils, students, the general public and members of local and national government.
- iv. To work with other people and organisations who are already active in the creation of alternatives to war.

4. POWERS

In furtherance of the objects, and in accordance with the wishes of its members, the Executive Committee may exercise the power to do all such lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects.

5. MEMBERSHIP AND OBSERVERS

- i. All individuals agreeing with the aim of MAW and willing to pay the annual subscription may become members. Other organisations supporting the aim of MAW may affiliate. Individuals and affiliated groups will each have one vote (by post if requested) at the AGM.
- ii. Every member shall have one vote and may appoint one or more substitute(s) / replacement(s) to replace their appointed representative(s) at any meeting of MAW should the appointed representative(s) be unable to attend. Each member or area shall notify the name of the representative(s) appointed by it and of any substitute(s) / replacement(s) to a person designated by the Executive as responsible for maintaining a list of names.
- iii. Observers may attend meetings, at the discretion of the chair but will not have voting rights.
- iv. The Executive may for good reason terminate the membership of any individual member or organisation: provided that the individual or organisation concerned shall have the right to be heard by the Executive.

6. OFFICERS

- i. At the Annual General Meeting of MAW the members shall elect from amongst themselves, subject to the eligibility criteria listed in 7, below, a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, who shall hold office from the conclusion of that meeting and who shall be members of the Executive described under clause 7, below.
- ii. If any honorary officer resigns or is otherwise incapacitated or prevented from fulfilling the duties of office, the Executive may designate one of its members to hold that office until the end of the period of service of the original office holder or until the next AGM.

7. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- i. The Executive Committee shall consist of the four officers and not fewer than 6 and not more than 12 members being elected at the Annual General Meeting who shall hold office from the conclusion of that meeting.
- ii. The Executive may in addition appoint not more than 4 co-opted members but no-one may be appointed as a co-opted member if, as a result, more than one third of the members of the Executive would be co-opted members.
- iii. All the members of the executive committee shall retire from office together at the end of the Annual General Meeting next after the date on which they came into office but they may be re-elected or re-appointed and may serve for three further consecutive years, up to a total of 4 years in office. Thereafter they may not stand for re-election to the same post for a period of one year, with the exception of the treasurer who may be re-appointed indefinitely.

8. PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS

Every three years the AGM will invite persons with an established reputation in the peace and disarmament field to accept appointment to these honorary positions for a three-year term. The President and the Vice Presidents will receive all mailings and will be welcome to the Committee where they will have a vote. After the three year period they can be invited to serve for further consecutive periods.

9. MEETINGS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- i. The Executive shall hold at least three ordinary meetings each year. A Special Meeting may be called at any time by the Chairperson or by any two members of the Executive upon not less than 7 days' notice being given to the other members of the Executive of the matters to be discussed.
- ii. The Chairperson shall act as chairperson at meetings of the Executive, but if that person is absent, the Vice Chairperson shall be chairperson of the meeting, if present. If both the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson are absent from any meeting, the members of the Executive present shall choose one of their number to be chairperson of the meeting before any other business is transacted.
- iii. There shall be a quorum when at least one third of the number of members of the Executive for the time being or three members of the Executive, whichever is the greater, are present at a meeting.
- iv. Decisions will preferably be reached by consensus, but a vote may be taken when necessary. Any member may call for a secret ballot.
- v. Every matter shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members of the Executive present and voting on the question, but in the case of equality of votes the chairperson of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
- vi. Decisions may also be reached without a meeting taking place, when all members available within the UK indicate their agreement to a proposed motion in writing or electronically.
- vii. The Executive shall keep minutes, in books kept for the purpose, or in secure electronic format, of the proceedings at meetings of the Executive and any sub-committee(s).
- viii. The Executive may appoint one or more sub-committees consisting of two or more members of the Executive for the purpose of making any inquiry or supervising or performing any function or duty which in the opinion of the Executive would be more conveniently undertaken or carried out by a sub-committee: provided that all acts and proceedings of any such sub-committees shall be fully and promptly reported to the Executive. The Executive shall determine the terms of reference of sub-committees.

10. RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE

- i. The funds of MAW, including all donations, contributions and bequests, shall be paid into an account operated by the Executive in the name of MAW at such bank as the Executive shall from time to time decide. All cheques drawn on the account must be signed by at least two members of the Executive, authorised by the Executive to act in the name of MAW.
- ii. The funds belonging to MAW shall be applied only in furthering the objects.
- iii. Acceptable evidence of expenses must be submitted to the Treasurer in each instance of claim.

11. ACCOUNTS

The Executive shall keep accounting records and prepare annual statements for MAW

12. ANNUAL REPORT

The Executive shall prepare an annual report.

13. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- i. In each year, an Annual General Meeting ("AGM") shall be held normally in the month of November at which the report and accounts of MAW for the preceding financial year shall be presented.
- ii. Every Annual General Meeting shall be called by the Executive. The Honorary Secretary shall cause at least 21 days' notice of the Annual General Meeting to be given to all the members of MAW. All the members of MAW shall be entitled to attend and vote at the meeting.
- iii. The Chairperson of the Executive shall be the chairperson of the AGM, but if that person is absent, the Vice Chairperson will be the Chairperson of the meeting, if present; otherwise, before any other business is transacted, those present shall appoint a chairperson of the meeting.
- iv. Nominations for election to the Executive must be proposed and seconded by members of MAW.

14. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

A Special General Meeting may be called at any time by the Executive or by a written request from 15 individual members.

On receiving such a request the Executive shall as far as is possible arrange such a meeting within one calendar month. The notice must state the business to be discussed.

15. PROCEDURE AT GENERAL MEETINGS

- i. The Honorary Secretary or other person specially appointed by the Executive shall ensure that full record is kept of proceedings at every General Meeting of MAW.
- ii. There shall be a quorum when at least 20 members of MAW are present at any General Meeting.
- iii. Rules relating to Executive meetings shall, as far as is practicable, also apply to General Meetings. Decisions will preferably be reached by consensus, but a vote of members may be taken when necessary and, in the event of a tie, the chairperson of the meeting shall exercise a casting vote.

16. NOTICES

Any notice required to be served on any member of MAW shall be in writing and shall be served by the Executive or any person that they nominate on any member either personally or by sending it through the post in a prepaid letter or electronically. Letters shall be addressed to each member at his or her last known address in the United Kingdom, and any letter so sent shall be deemed to have been received within 10 days of posting. Notice served by electronic communication channels will require confirmation of receipt, and in this case, indication of the arrival of such communication at the electronic address currently listed for any member shall be deemed satisfactory confirmation of its receipt by the member concerned.

17. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution may be altered by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members present and voting at a General Meeting. The notice of the General Meeting must include notice of the resolution, setting out the terms of the alteration proposed.

18. DISSOLUTION

If the Executive decides that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve MAW it shall call a meeting of all members of MAW, of which not less than 21 days' notice (stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed) shall be given. If the proposal is confirmed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, the Executive shall have power to realise any assets held by or on behalf of MAW. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of MAW as the members of MAW may determine or failing that shall be applied for some other charitable purpose.