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4 **Statutes of the**  
5 **International Network for Peace**

6  
7 Approved unanimously by the General Assembly held from January  
8 20<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
9

10 **Mission of the International Network for Peace**

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12 "We are a global network of organizations comprised of people who lost  
13 loved ones to, or were directly affected by, war, nuclear weapons, terrorism,  
14 genocide, organized crime, and political violence. We work together to break the  
15 cycles of violence and revenge, and are committed to honoring the memories of the  
16 victims and to the dignity of the survivors.  
17

18 Using our collective experience and skills, we are dedicated to identifying and  
19 addressing the root causes of violence, and to promoting non-violence as the most  
20 effective strategy for resolving conflict.  
21

22 We pledge to support and amplify each other's efforts across diverse communities,  
23 recognizing that we derive our strength from our common experience of loss and  
24 our common hope for a world free from violence."  
25

26 **Goals of the International Network for Peace**

- 27  
28 1. To raise awareness that non-violence is a global movement and a viable  
29 response to terrorism, violence, occupation and war.  
30  
31 2. To support each member group in their local initiatives and to be enriched by  
32 their insights, experiences and successes.  
33  
34 3. To advocate to governments through unified voices and actions our support of  
35 legislation that acknowledges and honors the power of non-violence  
36 and opposes the use or threat of deadly violence for political purposes.  
37  
38 4. To build person-to-person ties between countries in conflict  
39  
40 5. To make the voice of the survivor, committed to peace, an accepted, respected  
41 and sought-after voice in the media, educational institutions and international  
42 forums.  
43  
44 6. To offer support and fellowship to all survivors of terrorism, violence and war  
45 across boundaries of geography, race, class, gender and faith, and encourage  
46 them to turn their grief into non-violent actions for peace.  
47

48 **Membership**

49  
50 Individual membership shall be open to any person who had a family member die  
51 as a result of, or was personally affected by, terrorism, violence, occupation or war,

52 and who in word, spirit and action supports the mission statement, goals and  
53 activities of the International Network.

54 Organizational membership shall be open to any group that supports in word, spirit  
55 and action the mission statement, goals and activities of the International Network,  
56 and which was founded by, or directly representative of, those who had family  
57 members die as a result of, or were personally affected by, terrorism, violence,  
58 occupation or war.

59 In order to insure that the members of the network are in agreement about turning their  
60 grief into action for peace, and about the use of nonviolence, we shall, individually and  
61 as a Network, agree that no one's pain is more important than another's, and we shall  
62 not selectively reject some acts of violence while condoning or justifying others. In  
63 striving for mutual understanding among the affected, we pledge, individually and as a  
64 network, to demonstrate respect and to avoid confrontation and insults, especially in  
65 public forums.

## 66 Fellowships

67 The network may establish fellowships with groups founded by, or directly  
68 representative of, those who had family members die as a result of, or were  
69 personally affected by, terrorism, violence, occupation or war, but which, at this  
70 time, are not ready or willing to join the network as full members. A fellowship link  
71 will allow the group to receive news of the network's activities, and to be  
72 considered for inclusion in certain Network activities deemed appropriate for mutual  
73 cooperation.

74 The Steering Committee holds the responsibility for establishing and developing  
75 fellowships. Each network member is entitled to propose to the Steering Committee  
76 fellowships with certain groups. Groups also may approach the Network on their  
77 own to propose fellowship status.

## 78 **General Assembly (GA)**

79 The member groups of the Network constitute the General Assembly (GA). Each  
80 member group shall have one vote. Each member group shall name one  
81 representative, and one alternate representative. The General Assembly shall be  
82 the highest governing body of the Network. It shall elect a Steering Committee to  
83 implement the decisions of the General Assembly and to manage the overall  
84 activities of the Network.

85 The General Assembly will approve all essential decisions of the Network, including  
86 any and all projects and activities undertaken by the Network as a whole.

87 Every member group shall designate one of its own members as General Assembly  
88 representative, and another as alternate representative, to act when the first  
89 representative is not available. These designations shall be communicated in writing  
90 to the Chairperson of the Steering Committee, either by email or mail. The member  
91 organization is free to determine the length of term of its representatives. Either or  
92 both representatives can attend General Assembly meetings (either virtual or in-  
93 person).

94 Decisions shall be made unanimously whenever possible, as our striving for  
95 consensus and compromise is an essential part of putting our principles into action.

96 If this is not possible, then decisions shall be made in two ways, depending on  
97 particular circumstances:

98 Decisions on amendments to these statutes or on the dissolution of Network shall  
99 require the approval of two-thirds of the total General Assembly.

100 All other decisions of a general nature shall be made by majority vote of the group  
101 representatives present in person or voting via the internet. A quorum is 40% of  
102 the total group representatives.

103 The General Assembly can take a dual form, both in-person and virtual, by taking  
104 place in the form either of an in-person meeting of all members, a virtual meeting  
105 of all members, or an in-person meeting of some of the members together with a  
106 virtual meeting of all non-present members. Voting through Internet shall be one of  
107 the electoral processes used by the network

108 The Chairperson, together with the members of the Steering Committee, Chairs the  
109 General Assembly.

## 110 GA Ordinary meetings

111  
112 The Chair of the Steering Committee shall convene the ordinary meetings of the  
113 General Assembly at least every second year to provide information about the  
114 activities and the management of the association, and to submit for approval  
115 inclusive reports on program activities and finances for the previous two years.  
116

The following items shall be on the agenda of all GA ordinary meetings:

1. Election of Chairperson
2. Report from the outgoing steering committee about activities in the past two years.
3. Report about the financial situation of the network.
4. Future activities.
5. Election of a new Steering Committee.
6. Decision about membership dues.

117 The Steering Committee determines the place, time and agenda of the General  
118 Assembly. Network members can submit proposals for the agenda.  
119

120 The Chairperson shall first send to every Network group representative the agenda  
121 and the resolutions to be put to the vote. In case of electronic voting, each group  
122 representative has a period of 14 days from the receipt of the email to vote on the  
123 resolutions proposed (for/against/abstention). If a group representative does not  
124 respond within 14 days, it will be considered to be an abstention. Any group that  
125 does not have access to the Internet shall have an additional period of seven days  
126 to have their vote sent and received.  
127

128 In the case of an in-person GA meeting, the convening details and agenda shall be  
129 sent at least 30 days before the meeting.

130 Amendment proposals must be submitted to the Chairperson of the Steering  
131 Committee at least 40 days before the next regular General Assembly. Such

132 proposals shall be communicated to all network members at least 20 days prior to  
133 the meeting.

134 The General Assembly shall elect the Steering Committee, which shall consist of a  
135 Chairperson, a deputy Chairperson, and up to nine additional members. The current  
136 "interim Steering Committee" shall nominate a list of candidates for the follow-up  
137 Steering Committee to be elected. However, any member organization or individual  
138 member can also submit names of candidates for the Steering Committee. Each  
139 interim Steering Committee member also can be nominated for one follow-up term  
140 on the new Steering Committee. Such submission must take place at least 20 days  
141 prior to the next General Assembly.

142 Observers from international and other organizations with which the Network has  
143 established fellowships may attend General Assemblies. Such observers shall - with  
144 the permission of the meeting - be allowed to speak, but shall not be permitted to  
145 vote.

146 The General Assembly shall determine by vote the location of the central  
147 headquarters of the Network. Additional regional offices can be established by vote  
148 of the General Assembly.

#### 149 GA Extraordinary meetings

150 Extraordinary meetings of the General Assembly can be called by the Steering  
151 Committee, and must be called if requested by at least 25% of the Network  
152 membership.

### 153 **Steering Committee**

154 The Steering Committee implements the decisions of the General Assembly and  
155 manages overall activities of the Network which cannot be addressed by the  
156 General Assembly at large. The Steering Committee shall serve as the official voice  
157 of the Network. Any and all statements on behalf of the Network-at-large must be  
158 authorized by the Steering Committee, In urgent matters the Chairperson and  
159 his/her deputy shall be entitled to act jointly on behalf of the whole Steering  
160 Committee.

161 The members of the Steering Committee will be in regular contact with each other  
162 and with the Chairperson.

163 Major responsibilities of the Steering Committee include:

- 164 • Final approval for all program activity carried out under the name of the  
165 Network
- 166 • Guidance and support for all approved Network undertakings
- 167 • Advise on organizational growth and development
- 168 • Advise on outreach to members and supporters
- 169 • Selection, hiring and oversight of the Chairperson
- 170 • Fiscal responsibility for quarterly review and approval of budgets and actual  
171 expenses
- 172 • Appointment and oversight of the newsletter editor and website coordinator.

173 The Steering Committee consists of the Chairperson, his/her deputy, and up to nine  
174 additional members as elected by the General Assembly forming an odd number.

175 The Chairperson, his/her deputy, and the additional members can each designate  
176 another member of her/his group as an alternate representative with whom they  
177 are in close working contact. The alternate representative shall have the right to  
178 attend Committee meetings as a voting member if the regular member is unable to  
179 do so.

180 The Steering Committee ideally should reflect a diversity of gender, ethnicity,  
181 geographic location, age, relationship to victim, nature of loved one's death, faith,  
182 special skills/profession, or non-traditional family members.

183 The term of office of the Steering Committee is the time from one regular General  
184 Assembly meeting until the next regular meeting, but shall not be less than two  
185 years. Each Steering Committee member can be nominated once for re-election.

186 The Steering Committee may hold in-person and virtual meetings.

187 The Steering Committee may invite guests to its meetings. Such observers have no  
188 vote.

189 The Steering Committee shall meet at the time of General Assembly meetings and  
190 between General Assembly meetings on a schedule to be determined by a decision  
191 of the Steering Committee members. The Steering Committee shall decide on  
192 applications for membership. It can revoke the membership status of a member or  
193 a member organization if such member or organization has acted contrary to the  
194 aims of the Network. Any member organization which is at risk of removal will be  
195 given at least two weeks' notice and an opportunity to address and correct any  
196 such contradictory actions.

197 The Steering Committee is in charge of creating the legal framework for its  
198 activities according to the laws of the country which hosts the central location of the  
199 Network.

200 The Steering Committee can appoint a volunteer Advisory Board, which can be  
201 asked to give advice on Network projects and to assist in raising funds.

## 202 **Bylaws for the Steering Committee**

### 203 Vacancies

204 Vacancies on the Steering Committee may be filled by vote of a majority of the  
205 Steering Committee members then in office, and the Steering Committee members  
206 so elected shall serve until the expiration of the term they are filling.

### 207 Resignations

208 Any Steering Committee member may resign from office at any time by delivering a  
209 resignation in writing, via email or mail, to the other Steering Committee members.

### 210 Removal

211 Any Steering Committee member may be removed for cause by a consensus vote  
212 of the entire remaining Steering Committee. Any member who is at risk of removal

213 will be given at least two weeks' notice and an opportunity to address and correct  
214 any failures to meet her/his responsibilities.

215 Grounds for removal include, but are not limited to, failure to carry out Committee  
216 work, especially missing three consecutive scheduled Chairperson calls or Steering  
217 Committee meetings.

## 218 Meetings

219 The Steering Committee and Chairperson shall officially meet in person once a year  
220 and by Skype or telephone conference call every two months. In-person meetings  
221 will occur only when the Network raises funds to cover costs of travel and lodging.  
222 Network will also raise money to reimburse costs of Steering Committee  
223 Skype/telephone calls. Chairperson or Steering Committee members may request  
224 additional meetings by Skype or telephone or in person as needed.

225 When decisions of the Steering Committee are needed between meetings,  
226 Chairperson will use due diligence to obtain opinions of all the Steering Committee  
227 members by telephone or email.

## 228 Quorum and Decision Making

229 At least 3/4 of the members of the Steering Committee must be present in order  
230 for there is be a quorum with the authority to make decisions.

231 The Steering Committee will strive to use a consensus model of decision making. It  
232 will also take "straw polls," an informal, non-binding type of voting in which all  
233 persons participating in a meeting are asked for their opinions as a way of  
234 informing the discussion.

235 If profound disagreement prevents it from achieving consensus, decisions will be  
236 made by a 2/3 supermajority vote of the Steering Committee and the Chairperson.

237 On personnel issues, the Chairperson's opinions may be solicited, but his/her vote  
238 will not be counted as part of a supermajority should efforts to reach consensus fail.

## 239 Record Keeping

240 Accurate records of network membership will be maintained by the Chairperson and  
241 made available to members of the Network. These records will be both electronic  
242 and on paper. The Chairperson will also work to facilitate discussion among all  
243 members of the International Network

244 The Chairperson will record all decisions/actions taken at each Steering Committee  
245 meeting and in a timely fashion present the report to the Steering Committee for  
246 amendment and approval.

247 Then the Chairperson will be responsible for seeing that the approved report is  
248 disseminated to the Network membership.

249 These records will be kept by the Chairperson in a central location accessible to all  
250 Steering Committee members.

251 **Steering Committee Chairperson Process**

252 The Chairperson will initiate regular monthly calls to certain Steering Committee  
253 members who shall be so designated on rotating basis pre-determined by the  
254 Steering Committee as a whole. The scheduling of the monthly calls by the  
255 Chairperson shall be flexible enough to accommodate varying time zones and  
256 schedules of ST members.

257 It is the responsibility of the Steering Committee member to attend their designed  
258 calls or to find a replacement Steering Committee member. Failure to be on the call  
259 or to find a replacement can becomes grounds for removal from the Steering  
260 Committee.

261 These calls with the Chairperson are open to all Steering Committee members  
262 should they chose to participate. The Chairperson will send the Steering Committee  
263 records of decisions/actions taken on these calls by email in a timely manner.

264 Chairperson shall prepare and deliver to the SC monthly schedules, reports on  
265 monthly activities and projects, and other information pertinent to the duties of the  
266 SC. The monthly report is not intended to be nor should be a burden to the  
267 Chairperson or the SC.

268 **Annual Chairperson Evaluations**

269 A Sub-committee of the Steering Committee will be responsible for conducting  
270 annual Chairperson evaluations before the end of each calendar year.

271 **Structure**

272 The Steering Committee will have subcommittees including, but not limited to:

- 273       • Finance Committee  
274       • Chairperson Evaluation Committee

275 **Expenditures**

276 All expenditures in excess of \$50 (fifty US dollars) which do not appear in an  
277 approved budget shall require approval in advance by the Finance Committee of the  
278 Steering Committee.  
279

280 **Transitional rules**

281  
282 Network membership will be considered for all groups that participated in the  
283 international conference held at the Garrison Institute in September, 2006; for all  
284 groups who were invited and accepted invitations to this conference, including  
285 those who were invited but unable to attend due to circumstances beyond their  
286 control; and to all and any groups who apply for membership and are approved and  
287 accepted as members by the Steering Committee.

288 Fiscal Sponsorship

289 For the purposes of fundraising, the Network will be considered a program of  
290 September 11<sup>th</sup> Families for Peaceful Tomorrows for the calendar year 2007. This  
291 will enable it to receive tax-free contributions from foundations and individuals  
292 made to Peaceful Tomorrows' parent company, the Tides Center, a 501c3 nonprofit  
293 organization. The Tides Center takes 9% of monies raised in return for providing  
294 legal and fiscal services. After this period of time, Peaceful Tomorrows and the  
295 Network agree to evaluate the Network's progress and determine whether this  
296 fiscal sponsorship should continue.

297 Website

298 September 11<sup>th</sup> Families for Peaceful Tomorrows agrees to provide \$5,000 in seed  
299 money for the creation of a website for the International Network. This money is  
300 given on the condition that the Network provide the \$50 monthly maintenance fee  
301 to keep the website active for at least one year. Jo Berry and Andrea LeBlanc have  
302 agreed to provide these maintenance monies for the first year.

303 Name

304 There was no consensus on a name for the Network. The Interim Steering  
305 Committee recommends that we begin by using "International Network for Peace"  
306 and that at a later date we append this name with a second line which captures  
307 additional information about the group (survivor status, non-violence, etc.).

308  
309 # # #