

# **Statutes and By-Laws for**

## *The International Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders (IATSO)*

### **§ 1. Title and residence**

The name of the association is "The International Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders" (IATSO).

IATSO has its seat in Vienna. IATSO is an international association.

### **§ 2. Values, Aims and Objectives**

2.1. IATSO was founded on March 24<sup>th</sup> 1998 in Caracas, Venezuela during the 5<sup>th</sup> international conference on the Treatment of Sex Offenders. It is an international non-profit organization committed to the promotion of research of and treatment for sexual offenders throughout the world.

#### *2.1.1. Values*

IATSO is committed to advocating for humane, dignified, compassionate, ethical and effective treatment of sex offenders.

IATSO is committed to furthering the knowledge about the nature of sexual offenders and sexual offenses and the improvement of treatment methods.

IATSO supports the development and improvement of effective sexual offender treatment.

IATSO is committed to scientifically evaluate therapeutic methods and to periodically revise and disseminate the IATSO standards of care for the treatment of sexual offenders.

IATSO is committed to scientifically evaluate studies of treatment effectiveness of sexual offenders.

IATSO believes that sexual offender treatment and research is enhanced through

international communication and exchange of ideas, research and treatment methods.

IATSO believes that sex offender treatment should be widely promoted, available and accessible.

IATSO believes that sex offender treatment will result in the reduction of sex offense incidences.

IATSO believes that punishment for sexual crimes alone is an inadequate deterrent for sexual crimes.

IATSO believes that sex offender recidivism is reduced best by the treatment of the sex offender.

IATSO believes that sexual offender treatment is a basic human right.

IATSO believes that freedom from sexual aggression and sexual abuse is a basic human right.

#### *2.1.2. Goals and Objectives:*

The sponsorship of biennial international conferences on the treatment of sexual offenders for the dissemination of new research, treatment methods and to provide continuing education and networking opportunities.

The promotion of international, regional and local conferences on the treatment of sexual offenders.

Updating the IATSO Standards of Care consistent with advances in knowledge of the treatment of sexual offenders.

Advocacy of humane, dignified, comprehensive, ethical and effective treatment of sexual offenders throughout the world.

### **§ 3. Means to realize the purpose of IATSO**

3.1. The purpose of the association should be realized by sponsoring national and international conferences (e.g. every two years the International Conference on the Treatment of Sexual Offenders), meetings, workshops and the publication of a journal. The association is supported through admission fees, annual membership fees, contributions, conference fees and other proceeds.

## § 4. Membership

### 4.1. Organizations:

4.1.1. **Organizational Member:** Professional organizations whose mission is to support or promote treatment and research of sex offenders are eligible for this category.

4.1.2. **Institution/ Agency Member:** Institutions, agencies or treatment programs whose mission is to provide sex offender treatment and/or conduct research in the area of sexual offenders are eligible for this category.

### 4.2. Individuals:

4.2.1. **Individual Member:** Qualifications include at least a Master's Degree or its equivalent with training and expertise in the assessment and treatment of sex offenders. They would be entitled to full voting and membership rights.

4.2.2. **Academic Member:** Qualifications for this category include at least a Master's Degree or its equivalent and they are engaged in teaching, research or administration. They may not be engaged in the practice of assessment and/or treatment of sex offenders as well. They would be entitled to full voting and membership rights.

4.2.3. **Associate Member:** Qualifications include less than what is required for Individual Member or Academic status (e.g, B.A. degree or equivalent), however the professional is working under the supervision of an individual who meets requirements for Individual or Academic membership. They would be entitled to full voting and membership rights.

4.2.4. **Student Member:** Qualifications include enrollment in a graduate or undergraduate curriculum which would lead to being qualified as a Full or Associate Member. Student members do not have voting rights.

4.2.5. **Retired Member:** Individuals who have retired from practice or academic work who have been members of the organization would be granted membership at reduced membership rates. They would be entitled to full voting and membership rights.

4.2.6. **Honorary Member:** Individuals who have devoted much of their career to the understanding and/or treatment of sex offenders may be elected to this honorary membership. This is reserved for distinguished professionals. They would be entitled to full voting and membership rights.

4.2.7. **Supporting Member:** Anyone not meeting the above mentioned categories who wants to support the mission, goals and objectives of the organization is able to become a supporting member. Supporting members do not have voting rights.

4.3. *Applications* for membership must be submitted to the President. The President will examine the applicant, and recommend admission or non-admission to the Governing Board. Membership can be refused if requirements for membership are not fulfilled.

4.4. Before the Constitutional General Assembly during the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the Treatment of Sexual Offenders in Toronto in the year 2000, candidates can apply for membership at the proponent. The proponent decides whether a candidate gains membership.

4.5. The IATSO Membership may be terminated by resignation or suspension. Resignation is possible only before December 31<sup>st</sup> of every year. It has to be announced to the Governing Board (Secretary General) in written form. The membership fee has to be paid fully for the running business year of the withdrawal. The resigning member has a legal claim to all statutory services of IATSO until the end of the running business year. Suspension is an action taken by the Governing Board between meetings of the General Assembly with the approval of the majority (half plus one).

4.6. Honorary Members may be elected by the proposal of the Governing Board and the approval of the General Assembly.

## **§ 5. Voting Rights and Procedures**

5.1. Voting rights in the General Assembly will be reserved for Organizational Members (Delegates), Institution/Agency Members (Delegates), Individual Members, Academic Members, Associate Members, Retired Members, and Honorary Members.

5.2. All Delegates and individual members are eligible to appointments within the organization. They may propose motions and may vote on the basis of one vote for each person. Voting rights in the General Assembly, however, are reserved for the members mentioned in 5.1.

5.3. Organizations are entitled to have a number of delegates proportional to the number of their members.

Up to 50 members: 1 Delegate

51 to 300 members: 2 Delegates

301 to 1000 members: 4 Delegates

Over 1000 members: 6 Delegates

5.4. Any Delegate or individual member unable to be present at the General Assembly may arrange with another Delegate to vote on his or her behalf, on condition that he or she communicates both names in written form to the Governing Board, from which it should be evident who represents whom.

## **§ 6. Operating Organisms**

The International Association of the Treatment of Sexual Offenders (IATSO) has two operating organisms: the General Assembly and the Governing Board.

6.1. **The General Assembly** is the maximum governing body of IATSO.

6.1.1. The General Assembly is composed of:

1. The Delegates of the Organizational and Institution/Agency Members
2. The individual Members with voting rights
3. The Members of the Advisory Board
4. The Members of the Governing Board

6.1.2. The General Assembly meets every two years, preferably on the occasion of the holding of each ICTSO. A special General Assembly may be convened by the Governing Board at the request of the majority (half plus one) of their members or the request made by 30% of the Delegates and individual Members.

6.1.3. The agenda of the General Assembly is planned by the Governing Board. Proposals for the agenda must be sent to the Governing Board (President or General Secretary) not less than 4 months in advance. The invitation and the agenda, together with the required documents, must be sent not less than three weeks before the General Assembly (date as postmark). Any agenda should have as the last point: Miscellaneous.

6.1.4. A quorum of the GA will be recognized whenever it has been convened in accordance with the statutes when at least half of the ordinary (members and delegates with voting rights) are present. If this number is not present within 30 minutes after the time designated for the opening of the session, the GA starts

with the ordinary members present with the same agenda out of regard for the members present.

6.1.5. The General Assembly of IATSO has the following functions:

1. receives the report from the President
2. receives the report from the Secretary General/Treasurer
3. receives the Secretary General/Treasurer's statement and proposal of a budget, determining the subscription of the members and decides upon the general financial policy of the Association
4. receives the report of the auditors
5. elects members of the Advisory Committee (AC). Proposals for the membership in the AC can be done by any member. In that case, proposals have to be sent to the Governing Board at least 1 year before the GA in written form. These proposals have to contain a CV of the person. The proposed person has to be an individual member with full voting rights of IATSO, for at least 2 years. He or she also has to be internationally well known in terms of sex offender treatment and/or has gained extraordinary merit for the goals of the association.
6. At the constitutional General Assembly the proponent will suggest certain members of the preliminary Organizing Committee to be elected as members of the Advisory Committee.
7. elects the auditors (at least 2 auditors have to be elected for every two years, they may be re-elected)
8. will settle the level of the membership fee
9. will decide all proposals presented by the Governing Board, the Delegates and the Members
10. The GA will be empowered to decide the winding-up of IATSO. This will require a two-third majority of the votes. Following such decision, any money, goods or property owned by IATSO shall, after satisfaction of all proper debts and liabilities, be transferred to some other similar organization.

6.1.6. The decisions of the General Assembly are based upon the simple majority vote, excluding any amendment to these Statutes. The GA will also be competent for agreeing, modifying or complementing the statutes whereby any of these will require a majority of two-thirds of the votes.

6.1.7. Elections will be on the basis of absolute majority on the first ballot, of relative majority on each further ballot. Should the GA so decide, a secret ballot will be organized for elections or votes.

## **6.2. The Advisory Committee (AC)**

6.2.1. The AC is a consultative and supportive organ and consists of at least three members.

6.2.2. The AC should meet every second year. Its decisions are based on a simple majority vote of those members of the AC who have voting rights.

6.2.3. Members of the AC can be elected or appointed. Members are elected by the GA for a period of 4 years. They may be re-elected. Appointment of a member for the AC requires Honorary or Retired Membership. Appointment of a new member can be done only by the Governing Board.

## **6.3. The Governing Board (GB)**

6.3.1. The Governing Board consists of the President, President elect, 2 Vice-Presidents and a Treasurer/General Secretary and his representative.

6.3.2. Any member of the Governing Board shall have a right to demand a meeting of the Governing Board.

6.3.3. The Governing Board, which will be elected by the General Assembly, has the right to co-opt another member in case of resignation of an elected member, an act which has to be approved on the next General Assembly.

6.3.4. The GB operates for a period of 4 years, in any case until the election of a new GB. Members of the GB can be re-elected.

6.3.5. The GB will come together on the initiative of the President, in case of his inability it will be convened by one of the Vice-presidents.

6.3.6. The GB can reach decisions when all of its members have been invited, and at least three members are present.

6.3.7. The decisions of the GB are made upon simple majority, in case that a simple majority is not reached, the vote of the President is decisive.

6.3.8. The meeting is chaired by the President, in case of his inability to attend, it will be chaired by the General Secretary/Treasurer. In case of his inability too, the meeting is chaired by the eldest member of the GB.

6.3.9. The GB-membership will terminate in case of resignation, suspension, and expiration of the functional period.

6.3.10. The GB can at any time suspend the entire GB or its individual members.

6.3.11. The members of the GB can submit their resignation in written form at any time. The resignation is to be submitted to the GB, in case of the resignation of the entire GB, to the GA. The resignation will be effective after appointment/substitution by another member.

6.3.12. The GB is responsible for leading the Association. It has to fulfill all the duties, which in accordance with the Statutes, do not fall under the competence of other organs of the Association.

6.3.13. The GB draws up a budget proposal for the next two years, the annual financial statement and the balance of accounts.

6.3.14. The GB prepares the GA.

6.3.15. The GB convenes a regular and an extraordinary GA.

6.3.16. The GB informs the members about its activities and financial state of the association during the GA.

6.3.17. The GB administers the property of the association.

6.3.18. The GB approves members, suspends or annuls the membership.

6.3.19. The GB hires employees and can dismiss them.

## **§ 7. Representation**

7.1. The President or the General Secretary/Treasurer represents IATSO to outside bodies and are therefore authorized to sign on every matter.

7.2. In case of inability, the President and the General Secretary/Treasurer will be represented through their substitute.

## **§ 8. The Auditors**

8.1. Auditors will examine all the financial affairs, including the annual financial statements of IATSO, and they will submit their report to the GA.

8.2. The auditors will have no other official function within IATSO.

## **§ 9. Arbitration Court**

9.1. All differences which may appear within IATSO will be decided by the Arbitration Court.

9.2. The Arbitration Court is composed out of three individual members of the association, with full voting rights. It will be built up such as to every part of the dispute has to name a member to the president within 1 month. Those will have to vote a third person unanimously, who will be the chairman of the Arbitration Court. By equality of votes it will be decided by lot.

9.3. If the nomination of the arbitrators through the parties of the dispute is not taken up in time or a chairman has not been named to both arbitrators within 1 month, then the nomination will be taken up by the president.

9.4. The Arbitration Court will pass their decision after hearing the parties of dispute in presence of all members by simple majority of votes. It will reach internally a final decision to the best of one's knowledge and belief. The resolution of the Arbitration Court has to be sent by letter to all parties of the dispute.