

ISPS Constitution

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PSYCHOLOGICAL TREATMENTS OF THE SCHIZOPHRENIAS AND OTHER PSYCHOSES

*(With changes approved by the ISPS general assemblies of June, 2000 and June 2009)

ARTICLE 1

TITLE

The name of the organisation shall be THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PSYCHOLOGICAL TREATMENTS OF THE SCHIZOPHRENIAS AND OTHER PSYCHOSES hereafter referred to as "The Society".

*ARTICLE 2

LEGAL STATUS

OLD

The Society will be an international society governed by the law of Norway.

NEW

The Society will be an international society governed by the law of the country in which the official ISPS accounts are held.

*ARTICLE 3

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

OLD

The English text of the Constitution of the Society shall be the official text.

NEW

The official language of the constitution and of the society is English. .

ARTICLE 4

The formal address for all communications shall be that of the appointed Secretariat of ISPS of that time.

ARTICLE 5

OBJECTIVES OF THE NETWORK

5.1a to promote the appropriate use of psychotherapy and psychological treatments for persons with schizophrenias and other psychoses.

5.1b to promote the integration of psychological treatments in treatment plans and comprehensive treatment of all persons with schizophrenias and other psychoses.

5.1c to promote the appropriate use of psychological understanding and psychotherapeutic approaches in all phases of the disorders including both early in the onset and in longer lasting disorders.

5.1d to promote research into individual, group and family psychological therapies, preventative measures and other psychosocial programmes for those with psychotic disorders.

5.1e OLD

to support treatments that include individual, family, group, and network approaches and treatment methods that are derived from psychoanalysis, cognitive-behavioral, systemic and psycho-educational approaches

NEW

to support psychotherapeutic treatments that include individual, family, group, and network approaches.

COMMENT: We felt it not helpful and not necessary to define in the constitution specific theoretical models, as these are multiple and changing their titles.

5.1f to advance education, training and knowledge of mental health professionals in the psychological therapies and psychosocial interventions in the treatment and prevention of psychotic mental health disorders for the public benefit regardless of race, religion, gender or socio-economic status

In pursuance of the above objectives the Society shall have the following powers:

5.2a to promote an International Executive Committee structure for the Society to support continental, regional and national networks of professionals that will aim to fulfil the objectives in 5.1

5.2b

OLD

to enhance awareness amongst professionals, administrators and legislators in the public sector about the psychological therapies and psychosocial interventions and to make available to the general public knowledge of such therapies and interventions and where so, to bring to the public's attention the scarce availability of such therapies and interventions

NEW

to enhance awareness about the psychological therapies and psychosocial interventions amongst professionals and to make available to the general public knowledge of such therapies and interventions and where so, to bring to the public's attention the scarce availability of such therapies and interventions

COMMENT Legislators etc removed to reduce risk of us being seen a political organisation which would threaten our tax-free status

5.2c

OLD

to facilitate communication amongst mental health professionals administrators and legislators worldwide, by means of publications, newsletters, journals, scientific conferences and other meetings

NEW

to facilitate communication by means of publications, newsletters, journals, scientific conferences and other meetings

5.2d to create a central institution for the collection, provision, maintenance and spread of information and knowledge of the psychological therapies and psychosocial interventions relevant to psychotic disorders.

5.2e: to establish, carry on, promote, organise, finance and encourage the study, writing, production, publication and distribution of books, periodicals, monographs, pamphlets, articles and other literature and to arrange meetings and lectures and to arrange for the reading of papers and holding of seminars or discussions and to circulate any periodicals and literature that may be deemed advisable by the Executive Committee and to provide library facilities.

5.2f: to purchase, take on, lease or hire or otherwise acquire real or personal property and rights or privileges and to construct, maintain and alter buildings;

5.2g: subject to such consents as may be required by law, to sell, let, mortgage, dispose of or turn to account all or any of the property or assets of the Society.

5.2h: to undertake and execute any charitable trusts which may lawfully be undertaken by the Society.

5.2i: to borrow or raise money on such terms and on such security as may be thought fit provided that the Executive Committee shall not undertake permanent trading activities in raising funds for the said objects;

5.2j: to establish and support or aid in the establishment and support of any associations or institutions in accordance with the aims in ARTICLE 5.1 and to subscribe or guarantee money for charitable purposes.

5.2k: to join or affiliate or cooperate with and subscribe to any association, society or corporation and to purchase or otherwise acquire and undertake all or any part of the property, assets, liabilities and engagements of any such association, society or corporation.

5.2l: to do all such other things as shall further the said objects or any of them, but not to do anything which will breach the national law of a member state.

*ARTICLE 6

MEMBERSHIP

OLD

Membership shall be open to all individuals, groups and organisations of mental health professionals, administrators and legislators upon payment of the subscription fee. The executive committee has the absolute power to exclude from membership persons that it considers would not benefit the organisation and its objectives. Membership is not indicative of, and must not be used to indicate any form of professional competence or expertise.

NEW

Membership shall be open to all individuals, groups and organisations of mental health professionals, administrators and legislators, including interested lay persons, users of mental health services and family members upon payment of the subscription fee. The

executive committee has the absolute power to exclude from membership persons that it considers would not benefit the organisation and its objectives. Membership is not indicative of, and must not be used to indicate any form of professional competence or expertise.

COMMENT To make explicit that membership is open to family members and users by experience

Members may organise themselves into ISPS membership groups providing they agree to the ISPS constitution and the group pays the membership fees determined by the executive.

*ARTICLE 7

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY

7.1 The affairs of the Society shall be managed by an International Executive Committee.

• 7.2

OLD The Executive Committee will be composed of up to eight members who will be elected by ballot in conjunction with a Formal General Meeting of the Society for a maximum period of 4 years before further elections must take place.

NEW

The Executive Committee will be composed of up to eight members who will be EACH BE elected by ballot every THREE Years

Comment [a1]: This is a part of the move to enable us to vote electronically and not just by those attending an AGM

COMMENT This is a major change. At present our voters are those who come to a general meeting in a particular part of the world. We are proposing that elections be conducted by electronic means polling the whole membership independent of a conference. After much debate we thought that three year terms of office was preferred and after careful consideration decided not to restrict the number of terms of office that someone can stand for. The safeguard is in the regular elections.

- 7.3
- OLD There shall be no restriction on the number of terms of office for which an Executive Committee member may be elected.

NEW

Delete 7.3

7.4 OLD

THE CHAIRPERSON shall be elected from amongst the Executive Committee members and by the Executive Committee members at its first meeting following their election at a Formal General Meeting. Other Executive members will be appointed by the Executive Committee itself to the positions needed for its functioning. These shall include a treasurer and a secretary and minutes shall be taken of all meetings and decisions made.

Comment [a2]: SEE 9.5

NEW

7.4 (Becomes 7.3) THE CHAIRPERSON shall be elected from amongst the Executive Committee members and by the Executive Committee members at its first meeting following the last election for members. Other Executive members will be appointed by the Executive Committee itself to the positions needed for its functioning. These shall include a treasurer and a secretary and minutes shall be taken of all meetings and decisions made.

COMMENT - deletes the working related to formal general meetings due to proposal for elections to take place electronically

7.5 (Becomes 7.4) Members of the Executive Committee may resign by giving notice in writing to the secretary.

7.6 (Becomes 7.5) The proceedings of the Executive Committee shall not be invalidated by any failure to appoint or by any defect in the appointment of any member.

7.7

OLD

The Executive Committee shall be convened at least annually by the chairperson. An official convening may take the form of telephone or video conference meetings involving a quorum of members. A quorum shall be at least four elected members.

Additional meetings must be called by the chairperson if at least four Executive Committee Members sign a letter expressing a request to meet.

NEW (Becomes 7.6)

The Executive Committee shall be convened at least annually by the chairperson. An official convening may take the form of meetings that are face to face, by telephone or video link and that involve a quorum of members. A quorum shall be at least four elected members. Additional meetings must be called by the chairperson if at least four Executive Committee Members sign a letter expressing a request to meet.

COMMENT; Takes into account modern ways in which the committee can 'meet'.

7.8 OLD

The Executive Committee shall appoint an organisation or committee to be responsible for THE ORGANISATION of the recommended triennial symposium of the network. This committee shall be accountable to the Executive Committee

NEW

Moved to be added to 7.9 which will become 7.8

7.9 (Becomes 7.7) The Executive Committee may from time to time appoint such sub-committees as may be deemed necessary, and may determine their terms of reference, powers, duration and composition, provided that all acts and proceedings of any such sub-committee shall be fully and promptly reported to the Executive Committee.

ADDED to new 7.7 FROM old 7.8 This will include the appointment of a sub-committee or organisation to be responsible for the organisation of the recommended international symposium of the ISPS.

7.10 (Becomes 7.8) The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint and dismiss a paid secretary and such other employees of the Society, not being members of the Executive Committee as it may from time to time determine, or to arrange with any other organisation for the provision of secretarial and administrative services.

7.11 (Becomes 7.9) The Executive Committee shall have the final authority to determine membership of the Society.

7.12

OLD

The Executive Committee shall take its decisions by a simple majority of those present and voting at official meetings. In the event of a tie, the chairperson will have an extra casting vote.

NEW (Becomes 7.10)

The majority of members shall determine the frequency of meetings and the time of the next meeting. Decisions about any issue including the modality of communicating and the method of voting shall be decided by simple majority. In the event of tie vote the Chairperson will cast an extra vote.

COMMENT – Another change that allows the committee to meet ~~to meet~~ in different formats and to vote in a way of its choosing eg electronically

7.13 (Becomes 7.11) The Executive Committee has the power to make 'Honourary Life Member Awards' for up to a total of twelve living persons who have made outstanding professional contributions to activities that correspond to the Objectives of the Society.

ARTICLE 8

FORMAL GENERAL MEETINGS

8.1 OLD

The Executive Committee must call Formal General Meetings of the network which must take place at least every four calendar years.

8.1 NEW

The Executive Committee must call Formal General Meetings of the network which must take place at least every three calendar years.

COMMENT – takes into account the changed frequency of symposia that allows for more frequent meetings

*8.2 OLD

At the Formal General Meeting the business shall include the election of the Executive Committee and consideration of a general report of the Executive Committee and the accounts.

NEW

At the Formal General Meeting the business shall include **reporting the results of** elections to the Executive Committee and consideration of a general report of the Executive Committee and the accounts.

Other items for the agenda shall be submitted to the Secretary three months before the General Meeting

COMMENT – allows for the previous changes made in which elections will be electronically by the whole membership separate from general meetings

8.3

OLD

ELECTIONS At least **one year** prior to elections, the Executive Committee shall appoint from amongst itself a nominating committee of at least four persons. In forming this committee the Executive Committee shall be mindful of the need for both geographical representation and experience of the International Society.

NEW

At least **6 months** prior to elections, the Executive Committee shall appoint from amongst its members a nominating committee of at least three persons. In forming this committee the Executive Committee shall be mindful of the need for both geographical representation and experience of the International Society.

8.4 Mindful of 8.3 above, the Executive Committee will resolve upon the method of voting in respect of elections to the Executive Committee and any other major agenda items at any Formal General Meeting.

Proposal to DELETE THIS ARTICLE

*8.5

OLD Notification of elections and their date and place shall be given by post to all members, to be posted at least five calendar months before the election. The closing date for receipt of nominations and items for the agenda (which may only be sent by mail or facsimile) shall be three calendar months before the date of election. Agenda items will only be considered from ISPS Members subscribing members.

NEW (Becomes 8.4)

Notification of elections shall be given to all members, at least three calendar months before the election. The closing date for receipt of nominations shall be two calendar months before the date of election.

(COMMENT a change in keeping with the new voting method).

8.6 (Becomes 8.5) All nominations must be proposed and seconded by subscribing Society members and may be accompanied by a supporting statement.

* 8.7 OLD

The list of nominees and a provisional agenda and information as to the form in which voting will take place must be sent to subscribing members at least one clear calendar month before the Formal General Meeting.

NEW (Becomes 8.6)

The list of nominees and information as to the form in which voting will take place must be sent to subscribing members at least one clear calendar month before the closing date of elections

8.8 OLD

Though it is permissible for there to be more than two nominations from members resident in the same country, no more than two members whose usual residence is in

the same country in the year of election may be elected to the Executive Committee. With this exception the (up to) eight nominees with the greatest number of votes shall be elected to the Executive Committee. In the event of a tie for the final places, the other members of the New Executive Committee will vote between those tied persons for the final place(s).

NEW (becomes 8.7)

Though it is permissible for there to be more than two nominations from members resident in the same country, no more than two members whose usual residence is in the same country in the year of election may be elected to the Executive Committee. With this exception the (up to) eight nominees with the greatest number of votes shall be elected to the Executive Committee. In the event of a tie for the final places, the other members of the New Executive Committee will vote between those tied persons for the final place(s). In the event of less than eight nominations, the EC shall co-opt additional members to the committee as long as there are no more than two persons from any one country on the overall committee.

Comment: allows for co-option if not enough elected members for tasks

Comment [a3]: ALLOWS FOR CO-OPTION IF NOT ENOUGH ELECTED MEMBERS

8.9 OLD

All other decisions at a Formal General Meeting shall be decided on the basis of a simple majority of votes cast.

NEW

Delete item -8.9

ARTICLE 9

FINANCES

9.1 The Executive Committee shall have power to obtain, collect and receive money and funds by way of contributions, donations, subscriptions, deeds of covenant, legacies, grants or any other lawful method, and to accept and receive gifts of property of any description.

9.2 The Executive Committee shall determine the level of subscriptions and the METHODS OF PAYMENTS and require payment of fees within such time as the Executive Committee shall determine but not less than one month from the demand. No person shall be entitled to vote if that person has not paid his dues within a period of SIX months following demand. The Executive Committee shall also have the power to expel a person or organisation for non payment of fees.

9.3 The income and property of the Society, whencesoever derived, shall be applied solely towards the object of the Society as set forth in ARTICLE 5 and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit to any member of the Executive Committee: provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper remuneration to any servant of the Executive Committee not being a member of the committee, or the repayment to members of the Executive Committee or any sub-committee appointed under ARTICLE 9.10 hereof of reasonable and proper out of pocket expenses.

9.4 The financial year shall run from 1st January to the 31st December.

9.5 OLD

The funds of the Network including all donations contributions and bequests, shall be paid into an account operated by the Executive Committee in the name of the Society at such bank as the Executive Committee shall from time to time decide. All cheques drawn from the account must be signed by at least two persons authorised by the Committee, at least one of which must be an Executive Committee member.

NEW

A Treasurer shall be appointed at the discretion of the Executive Committee from among the members of the EC by majority vote. The outgoing treasurer shall act as advisor to the new treasurer for the first 6 months of his/her tenure. The functions and duties of the Treasurer shall be defined by the Executive Committee. The funds of the Society including dues, proceeds from meetings, subscriptions, royalties from ISPS publications and expense payments to editors, donations and bequests, shall be paid into an account or accounts administered by the Treasurer. Duties of the treasurer shall include but not be limited to making an annual budget for the Society and making regular financial reports to the Executive Committee

Comment

This clarifies role of treasurer and centralisation of accounting and also removes need for 2 signatures

Comment [a4]: Clarifies role of treasurer and centralisation of accounting and also removes need for 2 signatures

ARTICLE 10

DISSOLUTION

The Society may be dissolved by a Resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at a Special General Meeting convened for the purpose of which at least 21 days notice shall have been given to the members.

Such resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the Society, provided that if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, such property shall not be paid or distributed among the members of the Society. Such assets or property but shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to some or all of the objects of the Society as the Society may determine. If and in so far as effect cannot be given to this provision then to some other charitable purpose

* ARTICLE 11

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

OLD

Alteration to this Constitution shall receive the assent of two-thirds of the members present and voting at a Formal General Meeting or a Special General Meeting. A resolution for the alteration of the constitution must be received in writing by the Secretary of the Society at least four months before the meeting at which the resolution is to be brought forward. At least two calendar months clear notice of such a meeting must be given in writing by the Secretary to the membership and must include notice of the alteration proposed.

NEW

Alteration to this Constitution shall receive the assent of two-thirds of the members voting in a ballot formally organised by the Executive. A resolution for the alteration of the constitution must be received in writing by the Secretary of the Society at least four months before the closing date of the ballot. At least two calendar months clear notice of such a ballot must be given by the Secretary to the membership and must include notice of the alteration **proposed**.

Comment: Allows for electronic voting

Comment [a5]: Allows for electronic voting eg