

## §1 Name, Registered Office and Financial Year

- (1) The Association bears the name “Alliance for Critical Scholarship in Solidarity.” After entry in the register of associations at the Charlottenburg Local Court, it shall bear the name affix “e.V.”
- (2) The registered office of the Association is Berlin, Germany.
- (3) The Association’s financial year is the calendar year.

## §2 Association Goals and Activities

Commitment to the stated purposes of the Association

- (1) The Association pursues the goal of promoting academic freedom and university autonomy by creating and maintaining a supportive infrastructure. It thus contributes to strengthening the democratic constitution of society.
- (2) To this end, the Association is committed to dedicated, emancipatory, socially critical teaching and research. It is also in favor of opening up spaces for discourse where controversial and/or pluralistic debates can be conducted.
- (3) The Association will participate in the establishment and maintenance of an infrastructure that committed to reducing hierarchies and marginalization at universities and in academic practice, and to (critically) reflect on and act to shape the relationship between universities, research, and society.
- (4) The objectives of the Association shall be realized through the following measures, among others:
  - the drafting and publication of statements and recommendations, and the dissemination of said contents;
  - observing, recording, documenting, and analyzing current social and political developments;
  - the compilation and distribution of relevant information;
  - exchange with political and higher education policy bodies, professional societies, and associations, as well as civil society organizations and groups;
  - arranging legal counsel and other forms of support for members affected by repression;
  - as well as other activities that serve to realize the objectives set out in paragraphs 1 to 3.

## §3 Association Means and Idealistic Purpose

- (1) The Association and its members will be active without self-interest, and will pursue its own economic purposes solely for the realization of its statutory purposes. The members of the Association shall not receive any profit shares, or, in their capacity as members, any other benefit from the Association's funds. Members shall not receive back more than their contributions in kind when they resign or the association is dissolved. No person may receive administrative expenses and/or reimbursements that are alien to the purposes of the Association, or disproportionate remuneration.
- (2) The Association receives the funds to fulfil its tasks through membership fees, donations, proceeds from events, user fees, and other types of in kind contributions.

## §4 Mode of Operation

- (1) The Association works in a decentralized manner, oriented towards network structures, and one of its aims is to avoid reproducing traditional hierarchies. Through its working principles, the General Assembly will determine how the organization should work in detail, based on proposals from the Speakers Council. Within this framework, the bodies and committees of the association are authorized to regulate their working methods in rules of procedure.

## §5 Membership

- (1) The “Alliance for Critical Scholarship in Solidarity” is open to all employees, professionals, self-employed persons, and legal entities from universities and other related fields of work, along with institutions who share the Association’s goals, are actively committed to

these goals, and/or wish to support them passively (e.g. through membership fees). Students should not become members of the Association; the Members Committee decides on exceptions. The perspectives of students can be represented by a student advisory board (§ 13).

- (2) Natural and juridical persons may be proposed for membership by existing members of the Association. A person proposed as a member of the Association shall be accepted as a member of the Association if three other members are in favor of acceptance.
- (3) Natural and legal persons may also submit applications for admission to the Members Committee (§ 9), which decides on admission.
- (4) Membership ends through death, in the case of legal entities through expiry, as well as through resignation, deletion from the list of members, exclusion or dissolution of the Association.
- (5) Resignation must be communicated to the Speakers Council in written form and can only take place at the end of the calendar quarter, with a notice period of four weeks.
- (6) A member of the association may be excluded by the Members Committee by a two-thirds majority vote of its members for good cause, in particular if their behavior is not compatible with the objectives of the Association, set out in § 2. Pending the decision of the Members Committee, the Speakers Council may decide on provisional measures to avert urgent dangers to the Association, its assets or objects or its activities; in this case, the voting rights of the affected member shall be suspended. The member concerned must be given the opportunity to comment. If the member is absent when the decision of the Members Committee is announced, the member must be informed of the expulsion by registered letter; paragraph 7 remains unaffected.
- (7) Association members who, despite repeated and documented attempts by the Speakers Council to contact them, cannot be contacted for more than six months (or do not respond to same), and are at least one year in arrears in paying membership fees, may be removed from the membership list by resolution of the Speakers Council. The Speakers Council must inform the Members Committee of this. Membership rights shall be reinstated if the cancelled member applies for this within one year of being cancelled, pays the outstanding membership fee and can be contacted by the Speakers Council.
- (8) In order to fulfil its purposes and tasks, the association processes the personal data of its members in compliance with the provisions of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the German Federal Data Protection Act (BDSG). The Speakers Council shall regulate the details in data protection regulations, which require the approval of the General Assembly.

## § 6 Rights and Duties of Members

- (1) Each member has one vote at the General Assembly. The voting right of a legal entity shall be exercised at the General Assembly by its legal representative or a person nominated by the legal representative.
- (2) Members may not act contrary to the objectives of the Association.
- (3) Members must pay membership fees. The General Assembly shall decide on the amount and due date of the membership fees, if necessary, on the advice of the Speakers Council.

## § 7 Bodies and other Committees of the Association

- (1) The bodies of the association are the General Assembly, the Speakers Council, and the Members Committee. Other bodies are the Working Groups, the Committee for Concerns, the Advisory Board, and the Student Advisory Committee. Their appointment, mode of operation, and accountability shall be defined in rules of procedure.

## § 8 General Assembly

- (1) The General Assembly shall take place at least once a year and in hybrid form. Participation is possible digitally and in person.
- (2) The date of an ordinary General Assembly shall be announced by email by the Speakers Council at least three months prior to the occasion. Members may submit motions for the agenda to the spokesperson up to three weeks before the date of the Assembly. The agenda shall be convened by the speakers in text form by email, subject to a notice period of two weeks. This is how the general meeting is called.

- (3) The Speakers Council shall convene an extraordinary General Assembly within two months if at least 10 per cent of the members request this in writing or in text form by email, enclosing a draft agenda.
- (4) The General Assembly shall constitute a quorum if it has been duly convened and at least 5 per cent of the members are present at the beginning. If less than 25 per cent of the members are present, the General Assembly is nevertheless quorate unless the quorum is questioned at the request of 10 per cent of the members. The request must be made within one month of the publication of the minutes of the General Assembly. If the quorum has been challenged within the deadline, a new General Assembly must be convened within two months, stating the agenda. This Assembly is quorate regardless of the number of participants; paragraphs 5 to 7 remain unaffected.
- (5) Subject to sentence 2 and § 15 and 16, the General Assembly shall decide by a simple majority of the votes cast by those present; abstentions shall not be taken into account. A majority of two-thirds of Association members present is required for a resolution on the amendment of the statutes of the Association, the dismissal of members of the Speakers Council, or the Committee for Concerns; for resolutions on the dissolution of the Association, the use of the Association's assets in the event of its dissolution, or amending the purpose of the association, this majority must also correspond to at least half of the Association's membership. If the necessary quorum is reached among the voting members present, but does not correspond to the required number of voting members, the voting members present may vote in favor of the resolution
- a) via a vote in a members vote  
or
  - b) decide on a repeat vote at a repeated Assembly, to be convened for this purpose with a simplified quorum in accordance with paragraph 7. Otherwise the vote has failed.
- (6) In the case of paragraph 5, sentence 2 alternative: a), the spokesperson shall issue an invitation in text form to cast a vote within a voting period of no less than one week. The invitation must specify the resolution to be put to the vote verbatim; the result of the vote at the General Assembly shall be communicated to members. The vote must be conducted in such a way that only votes in favour, against or abstention are possible. The further procedure is governed by the election and voting regulations. Subject to the requirements of paragraph 5, several resolutions may also be voted on in a members vote
- (7) In the case of paragraph 5 sentence 2 alternative b), the spokesperson shall invite the members to a repeated General Assembly in compliance with the provisions of paragraph 2, at which the vote in accordance with paragraph 5 sentence 1 shall be repeated with the proviso that it is sufficient for the resolution to be passed if at least two thirds of the members of the association present approve the same resolution proposal and this majority corresponds to at least 25 per cent of the members of the association entitled to vote. Reference must be made to this voting rule in the invitation to the repeat General Assembly; it may provide for further agenda items.
- (8) The General Assembly is the highest decision-making body of the Association alongside the members vote. It decides by a simple majority of members present, unless otherwise stipulated in the Association's statutes. Its decisions include in particular:
- Amendments to the Statutes of the Association,
  - receiving and discussing the reports of the Association's committees,
  - the dissolution of the Speakers Council,
  - the dissolution of the Association,
  - the determination of membership fees,
  - defining the working principles of the organization,
  - the adoption and amendment of rules of procedure falling within its remit
- and other fundamental Association matters.
- (9) The General Assembly is also responsible for:
- the election and dismissal of the members of the Speakers Council,
  - the election and dismissal of the members of the Committee for Concerns,
  - the appointment of the Advisory Board and the appointment of its members.
- (10) Minutes shall be taken of all resolutions of the General Assembly, which shall be signed by the person taking the minutes and the person chairing the Assembly.

## §9 Speakers Council (Board)

- (1) The Speakers Council is the Board of the Association. It consists of at least 9 and up to 15 members who work on a voluntary basis. The majority of its members should represent intersectionally marginalized positions. At least one member of the board must be entrusted with the tasks of the member responsible for finance.
- (2) The members of the Speakers Council shall elect two members by simple majority who shall jointly represent the Association in and out of court (26 BGB). They shall continue in office until a successor has been elected or appointed.
- (3) The Speakers Council shall be elected by the General Assembly for a term of two years. Re-election is permitted.
- (4) The Speakers Council is obliged to implement the resolutions of the General Assembly and to conduct the Association's business properly.
- (5) Meetings of the Speakers Council may be held via telephone or digital conferencing. Outside of these, resolutions may be passed by text or telephone circulation procedure, provided that no member of the Speakers Council objects to this procedure. The detailed procedure for its work and the modalities of decision-making shall be laid down by the Speakers Council in rules of procedure, which require the approval of two thirds of its members, must be brought to the attention of the General Assembly and must comply with the working principles laid down by it; unless otherwise stipulated therein, the majority principle shall apply to decision-making in the Speakers Council. Resolutions of the Speakers Council shall be recorded in minutes and made available to the members upon request.
- (6) The Speakers Council may initiate Working Groups (AGs) for certain projects and appoint a managing director or project manager for the completion of individual tasks, member support in particular, bookkeeping, and correspondence. They (he/she/they) can represent the Association with signing authority for their area of responsibility up to a sum of EUR 5,000.00 (§ 30 BGB), or entrust employees of the Association with individual tasks and areas of responsibility. For this purpose, it may also employ members of the Association subject to social security contributions, or pay them an expense allowance in line with their task/s. The managing director may also be a member of the Speakers Council.

## §10 Members Committee

- (1) The Members Committee shall consist of a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 23 members.
- (2) The task of the Members Committee is to decide on the admission and exclusion of members. The Members Committee shall decide by a majority of its members.
- (3) It shall adopt its own rules of procedure, which may also provide for a suspensive right of veto for members.
- (4) The Members Committee shall be elected for two years by the members of the Association through an online voting procedure; the details shall be governed by the election and voting regulations. The Speakers Council shall conduct the election within two months of its own election.

## §11 Working Groups

- (1) Members may initiate thematic Working Groups (AGs) in order to pursue the objectives of the Association. The purpose of the Working Group is to work collectively on a specific topic: there should not be several Working Groups working in parallel on the same topic and using the same methodology. In order to initiate a Working Group, the respective members should name the topic and goal of the Working Group as well as a contact person in text form to the spokesperson.
- (2) Working Groups consist of interested members and work independently in accordance with the working principles. The Working Groups shall inform the Speakers Council about their activities on a quarterly basis and the General Assembly annually.
- (3) If the Speakers Council deals with topics in a meeting that concern one or more Working Groups, representatives of these Working Groups shall be invited to the meeting of the Speakers Council in an advisory capacity.

## §12 Committee for Concerns

- (1) The Committee for Concerns is responsible for the prevention of conflicts and mediation in cases of conflict. It consists of the ombudsman team and the awareness team. The

ombudsman team is responsible for settling conflicts between members and between members and Association bodies. The awareness team is already active in the pre-conflict stage, advising and supporting individual members who have a complaint concerning the Association. If necessary, the two bodies will work together. The Committee for Concerns supports the members and bodies of the association in finding solutions to conflicts and complaints that they are unable to resolve independently.

- (2) The ombudsman team shall consist of 3 persons. The awareness team shall consist of at least 5 persons. Members of the Committee for Concerns may not serve concurrently as members of the Speakers Council. Furthermore, members of the ombudsman team may not be members of the Members Committee or the Advisory Board. The Committee for Concerns is elected by the General Assembly for a term of office of two years. Re-election is possible. Members of the Committee for Concerns can be dismissed by the General Assembly with a majority of two thirds of the members present.
- (3) The Committee for Concerns is independent in its activities and is not subject to any instructions from the spokesperson or other bodies of the association.
- (4) The ombudsman team is obliged to maintain confidentiality. All information that becomes known in the course of its activities may only be disclosed with the express consent of the persons concerned, unless there is a legal obligation to disclose it.

### §13 Advisory Committee

- (1) The General Assembly may establish an Advisory Committee. Only students may be appointed to the Advisory Committee.
- (2) The members of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed by resolution of the General Assembly for the duration of the term of office of the Speakers Council. Advisory Committee members may be appointed more than once.
- (3) The task of the Advisory Committee is to advise the alliance on strategic matters and to contribute student perspectives.
- (4) The Advisory Committee may submit its own motions to the General Assembly.

### §14 Advisory Board

- (1) The Advisory Board (Board of Trustees) consists of a minimum of 9 and a maximum of 33 natural persons who can make a special contribution to achieving the Association's objectives through their professional expertise or commitment. They do not have to be members of the association, but may not be members of the Speakers Council or the Members Committee.
- (2) The members of the Advisory Board are elected in an online voting procedure by the members of the association for a term of two years. Re-election is permitted. Further details are regulated by the election and voting regulations. The circle of speakers shall conduct the election within two months of its own election.
- (3) The Advisory Board advises the Speakers Council and the General Assembly on strategic and technical issues as well as broadening the scope of the Association's work on the international level. It supports the organization in its public relations work and in establishing networks. The Advisory Board has an advisory function and no decision-making powers. However, it can make recommendations and statements that are incorporated into the decisions of the Speakers Council and the General Assembly.
- (4) The Advisory Board shall adopt rules of procedure in accordance with the working principles laid down by the General Assembly.
- (5) An Advisory Board member shall report at least once a year to the General Assembly and the Speakers' Circle on the activities and recommendations of the Advisory Board.

### §15 Amendments to the Articles of Association

- (1) Amendments to the Statutes of Association can only be adopted at a General Assembly with a two-thirds majority of those present; § 8 (5) to (7) must be observed.
- (2) This does not apply to amendments to the Statutes of Association that are deemed necessary for the formation and registration of the Association by the notary or the Register of Associations. These can be made by the Speakers Council without a vote by the General Assembly, which must report on this at the next Assembly.
- (3) Except in the case of paragraph 2, proposals for amendments to the Statutes of Association shall be submitted to the members with the invitation to the General Assembly.

## §16 Liability

- (1) Volunteers, board members or members of other Association bodies as well as members of the Association whose remuneration does not exceed the honorary allowance in accordance with § 3 No. 26a EStG per year shall only be liable to the Association and its members for damages caused by them in the fulfilment of their voluntary work in accordance with § 31 a and b BGB in the event of intent and gross negligence.
- (2) The Association is not liable to its members internally for damages caused by negligence which they suffer in the execution of orders for the Association, in the use of facilities or equipment of the Association or in other Association activities and events, insofar as such damages are not covered by insurance policies of the Association.
- (3) If members of the Association are obliged to compensate a third party for damage caused by them in the performance of their statutory duties in accordance with paragraph 1, they may, except in cases of intent or gross negligence, demand that the Association release them from liability in accordance with § 31a paragraph 2 or § 31b paragraph 2 BGB.

## §17 Dissolution of the Association

- (1) The dissolution of the Association can only be resolved in a General Assembly convened specifically for this purpose. This requires a two-thirds majority of the members present, which must also correspond to at least half of the members of the Association. § 8 (5) to (7) shall apply.
- (2) In the event of the dissolution of the Association, the assets of the Association shall be transferred to another organization, which shall be decided by the General Assembly and which must pursue similar purposes.
- (3) If the liquidation of the Association's assets is necessary due to the dissolution of the Association or the withdrawal of its legal capacity, the members of the Speakers Council representing the Association at that time, in accordance with § 9 (2), shall be the liquidators, unless the General Assembly resolves to appoint another person as liquidator by a majority of three quarters of the Association members present.

## §18 Final and Transitional Provisions

- (1) After the inaugural Assembly, the Speakers Council shall apply for registration of the Association at the Charlottenburg Local Court.
- (2) Notwithstanding § 10 (3), the members of the Members Committee shall be elected by the General Assembly at the inaugural assembly. The term of office of these members ends with the conclusion of the online vote in accordance with § 10 (3), but no later than one year after the Articles of Association come into force in accordance with (4).
- (3) Should individual provisions of these Statutes of Association be or become invalid, this shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions.
- (4) These Statutes of Association shall enter into force upon entry in the register of associations.