

**CONSTITUTION OF  
THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE EDUCATION  
(Adopted December 9, 2001  
at the Second International Meeting, held in Durban, South Africa)**

**1. NAME**

The name of this organization is The Global Alliance for Justice Education, hereinafter referred to as GAJE.

**2. PURPOSE AND GOALS**

The purpose of GAJE is to promote justice through education by bringing together persons from many countries and every inhabited continent in the world, who exchange perspectives and work collaboratively from a variety of legal, educational and organizational settings. Justice education addresses all forms of social, economic, political and human rights and includes not only education of law students but also education of practicing lawyers, judges, non-governmental organizations and the lay public.

The goals of GAJE include the following:

- (1) To facilitate international information sharing and collaboration on justice education.
- (2) To support, develop, and implement advocacy projects on a regional and global basis.
- (3) To convene global conferences, workshops and training sessions on justice education at locations accessible and affordable for persons from developing countries.
- (4) To receive and administer funds to support the development of innovative justice education, especially in developing countries.
- (5) To serve as a clearinghouse of teaching methods and materials.

**3. MEMBERSHIP**

(a) The General Meeting may establish membership conditions and qualifications for membership.

(b) The following persons are eligible for membership: any person interested in justice education, such as a teacher, educational administrator, lawyer, judicial official, law officer, paralegal, or legal worker.

(c) Institutional membership with special conditions including dues may be established by the Steering Committee.

**4. GENERAL MEETINGS**

A General Meeting of the members of GAJE shall ordinarily be held at least once every three years at such time and at such place and in such manner (which need not require personal attendance) as the Steering Committee shall determine. At such General Meeting the business shall include the election of the Steering Committee, the consideration of a bi-annual report of the work done by or under the auspices of the Steering Committee, and the

transaction of other matters as may from time to time be necessary.

**5. STEERING COMMITTEE**

(a) The affairs of GAJE shall be managed by a Steering Committee which may take any action on behalf of GAJE which, in its opinion, will further the objects of GAJE. The Steering Committee shall consist of sixteen (16) elected members and such additional members as may be appointed pursuant to clause 5(c)(3). The elected members shall be comprised of two persons, one man and one woman, from each of the following regions: Africa, Australasia, East Asia, Eastern Europe (including Russia), South America (including Central America), South and Central Asia (including the Mideast), North America, and Western Europe.

(b) The members of the Steering Committee shall be elected at General Meetings of GAJE by the members present and eligible to vote by secret ballot from a list of candidates assembled by the Nominating Committee, and in the following manner:

- (1) Each member of GAJE shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote for each position to be filled for Steering Committee membership from each region. Each member may only cast one (1) vote for any one candidate.
- (2) The Steering Committee shall appoint a Nominating Committee not less than 30 calendar days before the General Meeting to recruit candidates to fill upcoming vacancies on the Committee.
- (3) No person who is a candidate for election to the Steering Committee may serve on the Nominating Committee.
- (4) The Nominating Committee shall endeavor to nominate at least one more candidate for each region than the number of positions to be filled from that region. The Nominating Committee shall also endeavor to have gender balance among the candidates from each region and shall also make special efforts to nominate candidates from indigenous peoples and other groups in special need of social justice.
- (5) Not less than 15 calendar days before the General Meeting, the Nominating Committee shall distribute to the membership by such method as it determines (which may be by email, newsletter or posting on the GAJE web site) a notice with the proposed list of candidates and specifying a method and

deadline for the membership to nominate additional candidates.

- (6) A candidate shall be added to the ballot if the Nominating Committee receives within the time specified in the Nominating Committee's notice a nomination supported by at least ten (10) voting members in good standing.
- (7) Prior to submitting a nominee's name to the membership, the Nominating Committee must obtain confirmation from each candidate that he or she is willing to be on the ballot.
- (8) Candidates may not be added to the ballot at the General Meeting either by nominations from the floor or by write-in.

(c) Election to the Steering Committee shall be for terms of four years, subject to clause 5 (C)(1) . Approximately one -half of the Steering Committee member's terms shall expire biennially but those members shall be eligible for re-election to the Committee.

(1) In applying clause 5(c) to the first Steering Committee elected after the adoption of this Constitution, one half of the committee members will serve only a two year term. The members who will serve a two year term will be those who have been longest in office as of the date that the Nominating Committee is appointed for the next General Meeting following the election of the first Steering Committee under this Constitution. Service on the interim Steering Committee for the period of 1999-2001 shall be counted as "time in office" for purposes of this clause. If there are more Committee members with two year terms than four year terms due to their membership on the interim Committee, then those with time in office shall draw lots to choose enough among them to serve four year terms such that only approximately one-half of the initial Committee members will serve two year terms.

(2) In addition to the members elected at a General Meeting, the Steering Committee may appoint additional members to the Steering Committee provided that the number of the appointed members shall not exceed one-third of the total membership of the Steering Committee at the time of appointment. In making appointments the Steering Committee shall endeavor to maintain a gender balance on the Steering Committee and shall also make special efforts to appoint members from indigenous peoples and other groups in special need of social justice. Appointed members shall have the same powers as elected members of the Steering Committee, and serve for terms that effectuate the goals of clause 5(c).

(3) Any vacancy on the Steering Committee may be filled by the Steering Committee and any person appointed to fill such a vacancy shall hold office for the unexpired remainder of the term of the Committee member whose position is being filled. In the case of an elected Committee member, the

Steering Committee shall appoint a person from the same region as the person being replaced and shall endeavor to have gender balance among the members from that region and shall also make special efforts to appoint members from indigenous peoples and other groups in special need of social justice.

(d) The Steering Committee may appoint officers and employ any person as may in the Committee's opinion be necessary.

(e) The Steering Committee may make by-laws and regulations within the framework of this Constitution for the furtherance of the objects of GAJE.

(f) The Steering Committee may meet at such times and in such manner as the Steering Committee determines, including meetings conducted by telephone and email. A quorum consists of a majority of members currently serving; a member with email is presumed to count toward the quorum of a meeting conducted by email unless the member has affirmatively indicated in advance that he or she will not be available by email during the meeting period. The Steering Committee may also delegate to an Executive Committee all powers exercised by the Steering Committee except the powers to appoint and remove members of the Steering Committee, to appoint and remove officers, and to amend the bylaws or Constitution.

## **6. AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION**

This Constitution may be amended by the General Meeting providing that two-thirds of those eligible and participating vote in favor of any amendment.

## **7. INCORPORATION AND REGIONAL CHAPTERS.**

The Steering Committee may authorize the filing of articles of incorporation or other appropriate legal documents to provide legal status for GAJE as an organization under the laws of any jurisdiction. The Steering Committee may also authorize the creation of national or regional chapters of GAJE subject to such terms and conditions as the Steering Committee may set.

## **8. DISSOLUTION**

If the Steering Committee by a two-thirds vote of all Committee members serving decides at any time that on the ground of expense or otherwise it is necessary or advisable to dissolve GAJE, the Steering Committee shall have power to dispose of any assets held by or on behalf of GAJE. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having purposes and goals similar to the objects of GAJE as the Steering Committee may determine.