

**Insaniyyat**  
Society of Palestinian Anthropologists (SPA)  
**BYLAWS**

**I. Name**

The Society will be known as Insaniyyat | The Society of Palestinian Anthropologists (SPA).

**II. Purpose**

The purpose of Insaniyyat is to provide an associational framework for Palestinian anthropologists and other scholars who support the goals and activities of Insaniyyat.

**III. Goals**

1. To encourage collective activities of Palestinian anthropologists in local, regional, and international academic contexts.
2. To promote anthropological inquiry and ethnographic research attuned to justice among Palestinian scholars and among non-Palestinian scholars of Palestinian society.
3. To support Palestinian anthropologists professionally by promoting their academic research and their access to academic forums and publishing locally, regionally, and internationally.
4. To support the development of anthropology as an academic discipline in the Arabic language and in Palestinian institutions of higher education.
5. To engage a wider Palestinian public in the production, discussion, and dissemination of anthropological enquiry.
6. To support the ethical conduct of anthropology by and about Palestinians.

**IV. Membership**

1. Membership criteria includes an individual's support of the Purpose and Goals of Insaniyyat (II & III), as well as their commitment to securing a viable Palestinian space within anthropology.
2. Further to IV.1 above, membership in Insaniyyat is to be open to scholars who are professionally employed or engaged in the discipline of anthropology and its cognate fields, or are studying towards a degree in anthropology or a cognate field, and who have met the financial dues stipulated by Insaniyyat's Executive Board.
3. Types of membership: Core Membership is open to anthropologists who identify as Palestinian or are of Palestinian descent. Friend Membership is open to non-Palestinians in

anthropology (including in its cognate fields) whose academic work is on Palestine or Palestinians.

4. Any Core or Friend member in good standing (with paid dues and up to date membership) shall be welcome to participate in Insaniyyat's academic program and activities, and to receive its publications. Only Core Members in good standing are eligible to vote and hold elective or appointed office. Each Core Member has one vote in electing the various officers of the Executive Board.

5. If a case requires, acceptance or denial of membership (including both Core and Friend Memberships) shall be obtainable by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board, subject to appeal to the General Assembly.

## **V. Dues**

1. The Executive Board shall determine the annual dues of Members of all categories.

2. Annual membership commences on the membership registration date (pending acceptance) and expires one year from that date.

3. Any Member in arrears in the payment of dues shall lose all membership privileges. "Arrears" is defined as failure to pay dues a full month after the expiration of annual membership. Members in arrears are not considered in good standing.

## **VI. Governance**

### **VI.1 Structure**

1. Insaniyyat will be governed by an Executive Board, composed of Elected Officers, and Appointed Officers.

2. Insaniyyat will have a General Assembly composed of Core and Friend members in good standing that will meet every two years to discuss the activities of Insaniyyat and nominate officers of the Executive Board. Core members in good standing at the General Assembly will nominate or confirm officers of the Executive Board.

3. Insaniyyat will have an International Advisory Council (AC) to advise the Executive Board and provide oversight of its governance. The number and makeup of the AC will be decided on by the Executive Board.

### **VI.2. Executive Board**

#### **1. Elected Officers:**

a. There will be an Executive Board consisting of the following offices: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and two (2) additional officers.

b. Additional members include one student member to act as student representative and another who may fulfill specific functions such as activities or publications officers.

- c. All the above permanent office positions of the Executive Board shall be elected by the General Assembly.
- d. Nominations for Executive Board officers can be made by Core members only.

## **2. Appointed Officers:**

- a. The Executive Board may appoint (as necessary) the following non-Executive Board officers: Nominations Committee, Program Chairs, Publications Coordinator, and Public Relations Officer.
- b. The Executive Board shall make all non-elective appointments and make interim appointments to fill vacancies in any committees and on the Board itself until the next regularly scheduled election.
- c. Appointed officers can be nominated by Core members.
- d. All members of the Executive Board shall have one vote each. A simple majority is needed for decisions to become official by the Executive Board.
- e. The Executive Board is empowered to determine the amount of membership dues.
- f. The Executive Board will appoint members of the Advisory Council.

## **VI.3 Terms of Office:**

### **1. Elected Officers:**

- a. The terms of office for President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and two (2) additional elected officers is two (2) years, renewable up to 4 years.
- b. The Secretary shall be in charge of correspondence and administrative records of Insaniyyat and will be responsible for their safeguarding. Upon expiration of the Secretary's term all records and correspondence must be turned over in good order to the newly elected Secretary within a month from the start of their term.
- c. The Treasurer is responsible for all documents and correspondence related to Insaniyyat's finances. Upon expiration of the Treasurer's term, all financial records must be turned over in good order to the incoming Secretary within a month from the start of their term.

### **2. Appointed Officers**

- a. The term of each Appointed Officer shall be two years from the time they have assumed the position, subject to extension of up to four (4) years by Executive Board vote.

## **VII. Advisory Council**

- 1. The Executive Board will appoint an Advisory Council consisting of Palestinian non-Palestinian anthropologists who adhere to the principles of Insaniyyat and pursue objectives compatible with those of the Society. Advisory Council members are Friend Members of Insaniyyat or commit to becoming Friend Members upon acceptance of their appointment.

2. The role of the Advisory Council shall be to advise the Executive Board and to assist the Society in achieving the goals expressed in Article III.

3. The Executive Board will appoint any new, reconfirm any continuing, and determine the total number of Advisory Council Members on an annual basis.

## **VIII. General Assembly**

1. The membership (including both Core and Friend) of Insaniyyat shall meet once every two years in a General Assembly meeting to conduct the business of the organization.

2. Decisions of the General Assembly shall be by simple majority vote and are binding on all the members.

3. An electronic mail ballot will be sent to the full Core Membership for electing all Elected Officers and for making any changes, supported by a simple majority vote, in the Insaniyyat Bylaws.

### **VIII.1. Annual Meeting Reports**

1. The Executive Board will issue an annual report that will consist of an edited compilation of the reports of elected officers, appointed officers, appointed committees, and other agents officially representing Insaniyyat.

2. The report shall be disseminated by email to all members of Insaniyyat.

### **VIII.2. Meetings**

1. Insaniyyat shall hold a Biennial Meeting.

2. The place and date of the Biennial Meeting shall be determined by the Executive Board and disclosed to the members on a date no later than sixty (60) days prior to the first day of the meeting.

### **VIII.3. Quorum**

1. Twenty-five percent (25%) of Core Members in good standing shall constitute a quorum at the General Assembly to be held at the Biennial Meeting.

2. A majority of the Members of the Executive Board of Insaniyyat shall constitute a quorum for transacting business.

3. All business shall be transacted by simple majority vote unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws.

### **VIII.4. Working Committees**

1. The Executive Board shall be empowered to appoint and dissolve working committees.

2. Preferably, a member of the Executive Board shall be a member of each appointed working committee.

## **IX. Elections**

### **IX.1 Elections Committee**

1. An Elections Committee of three (3) Members shall be appointed by the Executive Board of Insaniyyat. The Elections Committee will appoint one of its members as the Chair.
2. The Elections Committee oversees the nomination and voting processes for elected officer positions undertaken every two (2) years by the General Assembly.
3. Candidates for any elective office may be nominated by Core Members in good standing (including members of the Elections Committee).
4. All candidates must be Core Members of Insaniyyat in good standing at the time of nomination.
5. The Elections Committee shall aim to ensure that at least two (2) persons for each vacant office are nominated. These nominations shall be made known to voting Members at least one (1) month before the Annual Meeting.
6. Any Member in good standing may nominate candidates for any office, provided the nomination is conveyed to the Chair of the Nominations Committee a month prior to the date that on-line voting is set to be opened.

### **IX.2. Voting**

1. A Core Member in good standing will be entitled to cast one vote for each elected office. They will also be entitled to cast one vote in any referendum.
2. Voting shall be secret and conducted online. The Executive Board will have the authority to review the eligibility of any voter.
3. A two-week period will be allotted for casting online votes for any given election or referendum.
4. The candidate receiving the most votes for an office shall be elected. The Executive Board shall hold a run-off election within sixty (60) days to resolve any tie.

### **IX.3. Referenda**

1. A referendum may be conducted by online ballot at any time upon initiation of the Executive Board, or upon receipt by the Secretary of a petition signed by ten Core Members in good standing.

## **X. Finances**

1. The fiscal year of Insaniyyat shall be 1 October to 30 September.

2. The Treasurer shall submit an annual operations budget report of the concluding year to the Executive Board.
3. The income from annual dues and from donations, investments, and other sources will be used to cover expenses for operating, publications, and other expenses consistent with the purposes of Insaniyyat.
4. No financial obligation in excess of funds available in the treasury shall be assumed by the Executive Board of Insaniyyat or any officer on behalf of Insaniyyat except that for the purpose of Insaniyyat.

## **XI. Amendments**

1. The Bylaws may be amended by the Core Members by online voting, provided that a proposed amendment is approved by a minimum of two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast.
2. An Amendment may be proposed by any Core Member of Insaniyyat in good standing. The Executive Board shall have the proposed amendment circulated to all Core Members and will allow thirty (30) days for the return of electronic ballots.
3. The Executive Board will take immediate steps to ensure the amendments are applied to the existing bylaws. However, their date of legal effect will be governed by relevant U.K. laws under which Insaniyyat is registered.

## **XII. Dismissal**

1. An elected officer can be dismissed by two-third majority vote of the Executive Board or forty percent (40%) of Core Membership signatures sent to the President or any member of the Executive Board. The dismissal is effective immediately.
2. Dismissal can be appealed and rescinded by simple majority vote of the Core Membership at the Annual Meeting.
3. Conditions for dismissal include nonperformance of duties by any officer, or violation of Insaniyyat Bylaws by any officer.
4. An appointed officer can be removed by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

## **XIII. Dispute Resolution and Dissolution**

1. Any dispute should be resolved by arbitration.
  2. The Society will be dissolved upon a referendum vote by Core Members.
  3. If the Society is dissolved the assets remaining (if any) after provision has been made for all liabilities must be transferred to one or more other bodies established for exclusively charitable purposes with similar objectives to those of the Society.
  4. A final report and statement of accounts must be sent to all members.
  5. These Bylaws are subject to UK law and to the exclusive jurisdiction of British courts.
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