

## **Statutes**

### **Article 1 Name and Headquarters of the Association, Financial Year**

- (1) The association shall be named Union of Syrian Alawites in Europe (USAE). It is to be registered in the association register and will subsequently carry the addition "e.V."
- (2) The association has its headquarters in Berlin. The association may establish branches.
- (3) The financial year is the calendar year.
- (4) The association is committed to human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of religion, freedom of belief and culture, as well as individual freedoms. The association rejects discrimination, racism, violence, and extremism in any form and is committed to the rights of children and women and the equality of genders in social, economic, and political areas.
- (5) The statutes encompass all genders.

### **§ 2 Purpose, Non-profit status of the association**

- (1) The association, based in Berlin, pursues exclusively and directly non-profit purposes within the meaning of the section "Tax-privileged purposes" of the German Tax Code.
- (2) The purpose of the association is
  - the promotion of science and research
  - the promotion of education, general and vocational training, including student assistance.
  - Promoting assistance for those persecuted for political, racial, or religious reasons, for refugees, displaced persons, ethnic German repatriates, late ethnic German repatriates, war victims, war survivors, war invalids and prisoners of war, civilian invalids and disabled persons, as well as assistance for victims of crime
  - Promoting the memory of those persecuted, victims of war, and disasters
  - Promoting the tracing service for missing people
  - Promoting assistance for people discriminated against because of their gender identity or sexual orientation
  - Promoting rescue from life-threatening situations
  - Promoting crime prevention
- (3) The purpose of the statutes is realized through
  - Conducting and publishing research projects
  - Providing educational and cultural offerings for the public
  - Organizing national and international events that correspond to the purpose of the association
  - Cooperation with humanitarian organizations
  - Implementing projects at home and abroad

- Providing assistance to people affected by conflicts, emergencies, or political persecution
- Providing national and international support to people in emergencies
- Promoting aid and support projects for those in need in Syria and Europe, regardless of origin or religion.
- Implementing development and social projects to support disadvantaged people and vulnerable groups, with a special focus on Syrian Alawites
- Support for Syrian Alawites
- Promoting the integration of immigrants into society
- Publishing and operating social media accounts and websites

(4) The association operates on a non-profit basis; it does not primarily pursue commercial purposes.

(5) The association's funds may only be used for the purposes stated in its statutes. Members do not receive any donations from the association's funds.

(6) No person may be favored through expenses unrelated to the association's purpose or through disproportionately high remuneration.

### **§ 3 Acquisition of Membership**

(1) Any natural or legal person may become a member of the Association.

(2) Application for membership must be submitted to the Board of Directors in writing or by online application, stating the type of membership. For minors, the application must be submitted by their legal guardians. The Board of Directors decides on the application at its sole discretion. It is not required to justify a rejection of the application to the applicant. There is no entitlement to membership.

(3) Membership in the Association is divided into:

- Ordinary Member
- Supporting Member
- Honorary Member

(4) Ordinary members are entitled to all rights and participation rights within the Association.

(5) Supporting members support the Association financially and morally and, except for the right to participate, have no other participation rights. However, supporting members may, where provided, take advantage of the Association's offers and services.

(6) Upon the proposal of the Board of Directors and by resolution of the General Meeting, an honorary member may appoint a member or other people who have rendered exceptional services to the Association as honorary members. The general meeting may revoke honorary membership, for example, if the honorary member violates or expresses objections to the association's principles. Honorary members have the right to attend and speak at the general

meeting; no further participation rights exist unless the honorary member is also a regular member.

#### **§ 4 Termination of Membership**

(1) Membership in the Association ends upon death, in the case of legal entities upon their dissolution, resignation, exclusion, or deletion from the membership list.

(2) Resignation must be notified in writing to the Board of Directors. Resignation can only be notified with two months' notice to the end of the quarter.

(3) A member may be expelled from the Association by resolution of the Board of Directors for good cause. Good cause exists, in particular, if (i) the member violates the interests and reputation of the Association, (ii) violates the Articles of Association or resolutions of the Association's governing bodies or instructions of the Board of Directors, (iii) the member expresses or acts contrary to the Articles of Association or resolutions or otherwise makes retention of membership unreasonable for the Association. The members must be given the opportunity to comment on the reasons for expulsion at the General Meeting. These must be communicated to the members at least two weeks in advance. Membership rights are suspended for the duration of the expulsion proceedings until the expulsion becomes legally binding. Complaints or legal actions against exclusion have no suspensive effect. A founding member may only be excluded by a resolution of two-thirds of the members at a general meeting; the founding member must be granted a legal and verbal hearing at the general meeting.

(4) A member may be removed from the membership list by the Board of Directors if a declaration addressed to the member is returned as undeliverable (e.g., letter) or marked as undeliverable (e.g., email), or if the member remains in arrears with the payment of their admission fee or membership dues despite a reminder.

#### **§ 5 Rights and Obligations of Members**

1) Every ordinary member has the right to use the facilities and services provided by the association and to participate in joint events. Every ordinary member has the right to vote and to elect at the general meeting. Transferring voting rights is not permitted.

2) Every member has the duty to promote the interests of the association, in particular to regularly pay their membership fees and, to the best of their ability, to support the association's activities through their cooperation.

3) Supporting members have the right to participate in the general meeting and, if provided for supporting members by the association or the board, to use the facilities and services.

4) Every member is obliged to inform the association, without being asked, of their postal and electronic contact details, as well as any changes thereto. Legal entities must also inform the association, without being asked, of any facts that must be recorded in the commercial register.

#### **§ 6 Admission Fee and Membership Fees**

(1) Every member must pay a monthly membership fee, due in advance.

(2) The amount of the admission fee and membership fees is determined by the Board of Directors.

(3) Honorary members are exempt from the admission fee and membership fees.

(4) The Board of Directors may issue a fee regulation that regulates further details and also specifies which payment methods (e.g., SEPA) are exclusively permitted.

## **§ 7 Bodies of the Association**

The bodies of the Association are:

- the Board of Directors • the Extended Board of Directors
- the General Meeting.

## **§ 8 Board of Directors**

(1) The Board of Directors shall consist of the Chairperson and two deputies.

(2) The Association shall be represented in court and out of court by the Chairperson alone or, if the Chairperson is unavailable, by two deputies jointly.

(3) The members of the Board of Directors may be paid appropriate remuneration. The General Meeting shall be informed of the amount of such remuneration. The Board of Directors is responsible for the content and conclusion of the contract, exempt from § 181 of the German Civil Code (BGB).

(4) The Board of Directors shall determine the responsibilities of the Board members themselves, as elected by the Board of Directors.

## **§ 9 Duties of the Board of Directors**

(1) The Board of Directors is responsible for representing the Association in accordance with § 26 of the German Civil Code (BGB) and managing its business. Its duties include, in particular, the following: a) convening and preparing general meetings, including the preparation of the agenda b) implementing resolutions of the general meeting c) managing the Association's assets and preparing the annual report d) admitting new members e) deciding on amendments to the Articles of Association. The effectiveness of amendments to the Articles of Association also requires the approval of two-thirds of the founding members.

(3) The Board of Directors is otherwise responsible for all matters not assigned to another body of the Association. The Board of Directors may issue and revoke regulations.

(4) The Board of Directors may delegate specific duties to one or more members of the extended Board of Directors or grant legal powers of attorney to individual members of the extended Board of Directors.

## **§ 10 Appointment of the Board of Directors**

(1) The members of the Board of Directors are elected by the General Meeting for a term of three years, individually or as a group. Group voting is permitted. Only members of the association can be members of the board; membership in the association also ends membership on the board. Re-election is permitted. A member remains in the office after the expiration of their regular term of office until their successor is elected.

(2) If a member leaves the board prematurely, the remaining members of the board are entitled to elect a member of the association to the board until their successor is elected by the general meeting.

### **§ 11 Deliberation and Resolution of the Board**

(1) The board meets as needed. Meetings are convened and chaired by the chairperson, or in their absence, by their deputy. A notice period of one week should be observed. The board has a quorum if at least two members are present. Decisions by the board are decided by a majority of the valid votes cast. In the event of a tie, the chairperson has the casting vote, or in their absence, the deputy chairperson.

(2) The decisions of the board must be recorded in the minutes. The minutes must be signed by the secretary and the chairperson, or in his absence, by his deputy or another member of the board.

### **§ 12 Extended Board**

(1) The extended board consists of up to 10 members elected by the general meeting for a term of 3 years.

(2) The extended board supports the board in carrying out its statutory duties.

(3) Sitzungen des erweiterten Vorstandes werden nach Bedarf durch den Vorstand einberufen. Gemeinsame Sitzungen von Vorstand und erweitertem Vorstand als Gesamtvorstand sind zulässig. Die Sitzungen werden vom Vorsitzenden, bei dessen Verhinderung von einem seiner Stellvertreter geleitet.

(4) Any convened meeting shall have a quorum if at least two members of the Board of Directors are present.

(5) The provisions of § 10 and § 11 apply accordingly to the extended Board of Directors.

**§ 12 Duties of the General Meeting** The General Meeting is responsible for decisions on the following matters:

- a) Suggestions for initiatives, actions, and offers of support from the Association
- b) The appointment and revocation of honorary memberships
- d) The election and removal of members of the Board of Directors and the extended Board of Directors
- e) The receipt of the annual report and the discharge of the Board of Directors
- f) The dissolution of the Association.

### **§ 13 Convening of the General Meeting**

(1) At least once a year, preferably in the first quarter, the Board of Directors will convene an ordinary General Meeting. The convening shall be done in writing, giving two weeks' notice and specifying the agenda.

(2) The Board of Directors shall determine the agenda. Any member of the Association may request an addition to the agenda by writing to the Board of Directors no later than two weeks before the General Meeting. The Executive Board decides on the motion. Motions to add to the agenda that have not been included by the Executive Board shall be decided by the General Meeting by a majority of the votes of the members present. Paragraph 2, sentence 4 does not apply to motions for the removal of the Executive Board or the dissolution of the association.

(3) The Executive Board shall convene an extraordinary General Meeting if the interests of the association are required, or if at least one-third of the members request this in writing, stating the purpose and reasons.

#### **§ 14 Resolutions of the General Meeting**

(1) The General Meeting shall be chaired by the Chair of the Executive Board, or in his/her absence, by one of his/her deputies, and in his/her absence, by a chairperson elected by the General Meeting.

(2) Every convened General Meeting shall constitute a quorum. The Executive Board shall decide on the location of the General Meeting.

(3) The General Meeting shall decide by open ballot with a majority of the votes of the members present. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes of the members present in an election, the candidate who receives most of the valid votes cast shall be elected; A runoff election shall be held between multiple candidates. A resolution to change the purpose or to dissolve the association requires the approval of nine-tenths of the members present. Abstentions in elections and resolutions shall be considered non-votes.

(4) Minutes of the proceedings of the general meeting and the resolutions passed shall be kept and signed by the secretary and the chairperson.

#### **§ 15 Further Provisions**

(1) All meetings of the association or its bodies may be held without the members being present at the meeting location, exercising their rights as members, by means of electronic communication (online meeting) or by attendance in conjunction with an online meeting (hybrid meeting). At online meetings, voting shall be conducted by audible audio or visible visual announcement of the vote, or by online voting using a virtual voting tool or electronic means of communication. At online meetings, a request for a secret ballot is only permissible if a secret ballot is technically feasible.

(2) By providing an unencrypted email address, the member consents to the sending of unencrypted emails.

#### **§ 15 Dissolution of the association, termination for other reasons, loss of tax-privileged purposes**

(1) In the event of the dissolution of the association, the chairperson of the board and his deputy shall be jointly authorized liquidators, unless the general meeting appoints other persons.

(2) Upon dissolution or annulment of the association, or upon the cessation of tax-privileged purposes, the association's assets shall be transferred to a legal entity under public law or another tax-privileged entity for use in accordance with the association's purpose.

(3) The above provisions shall apply accordingly if the association's legal capacity has been revoked.

Berlin, Signatures of at least seven members