

# **Walsall – Kobar Friendship Committee constitution**

## **(1) Walsall – Koubar friendship committee**

The Walsall – Koubar friendship committee exists to develop friendship and twinning links between Walsall and Koubar in Palestine. It exists in order to promote and support the development of such friendship links and to enable individuals and groups taking part to learn from each other's experiences.

## **(2) Statement of Aims**

(A) The aim of the friendship committee is

- to promote human rights (as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations) and respect for international humanitarian law in Palestine, by raising awareness of human rights and humanitarian issues relevant to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and by promoting public support for human rights and the observance of international humanitarian law.

(B) In order to do this, the friendship committee will

- organise meetings, events, speaking tours in Walsall and exchange visits between Koubar and neighbouring areas of Palestine with Walsall in collaboration with other twinning and friendship groups as appropriate
- promote formal and informal links at all levels between Walsall and Koubar and neighbourhood communities, with emphasis on grass roots friendship links
- work with other organisations whose aims match or complement those of the friendship committee.

## **(3) Membership**

### **1. Group membership**

Walsall organisations and Walsall branches of national organisations that support the aims of the friendship committee can affiliate at a rate of £25 for the year. This fee to be set by the AGM each year. Each affiliated group is entitled to a delegate with a right of 3 votes to attend the AGM and at any general meetings that may be convened by the organising committee.

### **2. Individual members**

Individuals can be individual members if they agree with the aims of the friendship committee and pay the annual individual member fee currently £10, again to be reviewed at the AGM. Each member is entitled to attend the AGM and General Meetings with one vote.

#### **(4) Organisation**

1. The activities of the friendship committee will be co-ordinated by an organising committee who are charged with organising activities to promote the friendship committee's aims.
2. The organising committee will consist of the people elected by the AGM in accordance with the committee structure agreed at that AGM; these to include chair, secretary and treasurer.
3. The organising committee shall have the power to co-opt members to fill any organising committee vacancies between AGMs.
4. The organisation will have an AGM each year, which must be announced to the membership at least a month beforehand.
5. The AGM will
  - Receive and approve a report from the chair on the activities of the friendship committee in the past year
  - Receive and approve the friendship committee annual accounts
  - Elect a chair, secretary and treasurer and [two] other organising committee members for the following year
  - Discuss the implementation of friendship committee AGM decisions.
6. Extraordinary General Meetings can be called by any three organising committee members if announced to the membership at least a month beforehand.
7. The quorum for the AGM and for other General Meetings is one tenth of the membership or six people, whichever is greater.
8. The constitution can be added to or amended by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at the AGM.

#### **(5) Dissolution**

1. The friendship committee can be dissolved only by an Extraordinary General Meeting called for this purpose. The quorum for such a meeting to be at least 3 members. If this quorum cannot be reached, the decision needs to be taken by postal vote.
2. In the event that there are finances left to the friendship committee at dissolution, the organising committee are charged with paying off any debts and paying any surplus to an organisation whose aims most closely fit those of the friendship committee.