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**Constitution of The Oldham Pledge to Peace Forum**

1. **NAME**

 The group’s name is The Oldham Pledge to Peace Forum (hereinafter called the Forum).

**2 THE PURPOSES OF THE FORUM**

The Forum is an initiative inspired by, and seeking to build upon, the work being carried out throughout Europe to promote the principles of the Pledge to Peace.

The Forum, open to all signatories, aspirant signatories, and supporters of the Pledge to Peace, seeks to:

* work for a more peaceful Metropolitan Borough of Oldham
* be a platform where participants explore the importance of peace and how peace is possible in Oldham
* be a place where participants may present their efforts, so sharing their experiences
* be an environment which supports and encourages others to take practical steps towards peace in their own lives, within their own community, and between communities
* support the initiatives of the Pledge to Peace secretariat and of Mr. Prem Rawat, Ambassador to the Pledge to Peace – Bruxelles Declaration
* forge links of friendship and co-operation with other cities and towns across Europe and beyond who have also signed the Pledge to Peace or similar initiatives

In short the Forum exists to create a ‘culture of peace’ within the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham and beyond

**3 TRUSTEES**

The Forum shall be managed by a Board of Trustees (the Board) appointed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Prior to the first AGM, the Sponsors shall act temporarily as the Acting Board.

**4 CARRYING OUT THE PURPOSES**

In order to carry out its charitable purposes, the Board has the power to:

1. raise funds, receive grants and donations
2. apply funds to carry out the work of the Forum
3. co-operate with and support other groups with similar purposes
4. do anything which is lawful and necessary to achieve these purposes

**5** **MEMBERSHIP**

The Forum shall have a membership of three classes:

* Founder Members: those individuals who have acted as Sponsors of this document
* Full Members: organisations based, or operating, in the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham which are signatories to the Pledge to Peace and supportive of the aims and work of the Forum
* Associate Members: other organisations and individuals supportive of the Pledge to Peace and the aims and work of the Forum

Founder Members shall as individuals each have one vote.

Full Members shall as organisations each have one vote.

Associate Members may attend meetings and speak, but may not have a vote.

Founder Members shall be entitled to serve on the Board of Trustees.

Full Members may apply for one place on the Board of Trustees.

Associate Members may not serve on the Board of Trustees, but may attend as observers.

The Trustees will keep an up-to-date membership list.

The Board may remove an organisation’s membership if they believe it to be in the best interests of the Forum. The Member has the right to be heard by the Board before the decision is made.

**6 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - AGM**

1. An AGM must be held every year, with 14 days notice of the agenda given to all Members. Minutes must be kept of the AGM.
2. The first formal AGM will be held no later than 30th September 2016.
3. There must be at least 4 Members present at the AGM.
4. Founder Members shall as individuals each have one vote.
5. Full Members shall as organisations each have one vote.
6. Associate Members may attend meetings and speak, but may not have a vote.
7. The trustees shall present the annual report and accounts.
8. Full Members may stand for election as a trustee.
9. In addition to the Founder Members, Members shall elect between 2 and 10 trustees to serve for the next year.
10. They will retire at the next AGM, but may stand for re-election.

**7 TRUSTEE MEETINGS**

1. Trustees must hold at least 3 meetings each year. At their first meeting after the AGM they will elect a chair, vice-chair, treasurer and secretary. Trustees may act by majority decision.
2. At least 3 trustees must be present at the meeting to be able to take decisions. Minutes shall be kept for every meeting.
3. If trustees have a conflict of interest they must declare it and leave the meeting while this matter is being discussed or decided.
4. During the year, the trustees may appoint up to 2 additional trustees. They will stand down at the next AGM.
5. The trustees may make reasonable additional rules to help run the Forum. These rules must not conflict with this constitution or the law.

**8 MONEY AND PROPERTY**

1. Money and property must only be used for the Forum’s purposes.
2. Trustees must keep accounts. The most recent annual accounts can be seen by anybody on request.
3. Trustees cannot receive any money or property from the Forum, except to refund reasonable out of pocket expenses.
4. Money must be held in the Forum’s bank account. All cheques must be signed by

 at least two trustees.

**9 GENERAL MEETINGS**

If the Trustees consider it is necessary to change the constitution, or wind up the Forum, 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 the majority of voting Members. All Members must be given 14 days notice and told the reason for the meeting. All decisions require a two thirds majority. Minutes must be kept.

1. **Winding up -** any money or property remaining after payment of debts must be given to a group / charity with similar purposes to this one.
2. **Changes to the Constitution -** can be made at AGMs or General Meetings. No change can be made to the constitution that would conflict with the Purposes of the Forum as outlined in Section 2.
3. **General Meeting -** called on written request from a majority of Members**.**
4. Trustees may also call a General Meeting to consult the Membership

**10 SETTING UP THE GROUP**

The Forum was established and this constitution adopted on 2016 by the people whose signatures appear below. .

**Signed Print name, Title and Organisation**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor: Councillor Derek Heffernan,**

**Mayor of Oldham and Council Champion for Peace**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor: Maria Dawn Ellis, Chair and Founder, Peace**

 **Talks Oldham**

 **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor: Richard Outram, Member, Peace Talks Oldham**

 **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor: Sue Pascoe, Member, Peace Talks Oldham**