

# IACR CONSTITUTION AND RULES

## **1. Name**

1.1 The name of the Association shall be the 'International Association for Critical Realism', hereafter referred to as the 'Association'.

## **2. Purposes and Functions**

2.1 The Association is a non-profit, research and educational body of individuals devoted to the promotion, development and application, in philosophy and other disciplines, throughout the world, of critical realism (or approaches known by cognate terms).

2.2 The primary functions of the Association will be to bring together philosophers, scientists and others for the purposes of research and theory development along the lines mentioned in Clause 2.1. The Association will organise conferences, seminars, information networks, research groups, newsletters and other publications for these purposes.

2.3 The Association is not wedded to any one substantive or political theory or political party.

2.4 The association is committed to a pro-active and inclusive approach to all under represented groups. In particular it seeks so far as possible to be inclusive with regard to adequate representation of under-represented groups at its conferences, and in the running and on the pages of its journal, where 'adequate' means that the proportion of under-represented groups selected as keynote speakers and similar influential positions should as far as possible reflect the proportion of under-represented groups participating in the conference or similar. We also encourage special efforts to make the activities of IACR more accessible to under-represented groups.

## **3. Main Language**

3.1 The main and official language of the Association shall be English, although every member has the right to use her or his own language in written or verbal communication, and multi-lingual meetings and conferences may be organised if desired.

## **4. Membership and Membership Fees**

4.1 Membership of the Association shall be open to any person throughout the world sympathetic to the Purposes and Functions, and willing to abide by the Constitution and Rules, and shall be valid upon receipt of the Membership Fee, or upon election as Honorary President (see 11.4 below) or upon the award of life membership (see 11.5 below).

- 4.2 The Membership Fees shall be determined annually by a resolution proposed and seconded at a Membership Meeting and duly processed under the provisions of Clauses 15.2 and 15.3 below.
- 4.3 In the event of a failure of a resolution concerning Membership Fees to gain an overall majority under the provisions of Clauses 15.2 and 15.3 below, the preceding fees shall remain operative.
- 4.4 Payment of the membership fee brings rights of membership for the calendar year in which the fee is paid.
- 4.5 A member may resign by written notification to the General Secretary. There shall be no reimbursement of donations or membership fees in the case of resignation.
- 4.6 Every member has the rights as provided herein and the additional rights to know the names and addresses of all other current members of the Association and to inspect its accounts.

## **5. Membership Sovereignty and Membership Meetings**

- 5.1 The membership of the Association is the sovereign body governing its activities and organisation, as expressed by majority vote at a quorate Membership Meeting according to Clauses 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7 and 15.2 below, and as ratified by a majority in a postal ballot of the membership according to Clause 15.3 below. In regard to amendments to the Constitution and Rules, ratification shall require a 55 per cent majority as outlined in Section 16 below.
- 5.2 A Membership Meeting may be called by a majority at a preceding and quorate Membership Meeting, or by a majority of the Secretariat, or by a majority present and voting at a meeting of the Council, or by a majority of the members of the Council, or by at least 25 per cent of the membership expressing their wish to the General Secretary in writing.
- 5.3 The precise time and place of all Membership Meetings shall be designated by the Council or by the Secretariat.
- 5.4 Membership meetings shall be open only to members of IACR.
- 5.5 The Secretariat shall ensure that at least one Membership Meeting shall be called in any calendar year.
- 5.6 The date, time and venue of any Membership Meeting will be communicated in writing by the Secretariat to all members at least 3 months in advance.
- 5.7 The quorum at a Membership Meeting shall be 20.
- 5.8 In the interim period between Membership Meetings the business of the Association shall be conducted by the Secretariat, and be subject to the approval of the Council.

## **6. Officers and Other Members of the Council**

6.1 The Officers of the Association shall be the Honorary President(s) plus the members of the Secretariat.

6.2 All Officers and members of the Council must be members of the Association.

## **7. Composition and Functions of the Secretariat**

7.1 The Secretariat shall consist of the following:

President  
General Secretary  
Treasurer  
General Editor of the Journal of Critical Realism

7.2 The Secretariat is responsible for the general welfare of the Association, its finances, the processing of membership applications, the maintenance of the membership lists, accounts and other records, the production of the Journal of Critical Realism, and the organisation of conferences and seminars. The Secretariat shall appoint auditors and present a financial and administrative report to at least one Membership Meeting during each calendar year.

7.2.1 The General Secretary is responsible for securing the administrative and communicative facilities necessary to the functioning of the Association during her or his term of office, including making any arrangements with a host institution.

7.3 Members of the Council who are not members of the Secretariat have the right to attend and speak at meetings of the Secretariat, but without a vote.

7.4 The quorum for meetings of the Secretariat shall be three, discounting Honorary Presidents and members of the Council which are not members of the Secretariat.

7.5 The President shall have a casting vote only.

## **8. Composition and Functions of the Council**

8.1 The Council shall consist of the Secretariat, plus up to 10 Ordinary Council Members, all elected by postal ballot, plus up to 2 Co-opted Members.

8.2 The Council may co-opt up to 2 Co-opted Members with the right to vote at Council meetings. The period of co-option must be specified, with a maximum of 2 years, and with no more than 2 Co-opted Members serving at any given time.

8.3 The function of the Council shall be to receive reports from the Secretariat and to monitor or direct its activities as required.

8.4 The Secretariat may organise consultative postal ballots of the Council on organisational matters as required.

8.5 The quorum for meetings of the Council shall be 6, discounting Honorary Presidents.

8.6 The President shall have a casting vote only.

## **9. General Elections to the Secretariat and Council**

- 9.1 With the exception of co-opted members (whose service is limited by their specified period of co-option), the entire Council shall be elected at least once in each three consecutive calendar years by postal ballot of the entire membership, hereafter referred to as a 'general election'.
- 9.2 The Secretariat or Council shall announce a due date for nominations, a circulation date by which the ballot shall be circulated, a ballot closure time and date by which ballots are to be returned, and an inauguration date by which the elected Council members are to be inaugurated on the Council. The circulation date and the day of ballot closure shall be respectively 21 days and 49 days after the due date for nominations. The inauguration date shall be within four calendar months of the due date for nominations.
- 9.3 The main place and country of residence of each candidate, and the position(s) sought, shall be made clear upon nomination.
- 9.3.1 Each candidate for the post of General Secretary will, in putting herself or himself forward, provide a statement of the arrangements to be put in place to meet the duties specified in 7.2.1
- 9.4 A candidate may be nominated for more than one position, but may be elected to no more than one. The position to which he or she may be elected shall be determined by processing the elections in the following order: Honorary President(s), President, General Secretary, Treasurer, General Editor of the Journal of Critical Realism, Ordinary Council Members.
- 9.5 If the number of valid and remaining nominations is less than or equal to the number of vacancies for any position or positions then the relevant candidates shall be elected unopposed.
- 9.6 In the case of contested elections to the Secretariat, each position shall be elected according to the alternative vote system, with candidates with the lowest number of first preferences being eliminated one by one, and the next valid preferences of those eliminated being progressively added onto the vote of the remaining candidates, until one candidate has more than 50 per cent of the votes.
- 9.7 In the case of a contested general election for Ordinary Council Membership, each member of the Association shall be asked to vote for up to 10 candidates, by placing a single cross by the name of each one selected.

## **10. By-Elections to the Secretariat and Council**

- 10.1 In the event of unfilled vacancies on the Council, or of vacancies caused by resignation, then the Secretariat may call a by-election if desired and shall do so if instructed by a majority of the Council.
- 10.2 In the case of a by-election Clauses 9.2, 9.3, 9.4 and 9.5 shall apply, and members already holding office in the Association shall be barred from nomination. If a ballot is required then Secretariat by-elections shall be run according to the alternative vote

system as in Clause 9.6, and for by-elections for Ordinary Council Membership all members of the Association will be asked to vote for a number of persons equivalent to the number of vacancies, marking the name of each chosen candidate with a cross.

## **11. Honorary Presidents**

- 11.1 In addition to the members of the Council, there shall be up to six Honorary Presidents, elected by a postal ballot of all members. No more than two additional Honorary Presidents shall be elected in any one calendar year and the membership shall be asked either to endorse or to reject each nominee. A nominee shall be elected if the number of endorsements exceeds the number of rejections that are received by the due date.
- 11.2 Elections for Honorary President(s) shall be called as deemed appropriate by the Secretariat, or as instructed by the Council.
- 11.3 Candidates for election to the position of Honorary President shall be nominated by the Council.
- 11.4 All Honorary Presidents are elected for life and shall be ex-officio life members of the Association.
- 11.5 The Council or a Membership Meeting may award Honorary Life Membership to any member of the association. In addition, if appropriate rules are established by a duly processed resolution of the members under the provisions of Clauses 15.2 and 15.3 below, life membership may be granted on receipt of an agreed subscription. A life member is not required to pay any further membership fees and his or her membership terminates only in the cases of death or resignation.

## **12. Sub-Committees and IACR Research Groups**

- 12.1 The Secretariat or Council may direct the appointment of Sub-Committees to deal with the programmes, finances, elections, administrations, research activities and publications of the Association as deemed necessary, on a national, European or other basis.
- 12.2 Each Sub-Committee shall report to, and be under the jurisdiction of, the Secretariat and Council.

## **13. Supporting Organisations**

- 13.1 An academic institution, organisation or department shall become a Supporting Organisation of the Association upon payment of a Supporting Organisation Registration Fee.
- 13.2 In the calendar year in which it obtains status of Supporting Organisation, it shall be entitled to receive the same information and announcements as the individual members of the Association, and this entitlement may be renewed upon payment of a Supporting Organisation Renewal Fee in subsequent calendar years.

13.3 The Supporting Organisation Registration and Renewal Fees shall be determined annually by a resolution proposed and seconded at a Membership Meeting and duly processed under the provisions of Clauses 15.2 and 15.3 below.

13.4 In the event of a failure of a resolution concerning Supporting Organisation Registration or Renewal Fees to gain an overall majority under the provisions of Clauses 15.2 and 15.3 below, the preceding fees shall remain operative.

#### **14. Finances and Assets**

14.1 All funds of the Association shall be at the disposal of the General Secretary and Treasurer, who shall make disbursements thereunder as directed by the Secretariat, and as regularly monitored by the Council.

14.2 The accounts of the Association shall be open to the inspection of all members and shall be submitted to each Membership Meeting and Council Meeting. The statement of accounts to at least one Membership Meeting in any given calendar year must be audited.

14.3 The assets of this Association shall be permanently dedicated to the purposes specified in Section 2 above. In the case of the dissolution of the Association, the remaining assets shall be utilised for the purchase of books and other educational materials; such books and materials to be contributed to educational institutions and other worthy beneficiaries as designated by the Secretariat.

#### **15. Statements and Resolutions**

15.1 Members may not make any written or verbal statement in the name of the Association except by the approval of a duly constituted meeting of the Secretariat, Council or Membership.

15.2 A resolution or statement may be introduced at a quorate Membership Meeting by the Secretariat, the Council, or by a petition signed by at least four members of the Association. In the case of a petition, at least two of the signatories must be present at the Meeting. Amendments may be voted upon if accepted by the chair and proposed and seconded at the meeting.

15.3 If adopted by a majority of those present and voting at the Membership Meeting, the General Secretary shall publish a copy of the proposed (amended) resolution and it shall be circulated to all members together with a ballot within 21 days of the Membership Meeting. This ballot should be returned to the General Secretary. At the forty-ninth day after the Membership Meeting, at noon Central European Time, the vote shall be closed. The amendment shall be incorporated upon the receipt of two-thirds or more of returned and non-abstaining ballots in its favour.

#### **16. Constitutional Amendments**

16.1 A constitutional amendment may be introduced at a quorate Membership Meeting by the Secretariat, the Council, or by a petition signed by at least four members of the

Association. In the case of a petition, at least two of the signatories must be present at the Meeting. There may be no amendment to a proposed constitutional amendment.

16.2 If adopted by two-thirds or more of those present and voting at a quorate Membership Meeting, the General Secretary shall publish a copy of the constitutional amendment and it shall be circulated to all members together with a ballot within 21 days of the Membership Meeting. This ballot should be returned to the General Secretary. At the forty-ninth day after the Membership Meeting, at noon Greenwich Mean Time, the vote shall be closed. The amendment shall be incorporated if it receives more than 55 per cent of returned and non-abstaining ballots in its favour.