

Constitution

Network of Engaged Buddhists

1. NAME

The organisation shall be known as the Network of Engaged Buddhists

2. AIMS

To advance Buddhism for the benefit of the public in accordance with the belief that the Buddhist teachings of wisdom and compassion can contribute to the alleviation of suffering in the world.

3. POWERS

To further the above aims, the Network may:-

- (1) Employ and pay any person or persons to supervise, organise and carry on the work of the Network;
- (2) Make reasonable provision for the payment of pensions and superannuation to or on behalf of employees and their widows and other dependants.
- (3) Engage and pay fees to professional and technical advisers/consultants to assist in the work of the Network;
- (4) Establish local branches when and where considered to be necessary with such powers as may be considered by the Network to be appropriate;
- (5) Bring together people in conference and work in liaison with representatives of voluntary organisations, government departments, local and other statutory authorities and individuals;
- (6) Take out membership of such organisations as are considered to be in the interests of and compatible with the aims of the Network;
- (7) Promote and carry out or assist in promoting and carrying out research, surveys and investigations and where considered appropriate publish the results;
- (8) Arrange and provide for or join in arranging and providing for the holding of exhibitions, meetings, lectures, classes, retreats, workshops, seminars and training courses;
- (9) Collect and disseminate information on all matters affecting the aims and exchange such information with other bodies having similar aims whether in this country or overseas;
- (10) Cause to be prepared and printed or otherwise reproduced and circulated, free of charge or for such payment as appropriate, such papers, books, periodicals, pamphlets or other documents or films or

- recorded tapes (whether audio or visual or both) as shall such further the aims;
- (11) Purchase, take on lease or exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any property and any rights and privileges considered appropriate for the promotion of the aims and construct, maintain and alter any buildings considered appropriate for the work of the Network;
 - (12) Make regulations for the management of any property which may be so acquired;
 - (13) Sell, let, grant securities over, dispose of or turn to account all or any of the property or assets of the Network;
 - (14) Raise funds for the aims and accept gifts and contributions on such terms and on such security as shall be deemed to be appropriate;
 - (15) Invest the funds of the Network not immediately required for the aims in or upon such investments, securities or property as may be thought fit, subject nevertheless to such conditions (if any) as may at the time be imposed or required by law and
 - (16) Do all such other lawful things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the aims.

4. MEMBERSHIP

- (1) Full membership is open to all those who agree to and accept the aims of the organisation.
- (2) The executive committee may propose the termination of the membership by a majority vote of the executive for anyone bring the organisation into disrepute.
- (3) Honorary members may be appointed by the Network at its discretion.
- (4) An individual applying for membership shall submit an application form, signed by the applicant.

5. OFFICE BEARERS

- (1) At the annual general meeting, the Network shall elect a chair, a activities co-ordinator, a secretary and a treasurer and such other office bearers as the Network shall from time to time decide.
- (2) The convenor and the other office bearers of the Network shall hold office until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting of the Network after their election provided that no office bearer. The period of office shall be three years after which time the officer must stand for re-election.
- (3) The chair and other office bearers shall be members of the Executive group and of any other group.

6. EXECUTIVE GROUP

- (1) With the exception of those powers which are specifically stated in this governing agreement to be exercisable by the members, the policy and the management of the affairs of the Network shall be directed by a Executive group which shall meet no less than twice per year and shall consist of not less than five or more than ten members.
- (2) The members of the Executive group shall be elected by ballot at the annual general meeting of the Network.
- (3) Election to the Executive group shall be for three years. One third of the membership shall retire annually, the members to retire being those who have been longest in office since they were last elected/re-elected. On the expiration of their period in office any person shall be eligible for re-election.
- (4) In addition to the members so elected the Executive group may co-opt up to two further members who, after co-option, shall serve until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting provided that the number of co-opted members shall not exceed one third of the total membership of the Executive group at the time of co-option. Co-opted members shall be entitled to vote at meetings of the group.
- (5) Any casual vacancy on the Executive group (including any officer bearer vacancy) may be filled by the Executive group and any person appointed to fill such a casual vacancy shall hold office until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting of the Network and shall be eligible for election at that meeting.
- (6) The proceedings of the Executive group shall not be invalidated by any failure to elect or any defect in the election, appointment, co-option or qualification of any member.
- (7) The Executive group may appoint such special or standing groups or sub-groups as may be considered appropriate and shall determine their respective terms of reference, powers, duration and composition. All acts and proceedings of such special or standing groups or sub groups shall be reported back to the Executive group as soon as possible.
- (8) All members of the Network shall be entitled to attend and observe meetings of the Executive group but may only contribute to the proceedings at the discretion of the Executive group members.

7. GENERAL MEETINGS

- (1) The first annual general meeting of the Network shall be held not later than the 30th September 2007, and once in each year thereafter an annual general meeting of the Network shall be held at such time (not being more than 15 months after the holding of the preceding annual general meeting) and at such place as the Executive group shall determine. At least 21 clear days' notice of the meeting shall be given

in writing by the secretary to each member. At each annual general meeting the business shall include the consideration of the annual report on the work of the Network, the approval of the accounts, the election of an examiner/auditor, the election of office bearers, the election of other members to serve on the Executive group, motions submitted by the Executive group or by members and the transaction of such matters as may from time to time be appropriate.

- (2) The chair of the Executive group may at any time at her discretion call a special general meeting of the Network. The secretary shall call a special general meeting of the Network within 21 days of receiving a written request so to do signed by not less than twelve full members giving reasons for the request.

8. RULES OF PROCEDURE AT ALL MEETINGS

- (1) **QUORUM** The quorum at a general meeting of the Network shall be fifteen percent or 12, whichever is the lesser (present in person) of the total actual membership of the Network. The quorum at a meeting of the Executive group shall be three or such other number as the Network may in general meeting from time to time determine.
- (2) **MINUTES** The Executive group shall ensure that minutes are kept and made available of all general meetings and of all meetings of the Executive group containing in each case, a note of those present, those attending and the chair and a record of all proceedings, resolutions and decisions.
- (4) **STANDING ORDERS** The Executive group shall have power to adopt standing orders for the Network and its groups. Such standing orders, which will be consistent with and complementary to the terms of this governing agreement, shall come into operation immediately but may be amended by the Network in general meeting.

10. FINANCE

- (1) All funds raised by or on behalf of the Network shall be applied to further the objects of the Network and for no other purpose; the preceding provision shall not, however, prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper remuneration to any employee of the Network and fees to professional and technical advisers or the repayment to members of the Executive group or of any group or sub-group of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.
- (2) The treasurer shall keep accounting records and shall prepare proper accounts annually and at such other intervals as the Executive group may direct..
- (3) An audited or examined statement of the accounts for the last financial year shall be submitted by the Executive group to the annual general meeting.

- (4) A bank account shall be opened in the name of the Network with such banks and/or building societies as the Executive group shall from time to time decide. The Executive group shall authorise in writing three members of the Executive group (one of whom shall be the treasurer) to sign cheques on behalf of the Network. All cheques must be signed by not less than two of three authorised signatories.

11. PROPERTY

The title to all property, heritable and moveable, which may be acquired by or on behalf of the Network shall be vested in the names of the chair, the secretary and the treasurer.

12. ALTERATIONS TO THE GOVERNING AGREEMENT

A resolution to alter this governing agreement shall not be valid unless:

- a) Two thirds of the votes cast in relation to the resolution at a general meeting of the Network (whether annual or special) are in favour and
- b) Notice (setting out the terms of the proposed alteration) shall have been given to the members not less than 21 clear days before the meeting at which the alteration was proposed.

13. DISSOLUTION

If the Executive group by a simple majority decide at any time that on the ground of expense or otherwise it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Network, it shall call a special general meeting of the Network, of which meeting not less than 21 days' notice (stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed at the meeting) shall be given. If such decision is confirmed by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in relation to the resolution at such meeting, the Executive group shall sell such of the assets of the Network as they may consider appropriate for the best price reasonably obtainable and settle the debts and liabilities of the Network. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of such debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such other organisation or organisations having objects similar to the objects of the Network as the Executive group may determine.

Signed

Date:

Joyce Edmond- Smith (Chair Network of Engaged Buddhists)

Signed

Date:

Philippa Bobbett (Maitrīsārā) (Secretary Network of Engaged Buddhists)