



The Constitution of The Muslim Student's Association of the United States and Canada

Article I: Name & Nature

The organisation shall be called the Muslim Students' Association of the United States and Canada, or <Arabic> hereinafter referred to as the MSA or <Arabic>. It shall be a non-for-profit organisation. It shall establish and maintain continuous affiliation with the Islamic Society of North America, hereinafter referred to as ISNA.

Article II: Aims & Purposes

The aims and purposes of MSA shall be to serve the best interest of Islam and Muslims in the United States and Canada so as to enable them to practice Islam as a complete way of life. Towards this end, it shall, in cooperation with the Islamic Society of North America:

1. help Muslim student organisations carry out Islamic programs and projects;
2. assist Muslim students organising themselves for Islamic activities;
3. mobilise and coordinate the human and material resources of Muslim student organisations.

Article III: Affiliation

Section 1: Conditions of Affiliation

1. Any organisation which is affiliated with the MSA on the 1st of January, 1982, shall remain so affiliated under the provisions of this Constitution, provided it is located on a campus.
2. Any other locally constituted organisation may become affiliated to MSA provided that it fulfils the following conditions:
 - (i) it is a bona-fide membership of five or more locally resident Muslims, a majority of whom are full-time students;
 - (ii) it has a constitution that agrees in principle with the aims and purposes of MSA;
 - (iii) it holds regular general body meetings;
 - (iv) it conducts regular Islamic activities; and
 - (v) it files a written application with the Secretary accompanied by the prescribed fee.
3. Such organisation shall be called a Chapter and shall have the rights and responsibilities stated in the Constitution, and those determined by decisions of the House of Delegates.

Section 2: Rights and Responsibilities of Chapters

A Chapter shall have the right to send delegates to the House of Delegates meetings and to participate in voting on all matters, and shall be eligible to receive the literature of the MSA and benefit from its services. It shall have the responsibility to carry out the decisions of MSA in areas within its jurisdiction.

Section 3: Suspension & Expulsion

Upon written charges being brought against a Chapter and upon filing such charges with the Secretary and upon hearing thereof by the Executive in a duly convened meeting, the Executive Committee may recommend to the House of Delegates that the said Chapter be suspended or expelled from the MSA. Any Chapter recommended to be so expelled or suspended and not reinstated, shall have the right to a hearing by the House of Delegates in a duly convened meeting. An affirmative majority vote of the House of Delegates to approve such suspension or expulsion shall be final.

Section 4: Selection of Delegates

In all matters related to this Constitution, a Chapter shall be represented by its duly elected President and by members of its executive body when said members have been duly authorised by the executive body and this authorisation has been conveyed to the President of the MSA. Such representatives shall be called Delegates and their number shall equal one per 100 bona fide members of the Chapter, subject to a minimum of one and a maximum of five, and subject to rounding fractional representation to the nearest whole digital number.

Article IV: House of Delegates

Section 1: Composition

The House of Delegates (or the House) shall consist of representatives of the Chapters of MSA as described in Article III, Section 4.

Section 2: Functions

1. The House shall elect the Executive Committee of MSA.
2. The House may adopt resolutions, amend the Constitution and, in general, exercise all powers necessary to promote the aims and purposes of MSA.
3. The House shall approve the MSA annual report and financial statement audited by a certified public accountant.

Section 3: Meetings

1. The Annual Meeting of the House shall be held during the Annual Convention of the Islamic Society of North America.
2. A special meeting of the House may be called at the request of one-third of all Delegates or two-thirds of the Executive Committee. The notice of such a meeting shall be mailed to each Delegate at his official address at least thirty days prior to the meeting.
3. The presence of one-third of all Delegates shall constitute a quorum, provided they represent one-third of all Chapters.

Article V: Executive Committee

Section 1: Composition

The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, two Vice-Presidents, the outgoing President at the time of the Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates as Ex-Officio member, and four Zonal Representatives.

Section 2: Functions

1. Implementing the Constitution of MSA.
2. Implementing the decisions of the House of Delegates.
3. Establishing procedures in routine matters.
4. Appropriating funds for various committees and activities.
5. Selecting members of the Majlis Ash-Shura of the Islamic Society of North America in accordance with the provisions of its Constitution.
6. Formulating and supervising projects and programs to promote the aims and purposes of MSA.

Section 3: Meetings

1. There shall be a minimum of three Executive Committee meetings during the year, called by the President.
2. An emergency may be called at the request of a simple majority of the Executive Committee members. Such a meeting shall be held within two weeks but not earlier than one week from the receipt by the President of the written request of the members of the Executive Committee.
3. The presence of two-thirds of the members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum at any duly called meeting.
4. When the Executive Committee is not in session, the President shall take decisions after consulting with at least three other Executive Committee members and present such decisions in the next Executive Committee meeting for endorsement.

Section 4: Term

Each member of the Executive Committee shall hold office for a period of two years provided that he does not hold the same office for more than four consecutive years.

Article VI: Removal and Succession

Section 1: Removal

Any member of the Executive may be removed from office by a vote of five of the Executive Committee members present at any of their meetings if charges of a direct violation of the Constitution or gross misuse of misappropriation of funds or obvious damage to the existence or interest of MSA are proven true.

Section 2: Succession

Upon a position becoming vacant on the Executive Committee, the order of succession shall be as follows:

1. A Vice-President, selected by the Executive Committee, shall succeed the President;
2. The position of the Vice-President shall be filled by a member of the Executive Committee selected by it;
3. Other position falling vacant shall be filled by the President from among the members of the executive committees of the Chapters of the MSA;
4. If the President is re-elected or is not otherwise available to take office as Ex-Officio member of the Executive Committee, the immediate past Ex-Officio may continue to serve as Ex-Officio. In case he is also not available, the Executive Committee may fill this vacancy according to Section 2.3 of this Article.

Article VII: Election

1. Election of Executive Committee members shall be held by mail ballot sent to each Delegate at the official address of the Chapter he represents. Each Delegate shall have one vote.

2. The total number of valid mail ballots received from this first mailing shall have to exceed thirty percent of the total
Delegates to render the election valid. Failing to achieve this, a second mailing shall take place to Delegates who did not vote in the first ballot.
3. The Executive Committee shall determine all other details of the elections process.

Article VIII: Organisational Structure

Section 1: Secretariat

1. Location and Composition:

- (i) The Secretariat shall be located in the General Secretariat of the Islamic Society of North America.
- (ii) The Secretariat shall be composed of a Secretary and a number of full-time Directors who shall handle the different departments of MSA.

2. Personnel Matters:

- (i) The hiring, termination of services, scale of pay and employment benefits of the members of the Secretariat shall be determined by the Personnel Committee of the Islamic Society of North America.
- (ii) Decisions concerning the hiring and termination of Department Heads will take effect after confirmation from the Executive Committee.

3. Policies and Procedures:

- (i) The Executive Committee shall establish the policies and procedures concerning the efficient running of the Secretariat;
- (ii) The Secretariat shall report directly to the President of MSA. All Directors in the Secretariat shall report to the Secretariat;
- (iii) All Departments shall develop programs and activities responding to the needs of the MSA's Chapter.

Section 2: Zonal Councils

1. Composition:

Each Zonal Council shall consist of the Zonal Representative and the Regional Representatives in the Zone.

2. Procedures:

- (i) Each Zonal Council shall be allocated funds, estimated according to its needs and effort, to cover the expenses of its meetings and activities.
- (ii) Each Zonal Council shall be responsible for collecting funds, donations, Zakah at the Zonal level and shall send all such funds to the Secretariat.
- (iii) Each Zonal Council shall meet at least twice a year to plan, coordinate and review MSA activities in the zone.

3. Jurisdiction:

Each Zonal Council will have jurisdiction, within the meaning of this Article, over one of the four zones into which the Executive Committee must group the states, provinces, and territories of the United States and Canada.

Section 3: Regional Representatives

1. Appointment:

Presidents of Chapters in each region shall elect one Regional Representative, not necessarily from among themselves, who appointment to his office shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

2. Duties:

Each Regional Representatives shall be responsible within his region for:

- (i) Assisting the Zonal Representative;
- (ii) Serving as a link between the Zonal Representative and the Chapters;
- (iii) Coordinating the activities of the Chapters;
- (iv) Organising Islamic work and activating Chapters;
- (v) Establishing new Chapters.

Section 4: Functional Committees

Functional Committees may be appointed by the President of MSA at the central level, by the Secretary at the departmental level, by the Zonal Representatives at the zonal levels, by the Regional Representatives at the respective regional levels, by the Chapter President at the respective Chapter level. The official appointing a committee shall determine its functions and authority.

Article IX: Finance

1. The fiscal year of MSA shall begin on the first day of January and shall end on the 31st day of December of the same year.
2. All expenditures of the Association shall be budgeted yearly and shall be approved by the Executive Committee before the 31st day of January of the fiscal year.

Article X: Dissolution

1. Upon the dissolution of MSA the Executive Committee shall, after paying of making provisions for the payment of all the liabilities of MSA dispose of all U.S. assets of MSA exclusively to the North America Islamic Trust and all Canadian assets to Islamic Services of Canada.
2. In case of the non-existence of the North American Islamic Trust, first disposal shall be made to an Islamic organisation organised and operated exclusively for religious, cultural, charitable, educational or scientific purposes as shown at the time qualified as an exempt organisation or organisations under the existing Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law, as the Executive Committee shall determine. Any of such assets not shown as disposed of, shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the County in which the principal office of the MSA is then located exclusively for such Islamic organisations as the said Court may determine.
3. In case of the non-existence of the Islamic Services of Canada, first disposal shall be made to an Islamic organisation organised and operated exclusively for religious, cultural, charitable, educational or scientific purposes as shown at the time qualified as an exempt organisation or organisations under the existing Revenue Canada Code or the corresponding provision of any future Canada Internal Revenue Law, as the Executive Committee shall determine. Any of such assets not shown as disposed of, shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the County in which the principal office of the MSA is then located exclusively for such Islamic organisations as the said Court may determine.

Article XI: Amendments

1. Amendments to this constitution shall be submitted in writing to the President of MSA, not less than sixty days prior to the House of Delegates annual meeting.
2. The Executive Committee, after approving a proposed amendment by a simple majority, shall present it to the House at its annual meeting
3. A two-thirds vote of the Delegates present in person or by proxy, shall be necessary for the adoption of an amendment.