



CONSTITUTION

VMH

Mental health

VOLUNTEERS FOR
MENTAL HEALTH

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Constitution of the Volunteers for Mental Health (VMH)

Article I: Name and Purpose

Section 1: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Volunteers for Mental Health (VMH).

Section 2: Purpose

The purpose of VMH is to:

To improving mental health outcomes through comprehensive data collection, policy advocacy, education, awareness campaigns, outreach programs, and ensuring equitable access to mental health care and support. Our mission is to create a society where mental health and mental health care is prioritized, destigmatized, understood, and supported at all levels.

Article II: Membership

Section 1: Eligibility

Membership is open to all individuals and organizations committed to the mission and objectives of VMH, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, religion, or nationality.

Section 2: Categories of Membership

1. Individual Members: Any person committed to the objectives of VMH.
2. Organizational Members: Institutions or organizations supporting the objectives of VMH.
3. Honorary Members: Individuals recognized for their exceptional contribution to mental health.

Section 3: Rights and Responsibilities

1. Rights: Members have the right to vote, participate in meetings, and access resources provided by VMH.
2. Responsibilities: Members must uphold the values and objectives of VMH, participate in activities, and pay membership dues as determined by the Board of Directors.

Article III: Governance

Section 1: Structure

VMH shall be governed by the following bodies:

1. General Assembly: The highest decision-making body comprising all members.
2. Board of Directors: Elected representatives responsible for strategic direction and oversight.
3. Executive Committee: Appointed by the Board to manage daily operations.

Section 2: General Assembly

1. Composition: All members of VMH.
2. Meetings: The General Assembly shall meet annually. Special meetings may be called by the Board of Directors or by a petition of at least one-third of the members.
3. Powers: The General Assembly shall:
 - Elect the Board of Directors.
 - Approve annual budgets and reports.
 - Amend the constitution.
 - Make decisions on significant organizational matters.

Section 3: Board of Directors

1. Composition: The Board shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Director Western Africa, Director Eastern Africa, Director Central Africa, Director Southern Africa, Director Northern African and three additional members.
2. Terms: Board members shall serve for two-year terms, with a maximum of two consecutive terms.
3. Meetings: The Board shall meet quarterly. Special meetings may be convened as necessary.
4. Powers and Duties: The Board shall:
 - Set strategic goals and policies.
 - Oversee the Executive Committee.
 - Approve major projects and expenditures.
 - Report to the General Assembly.

Section 4: Executive Committee

1. Composition: The Executive Committee shall consist of the Executive Director and heads of key operational departments (e.g., Programs, Research, Advocacy, Finance, Communications).
2. Appointments: Members of the Executive Committee are appointed by the Board of Directors.
3. Powers and Duties: The Executive Committee shall:
 - Implement the decisions of the Board and General Assembly.
 - Manage daily operations and administration.
 - Prepare reports and budgets for the Board's approval.
 - Coordinate activities and programs.

Article IV: Elections

Section 1: Nominations

1. Eligibility: Any member in good standing is eligible for nomination to the Board of Directors.
2. Process: Nominations shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary at least 30 days before the General Assembly meeting.

Section 2: Voting

1. Method: Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot during the General Assembly meeting.

2. Majority: A simple majority of votes cast is required for election. In the event of a tie, a runoff election shall be held.

Article V: Finances

Section 1: Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of VMH shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31.

Section 2: Budget

The annual budget shall be prepared by the Treasurer and Executive Director, reviewed by the Board of Directors, and approved by the General Assembly.

Section 3: Audit

An independent auditor shall be appointed annually by the Board of Directors to audit the financial records of VMH.

Section 4: Dues

Membership dues shall be determined by the Board of Directors and approved by the General Assembly.

Section 5: Fundraising

VMH shall have the authority to raise funds through grants, donations, sponsorships, and other lawful means.

Article VI: Committees

Section 1: Standing Committees

The following standing committees shall be established to support the work of VMH:

1. Programs Committee
2. Research Committee
3. Advocacy Committee
4. Finance Committee
5. Communications Committee

Section 2: Ad Hoc Committees

The Board of Directors may establish ad hoc committees as necessary to address specific issues or projects.

Section 3: Committee Chairs

Committee chairs shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and serve for one-year terms.

Article VII: Amendments

Section 1: Proposal

Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the members.

Section 2: Approval

Proposed amendments must be approved by a two-thirds majority of members present at the General Assembly meeting.

Article VIII: Dissolution

Section 1: Process

VMH may be dissolved by a two-thirds majority vote of the General Assembly.

Section 2: Assets

Upon dissolution, any remaining assets shall be distributed to one or more organizations with similar objectives, as determined by the General Assembly.

Article IX: Miscellaneous

Section 1: Interpretation

In the event of a dispute regarding the interpretation of this constitution, the decision of the Board of Directors shall be final.

Section 2: Bylaws

The Board of Directors shall have the authority to adopt bylaws to govern the day-to-day operations of VMH, provided they do not conflict with this constitution.

This constitution was adopted by the General Assembly on [Date], and takes effect immediately.

By adopting this governing document, the Volunteers for Mental Health (VMH) commits to its mission of promoting mental health awareness and support across Africa with empathy and dedication.