

# THE ALLIANCE FOR LAWYERS AT RISK

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## CONSTITUTION

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### **1. Name**

This is the Constitution of the entity called “the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk (“the Alliance”).

### **2. Objects and Activities**

2.1 The objects of the Alliance are to demonstrate solidarity with, and to give, and express, support for human rights lawyers and human rights defenders (“HRDs”) who are exposed to personal risk to themselves and their families by reason of their work.

2.2 To further its objects the practical steps that may be taken by the Alliance will include:

- (1) Voicing concern in specific cases of danger;
- (2) In jurisdictions where lawyers or HRD's are at risk or persecution –
  - a) establishing direct links with lawyers, HRDs and legal organisations in need of protection;
  - b) assisting in the preparation of submissions to governments and of amicus briefs;
  - c) advising on the review of codes and legislation to ensure compliance with international legal standards, insofar as this affects the independence of lawyers and HRDs and fair legal process;
  - d) helping with the training of local lawyers and HRDs, including helping them to access local support and the production of training manuals.

### **3. Membership**

3.1 The membership of the Alliance will be comprised of individuals, limited to a maximum of 100 at any given time, and institutions, drawn from the legal community of the United Kingdom as are so invited by the Executive Committee.

### **4. Executive Committee**

4.1 The Alliance shall be run by an Executive Committee, comprised of a President, two Vice-Presidents, the chair and up to 14 committee members. The committee members need not be members of the Alliance.

4.2 The founding President of the Alliance shall be Sir Patrick Elias; the founding Vice-Presidents shall be Prof Christine Chinkin CMG and Guy Beringer CBE, QC; and the founding chair of the Executive Committee shall be Sir Peter Roth.

4.3 The other founding members of the Executive Committee shall be appointed by the President, the two Vice-Presidents and the chair.

4.4 Upon any of the President, Vice-Presidents or ordinary committee members (including the chair) ceasing to hold office, their replacement(s) will be appointed by the remaining members of the Executive Committee.

4.5 The Executive Committee shall operate by way of simple majority voting, with the President having, where necessary, a casting vote.

4.6 The function of the Executive Committee will be to run the Alliance so as to best achieve its objects, by taking the practical steps referred to in 2.2 above or otherwise, and for that purpose the Executive Committee may consult the membership of the Alliance as appropriate.

4.7 The Executive Committee shall have the power to remove any member of the Alliance whose continued membership would not, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, be in the best interests of the Alliance.

4.8 The Executive Committee may establish sub-committees and may co-opt additional members to the Executive Committee (who need not be members of the Alliance) on an ad hoc basis.

4.9 The Executive Committee will each year publish on line (or otherwise) a report of the Alliance's activities, such report to include a list of current members, both individual and institutional.

## **5. Adoption and Amendment**

5.1 This Constitution was adopted at the first meeting of the Executive Committee held at Victoria House, Bloomsbury Place, London WC1A 2EB on 29 January 2018.

5.2 This Constitution may only be amended following a vote of:

(i) the Executive Committee, in which two thirds of the members vote in favour of the amendment; and (ii) the members of the Alliance (individual and institutional members each having a single vote) in which at least two thirds of those members who vote do so in favour of the amendment. An amendment may be proposed by not less than three members of the Executive Committee or by not less than five members of the Alliance, and shall be circulated to the Executive Committee and to all members of the Alliance not less than 28 days in advance of it being voted upon.