



# Għaqda Persuni Neqsin mis-Smigh (Malta)

## *Deaf People Association (Malta)*

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## **Statute of** **Deaf People Association (Malta)**

### **1. Name and Logo**

- a) The Association shall be called "Deaf People Association (Malta). In this statute, the word "Association" means the "Deaf People Association (Malta)".
- b) The Logo of the Association shall be the Maltese Cross, in white and red colour, with blue surroundings in between the four crosses, each showing a yellow finger spelling of GH, P, N, S or Għaqda Persuni Neqsin mis-Smigh.

### **2. Definition**

Hearing loss applies to all persons whose hearing loss is severe to render them disabled persons.

### **3. Aims**

The aims of the Association are the following:

- a) strives to ensure that deaf persons have equal opportunities to enable them live an independent life of the highest possible quality;
- b) makes reasonable pressure on Maltese authorities to ensure that deaf people have equal opportunities to enable them live an independent life of the highest possible quality;
- c) investigates ways on how deaf people can have equal opportunities;
- d) raises public awareness on how Maltese Society can change to offer equal opportunities to deaf people to enable them live an independent life of the highest possible quality.
- e) disseminates information on existing facilities available to deaf people;
- f) enters into partnership with Government, Authorities and Organizations that are consonant with the Association's aims;
- g) encourages international contacts with similar organizations abroad and takes part in international meetings.

#### **4. Rights**

Every member shall have his or her rights duly represented.

#### **5. The Association's work**

All the Association's work shall be undertaken by the Executive Committee that is elected every two years during a general meeting held in February.

#### **6. Composition of the Executive Committee**

- a) the Executive Committee is composed of not more than 5 members elected directly during the Annual General Meeting. Three of these members have to be deaf persons. The Executive Committee, during its first meeting shall elect, from among its members, a President, Secretary, Treasurer, vice president, assistant secretary, assistant treasurer
- b) Members present during the General meeting shall vote to elect 5 members from those nominated. The first three deaf persons who obtain the highest number of votes will be declared elected together with another two persons who obtained the highest amount of votes.

#### **7. Meetings of the Executive Committee**

- a) The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a month. The quorum of the committee is three. If there is no quorum, the Executive Committee cannot take any decision.
- b) The Committee has the authority to appoint any number of sub-committees as it deems fit. It shall also decide the number of members that forms these sub-committees. Members of the sub-committee can be nonmembers of the Association. The sub-committees and groups have to work according to the terms of reference and functions given to them by the Executive Committee. However they can regulate the procedure to be used.
- c) The Executive Committee can invite persons to become Patrons of the Association.
- d) The Executive Committee has the right to appoint competent persons to help in its work. These persons can be non-members of the Association.
- e) The method of voting during the Executive meetings is to be established by the President.
- f) If a member of the Executive Committee absents him/herself for three consecutive meetings without informing the committee, the Secretary shall inform this member that his/her post is vacant.
- g) Members of the Executive Committee who wants to resign shall do so in



- g) members who do not pay their membership fees for three consecutive months shall be informed in writing by the treasurer and if s/he fails to pay within fifteen days will be excluded.
- h) the Association has a right for membership fees up to the day the member/s are excluded or resigns.
- i) If a member who resigned out of his/her free will, wants to rejoin the Association, s/he has to make the request in writing to the Executive Committee and, if accepted, has to pay a sum of money as decided by the Committee.

## **9. The Funds of the Association**

- a) The Treasures has the duty to keep up-to-date books of all income and expenditure.
- b) The Accounts of the Association are to be verified and signed by a professional auditor appointed during the Annual General meeting, These have to be signed during the month of February.
- c) Money has to be deposited in a bank account bearing only the name of the Association. Money is to be withdrawn through the signature of the treasurer and the president or the secretary following approval by the Committee. The treasurer can keep up to Lm50 as petty cash.
- d) The Association's funds are to be spent solely to achieve the aims of the Association.
- e) Only the general meeting has the right to approve expenditure of money which does not belong to the Association
- f) The financial year of the Association ends on the 31 st of December of every year.
- g) Fund raising in the name of the Association can be undertaken only with the approval of the Executive Committee and the money raised are the absolute property of the Association.
- h) Donations and things given to the Association becomes the property of the Association.
- i) Sub-committees or groups within the Association cannot raise funds unless they have the approval of the Executive Committee

## **10. Amendments to the Regulations**

- a) Regulations can be deleted, amended or added to during the General Meeting by a two thirds majority of votes.
- b) Proposals to change a regulation shall be sent in writing to the Secretary.

## **11. Motions**

Every motion or amendment has to be signed by a proponent and a seconder.

## **12. Annual General Meeting**

- a) Annual General Meetings are to be held during the month of February.
- b) The secretary shall issue a notice to receive motions and amendments to regulations. The Secretary shall fix the closing date which shall not be less than 15 days.
- c) Proposed motions and amendments :from members shall be circulated to all members eight days prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- d) The secretary shall send a circular to all paid members eight day prior to the Annual General Meeting. The agenda, motions and amendments shall be placed in the order they were received.
- e) The Secretary shall prepare an administrative report of the current year for approval of the Annual General Meeting.
- f) The Treasury shall prepare a financial report of the current year for approval of the Annual General Meeting.

## **13. Extraordinary General Meetings**

- a) the Executive Committee has the right to call an Extraordinary Meeting according to need. These can be called giving a four days notice.
- b) Members have the right to call a General Meeting so long as the request is in writing and signed by 25% of all paid members. The Executive Committee has to call this meeting within four days. If during the meeting there is no quorum of 50% plus one of all paid members at the established time, this meeting will be postponed by eight days. If there is no quorum the meeting will not be held.

## **14. Quorum of General Meetings**

The quorum of Annual General Meetings and Extraordinary General Meetings called by the Executive Committee is of 25% of paid members. If there is no quorum after half an hour, the meeting will start with members present. The President and the Secretary shall be counted to make up the quorum.

## **15. Membership Fee**

- a) Any person who has the interest of deaf persons at heart can become a member.
- b) The membership fee is of Lm3 a year.

- c) The membership fee can be increased through a motion discussed during the general meeting having a simple majority of votes.

## **16. Dissolution**

- a) The Association shall continue to exist as long as it has the number of members stipulated by law.
- b) In case of dissolution, funds and other property of the Association shall be given to a Non Governmental Organization whose aims are nearest to the Association as decided by the last members.