

Society for the Study of the Sudans (UK)

(formerly the Sudan Studies Society of the UK)

Constitution

1. Name of the Charity

The name of the charity is the **Society for the Study of the Sudans (UK)** (formerly the Sudan Studies Society of the United Kingdom).

An abbreviation of SSSUK will be acceptable on all correspondence and minutes associated with the charity.

2. Purposes of the Charity

The purposes of the charity are to provide, for the public benefit and in any appropriate place, a forum for discussion and the circulation of information and ideas between groups and individuals concerned with or interested in Sudan and South Sudan, and to advance the education of the public in Sudanese Studies.

3. Trustees

The charity shall be managed by an executive committee of Trustees who are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the charity.

4. Carrying out the Purposes

In order to carry out the charitable purposes of the Society, the Trustees have the power to:

- (i) Raise funds, and receive grants and donations
- (ii) Apply funds to carry out the work of the charity
- (iii) Hold seminars and other meetings
- (iv) Co-operate with and support related bodies overseas
- (v) Print, publish and distribute a journal under the title *Sudan Studies for South Sudan and Sudan*
- (vi) Do anything which is lawful and necessary to achieve the purposes

5. Membership

Membership shall be open to:

- i) Individuals with an interest in Sudan and South Sudan, whether they have relevant expertise or not
- ii) Institutions which have, or potentially have, an interest in Sudan and South Sudan
- iii) People and institutions of all nationalities

People who support the work of the charity and are aged 18 or over, can apply to the Trustees to become a member. The trustees will keep an up-to-date membership list. The Trustees may remove a person's membership if they believe it is in the best interests of the charity. The

member has the right to be heard by the trustees before the decision is made and can be accompanied by a friend.

6. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

- (i) The AGM must be held every year, with 28 days' notice given to all members telling them what is on the agenda. Minutes must be kept of the AGM.
- (ii) There must be at least 15 members present at the AGM.
- (iii) Every member has one vote.
- (iv) The Treasurer shall present the annual report and accounts on behalf of the Trustees.
- (v) Any member may stand for election as a Trustee, having completed a declaration of eligibility and responsibility. Nominations for Trustees must be received by the Secretary in writing at least 28 days before the annual general meeting at which elections are to be held.
- (vi) Members shall elect up to 14 Trustees, including a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Editor of the journal. Trustees will serve for a 3-year term and may stand for re-election.
- (vii) Members may elect an **Honorary President**, who must be approved by a majority of members at an AGM. He/she shall be elected for a period of three years and be eligible for re-election.

7. Trustee Meetings

- (i) Trustees must hold at least 2 meetings each year and may act by majority decision.
- (ii) A quorum shall exist when at least four Trustees are present, including at least two officers and one non-officer. Minutes shall be kept for every meeting.
- (iii) If Trustees have a conflict of interest they must declare it at the opening of the meeting, and leave the meeting when the matter comes up for discussion.
- (iv) The trustees have the power, together, to co-opt up to 9 non-voting members on to the committee as appropriate.
- (v) The trustees may make reasonable additional rules to help run the charity. These rules must not conflict with this constitution or the law.

8. Money and Property

- (i) Money and property must only be used for the charity's purposes.
- (ii) Trustees must keep accounts. The most recent annual accounts can be seen by anybody on request.
- (iii) Trustees cannot receive any money or property from the charity, except to refund reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.

- (iv) Money must be held in the charity's bank account. The Trustees will agree a payment limit, above which the Treasurer must obtain the signature of a second Trustee.

9. Subscriptions

There are three categories of membership and different subscriptions will apply to each:

- i) individual membership
- ii) family membership
- iii) institutional membership

Subscription rates can be amended by a majority of members in attendance at an AGM. Subscription charges shall be due on the first day of January each year. Members joining during the Society's financial year may have their initial charges reduced at the discretion of the Treasurer.

10. General Meetings

If the Trustees consider it is necessary to change the constitution, or wind up the charity, they must call a General Meeting so that the membership can make the decision. Trustees must also call a General Meeting if they receive a written request from 25% of the membership of the Society. All members must be given 28 days' notice and told the reason for the meeting. The presence of fifteen members shall constitute a quorum. All decisions require a two thirds majority. Minutes must be kept.

- (i) Winding up the Society
In the event of the dissolution of the Society for any reason whatsoever, any assets or property after payment of debts shall pass to a charitable organisation with an object similar to that of the Society.
- (ii) Amendment of the constitution
No alteration shall be made which would cause the Society to cease to be a charity at law.

11. Amended Constitution

This amended constitution was adopted by a two-thirds majority of those members present at the AGM on 17.11.16 and signed by the following Trustees.

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Adrian Thomas

D.A. Welby

Christine Hill

James Hogan

Chris Luke