YAŞLI HAKLARI VE RUH SAĞLIĞI DERNEĞİ
Levent Apartmanları, Cemal Togan Sok. Daire 1, Blok 7, Gazimağusa
Tel: 0533-8574392, 0548-855 5555
E-mail: info@yaslihaklariveruhsagligi.org Web: http://yaslihaklariveruhsagligi.org

ASSOCIATION FOR ELDER RIGHTS AND MENTAL HEALTH BYLAWS

With the Amendments Made by the General Assembly Decisions Dated 06/12/2019, 09/10/2021, and 08/11/2025

ARTICLE 1:

- **Name and Short Name of the Association:**

Association of Elderly Rights and Mental Health (Yaşlı Hakları ve Ruh Sağlığı Derneği)

- **Address and Contact Information of the Association:**

Levent Site, Cemal Togan Street, No:14, Block 7, Apt. No: 1, Gazimağusa.
Tel: 0533-8574392 Email: YHRS.dernegi@gmail.com

ARTICLE 2:

- **Care-related Challenges of Elderly Individuals and Those with Mental Health Issues in the TRNC**

In our country, although the respect shown toward the elderly has been passed down from generation to generation as part of our cultural values, the changing family structure and increasingly difficult economic conditions in recent years have also negatively affected our elderly.

In the past, elderly individuals were cared for by their own children or close relatives. However, due to changing socio-economic conditions, families can no longer find the time to care for their own elderly. As a result, elderly individuals are either left alone in their homes or spend the final years of their lives in deprivation in unregulated nursing homes.

Similarly, individuals whose mental health prevents them from taking care of themselves are left without support once their parents grow old and become unable to care for them. Although people with mental health conditions who can lead normal lives with medication exist, there are neither private nor state-run care facilities in our country where they can stay. Therefore, for individuals with mental health issues, the only option available in our country is private elderly care homes.

For this reason, it is not surprising that a significant number of residents in care homes consist of people with neurological and psychiatric disorders, as well as Alzheimer's and dementia patients. Unfortunately, the rights and needs of these individuals are often neglected in care homes, and they are cared for by untrained caregivers who treat them harshly or exclude them.

- **The Purpose of the Association**

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The Association of Elder Rights and Mental Health is a civil society organization that works to establish the necessary legal regulations, institutional infrastructure, and social awareness required to ensure that elderly individuals in need of care and individuals with mental health conditions in our country are cared for in a manner befitting human dignity. The purpose of this association is to improve the quality of life of the elderly and individuals with mental health conditions in our country. To achieve this aim, the activities to be carried out by the association are listed below.

ARTICLE 3: The Activities the Association Will Undertake to Fulfill Its Purpose

1. To lead efforts for the creation of necessary legal regulations to ensure that the building infrastructure, as well as the number and training of employees, of nursing homes, care homes, and day-care residential facilities that will be opened in our country for the care of the elderly and individuals with mental health conditions comply with European Union standards;

2. To ensure that elderly care homes are systematically inspected by state entities and that penal sanctions are imposed on those whose operations are found to be non-compliant;

3. To carry out various awareness-raising activities, give seminars, and develop projects in order to increase sensitivity toward the elderly and individuals with mental health conditions;

4. To organize informative seminars and social activities for middle-aged individuals in society to support active and healthy aging;

5. To develop projects that will enable internationally developed policies and standards regarding the improvement and diversification of social services provided to the elderly and individuals with mental health conditions to be implemented in our country;

6. To develop projects with relevant state institutions for the construction of separate, non-profit care homes for individuals with mental health conditions within the scope of social assistance;

7. To draft laws related to the association's objectives and/or contribute to such work and/or prepare proposals on these matters, submit these proposals to relevant institutions and organizations, and inform the public about developments;

8. To organize competitions and carry out or commission activities and/or research, award prizes or plaques, and publicize these activities to the public, in line with or to advance the association's stated objectives;

9. To organize income-generating activities such as concerts, excursions, balls, and charity bazaars in line with the association's objectives;

10. When necessary, to carry out joint projects on matters within the scope of duties of public institutions and organizations in order to achieve the association's objectives;

11. To rent, lease, sell, and purchase movable and/or immovable property needed for the association's activities.

12. To establish a foundation in line with the association's objectives, to open branches and representative offices domestically and abroad, to create platforms and join associations and organizations with similar purposes, to engage in international activities, to become a member of international associations and organizations, and to take part in activities and projects in cooperation with them;

13. To obtain all kinds of information, documents, data, and publications necessary to achieve its objectives, to establish a documentation center, and to publish newspapers, magazines, books, bulletins, or create a website in line with its objectives in order to publicize its work;

14. Provided that the necessary permissions are obtained, to conduct fundraising activities in order to achieve its objectives, and to accept donations from within the country and from abroad;

15. To engage in international activities related to the association's objectives, to become a member of foreign associations or organizations, and to carry out joint work or cooperation with these organizations.

ARTICLE 4: Founding Members (Names, Addresses, Occupations, ID Numbers, Phone Numbers, Signatures of Founding Members)

1. **Hatice Jenkins**
   Address: :Aykent Sokak, no:4, Bahçeler, İskele.
   Occupation: : Faculty Member / Academic
   ID No. : 2410061322
   Phone : (0533) 8574392
   Signature : :

2. **Semral Erel**
   Address: : Halken Yaşam Sitesi, No: 32, Tuzla, Gazimağusa.
   Occupation: : Civil servant

ID No. : 2410061322
Phone : (0533) 8574392
Signature :

3. **Emete Baylan**
Address: : Mehmet Ahmet Koççino Sok. No:6 Küçük Kaymaklı, Lefkoşa.
Occupation: : Civil servant
ID No. : 2050118940
Phone : (0533) 8649955
Signature :

4. **Emine Esen**
Address: : Onlar İnşaat Evleri No: 21 Kırlangıç Sok. Tuzla Gazimağusa
Occupation: : Civil servant
ID No. : 122044
Phone : 0533-8646143
Signature :

5. **Elif Senyücel**
Address: : Kentplus Sitesi No: 47 Da:6 Güvercinlik Kavşağı / Gazimağusa
Occupation: : Academician
ID No. : 1470308288
Phone : 0542-885 1452
Signature :

6. **Fatma Özgöker**
Address: : İçel Sokak, no 5A, Maraş, Gazimağusa
Occupation: : Physiotherapist
ID No. : 5320317264
Phone : 0533-8841810
Signature :

7. **Ayşe Özgöker**
Address: : İçel Sokak, no: 5A, Maraş, Gazimağusa
Occupation: : Dietitian
ID No. : 271732
Phone : 0533-8860795
Signature :

8. **İbrahim Çiçekseven**
Address: : Mehmet Akif Cad. No. 9, Yeniboğaziçi, Gazimağusa
Occupation: : Lawyer

ID No. : 3000243477
Phone : 0533-8733033
Signature :

ARTICLE 5: The Procedures and Principles for Opening Association Branches

In addition to the Association's headquarters, the decision to establish a branch when needed belongs to the Board of Directors. Decisions regarding the selection of the location to be used as a branch, as well as the renting and/or purchasing of the chosen location and ensuring its continuity, shall be determined by the Board of Directors before the branch is established. The general decision-making and voting procedures and principles of the Board of Directors shall apply to all decisions related to this matter.

ARTICLE 6: Conditions for Joining the Association, Resigning from Membership, and Dismissal from Membership

a) Conditions for Acceptance as a Member of the Association:

Real or legal persons who wish to become members of the Association shall fill out the Association Membership Application Form and submit it to the General Secretary of the Association together with the membership fee. Applications shall be concluded by the Board of Directors within no later than 30 days, and the decision shall be communicated to the applicant by text message, WhatsApp, or e-mail. The membership of an applicant whose application has been accepted shall be recorded in the membership register. Applications submitted without the membership fee shall not be evaluated and shall not be accepted.

Foreign nationals who have provided significant material or moral support to the Association may be accepted as honorary members.

b) Resignation from Membership:

Every member has the right to resign from the association, provided that they submit a written notice. Once the member's resignation letter reaches the Board of Directors, the resignation process is considered complete.

c) Dismissal from Membership

Cases requiring dismissal from association membership:

- Engaging in conduct contrary to the association's bylaws
- Persistently avoiding assigned duties
- Failing to comply with decisions issued by the association's governing bodies
- Losing the qualifications required for membership
- Causing material or moral harm to the association
- Failing to pay the membership fee for two consecutive years

If any of the above-mentioned situations are violated, the member may be dismissed from membership by a decision of the Board of Directors. Those who resign or are dismissed from the association are removed from the membership register. A real or legal person against whom such a decision has been taken shall be notified of this decision within no later than 10 days via telephone and/or e-mail and/or message and/or written notice. Real and legal persons whose membership has been terminated by the Association in this manner are obligated to settle their debts to the Association within no later than one week from the date they are notified of their dismissal.

The termination of founding members' memberships requires a General Assembly decision. For the dismissal of such individuals, one or more of the situations listed above must be identified by a Board of Directors decision, and the matter must be placed on the agenda of the General Assembly by the Board of Directors. A dismissal decision must then be taken in accordance with the General Assembly's decision-making procedures. Likewise, if the Disciplinary Committee concludes that a founding member has committed a disciplinary offense requiring dismissal from membership, it must notify the Board of Directors, and a General Assembly decision must be taken in accordance with the above principles.

ARTICLE 7: Association Membership Fees

The amount of the annual membership fee to be paid by members to the Association shall be determined by a decision of the Board of Directors within the first two weeks of each year, and this amount must be paid to the Association no later than April of that year.

Unless otherwise decided by the Board of Directors, individuals who become members of the Association at a later date shall be obliged to pay, in full and in advance, the annual fee determined by the Board of Directors for that year, regardless of the date and/or month in which they are registered as members.

If deemed necessary, the Board of Directors may decide that the determined membership fee shall remain valid for a period longer than one year.

ARTICLE 8: The Manner and Timing of the General Assembly Meetings; Duties and Powers; Voting and Decision-Making Procedures; and the Method of Calling the General Assembly to Meeting

The Association's ordinary General Assembly convenes every two years in the month of October upon the invitation of the Board of Directors. The meeting venue, date, time, and agenda shall be announced at least 10 days prior to the meeting date by publishing an announcement on social media or in a daily newspaper published in the TRNC. This situation shall also be notified in writing to the District Governorship of the district where the Association's headquarters is located no later than one week before the General Assembly.

The General Assembly is held with the participation of members who are present and who have fulfilled their obligations, and decisions are taken based on a qualified majority of votes. Guest members and those who owe membership fees from the previous year are not included in the quorum. In the event of a tie in voting, the vote of the General Assembly chairperson shall be decisive.

Only the matters included in the announced agenda shall be discussed in the General Assembly. However, subjects not included in the announced agenda may also be added to the agenda and discussed at the General Assembly if at least one-third of the members present at the meeting request it.

General Assembly meetings are opened by the Chairperson of the Board of Directors, or if the Chairperson is not present, by the Vice Chairperson, or if neither is present, by the senior-most Board member available. Following this, a chairperson and two clerks are elected to conduct the General Assembly meeting.

The Duties and Powers of the General Assembly

16. Discussing the reports of the Board of Directors and the Supervisory Board, and granting discharge to the Board of Directors;

17. Discussing and approving the budget prepared by the Board of Directors, either as presented or with amendments;

18. Amending the association's bylaws;

19. Electing the association's governing bodies;

20. Selling existing immovable property and/or authorizing the Board of Directors on this matter;

21. Dissolving the association;

22. Electing international association delegates;

23. Determining and/or amending the procedures and rules concerning the form, printing, and certification of documents to be used for collecting association revenues;

24. Performing other duties specified in legislation and in the association's bylaws as tasks of the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 9: Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting – Convening, Invitation, Quorum, and Decision-Making Procedure

An extraordinary General Assembly shall be convened either by a decision of the Board of Directors, or if more than half of the members of the Association who have the right to vote submit a written request to the Board of Directors, or in the event that more than half of the Board of Directors resigns, or upon the Supervisory Board detecting an irregularity. It shall be conducted in accordance with the rules specified in Article 6 and under the same procedures and principles.

ARTICLE 10: The Duties, Powers, and Formation Procedures of the Association's Board of Directors and Governing Bodies:

The representative body of the Association is the Board of Directors.

The Chairperson and members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by open ballot for a period of 2 years by the members participating in the General Assembly. Members participating in the General Assembly shall vote separately for the Board Chairperson and separately for the Board members. Among the candidates for Chairperson, the candidate who receives the highest number of votes shall be elected as the Chairperson of the Board of Directors. Among the candidates for Board membership, the 16 individuals receiving the highest number of votes shall become principal (full) members of the Board, and 8 individuals shall become substitute members. In the event of any temporary and/or permanent vacancy among the principal members, the current Board of Directors shall appoint one of the substitute members as a principal member according to the order of seniority; this member shall hold all rights and authorities of the member they replace until the end of the relevant term.

Candidates for the position of Board Chairperson may also run for Board membership. If such a candidate is elected as Chairperson, then during the calculation of votes for Board membership, the votes received by the elected Chairperson shall not be taken into account when determining the Board members.

Those elected to the Board of Directors shall, by mutual agreement or, in the absence of agreement, by secret ballot, designate one Vice Chairperson, one General Secretary, and one Treasurer.

Duties and Powers of the Chairperson of the Board of Directors;

1. The Chairperson presides over and conducts meetings of the Board of Directors;
2. Leads efforts to ensure that the Association fulfills its objectives as a unified organization;
3. Ensures that activities are carried out through a division of tasks among Board Members;
4. Calls meetings of the governing bodies when deemed necessary and presides over them;
5. Represents and manages the Association in accordance with the rules of the Board of Directors;
6. In case of a tie during voting, the Chairperson's vote shall be decisive;
7. In the event of the Chairperson's resignation for any reason, or if the number of Board Members falls below the required quorum, or in the event of the Chairperson's death, an Extraordinary General Assembly shall be convened within no later than 30 days.

Duties and Powers of the Vice Chairperson of the Board of Directors:

In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson assumes and fulfills the Chairperson's duties and powers. The Vice Chairperson coordinates the Board members to ensure the implementation of Board decisions. They develop collaborations with other institutions and workplaces in line with the Association's objectives. In the absence of the Vice Chairperson, the General Secretary assumes and fulfills these duties and powers.

Duties and Powers of the General Secretary:

1. Coordinates with members to determine the date, venue, and time of all association meetings, announces the meetings, and reserves the meeting room.

2. Records the decisions taken during meetings in the decision register and in electronic files, and carries out all official correspondence of the association.

3. Organizes and safeguards the association's documents and seal; prepares and maintains the membership register.

4. In line with the association's cash needs, the General Secretary is authorized to withdraw funds from the association's bank account with dual signatures together with any one of the following three officials: the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson, or the Treasurer.

Duties and Powers of the Treasurer (Responsible for Financial Affairs)

1. Manages the association's financial affairs and banking transactions;

2. Records the association's income and expenses in an orderly manner in electronic form, maintains financial documents, and prepares the year-end balance sheet;

3. Prepares the budget for the next term in line with the proposals of the Chairperson and the Board of Directors, and submits it to the Board for approval;

4. Makes payments in accordance with decisions of the Board of Directors and the Chairperson, reviews and signs accounting vouchers related to payments, and deposits collected membership fees and donations into the association's bank account;

5. No payments may be made without the signature of the Treasurer;

6. In line with the association's cash needs, the Treasurer is authorized to withdraw funds from the association's bank account with dual signatures together with any one of the following association officials: the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson, or the General Secretary;

7. Presents accounting records for review by members of the Board of Directors and the Supervisory Board upon request.

Duties and Responsibilities of the Board of Directors;

1. Represents the association or authorizes one or more members of the Board of Directors to do so;

2. Examines the association's income/expense accounts and balance sheet, makes recommendations regarding the budget for the upcoming term, determines membership fees, and develops strategies for fundraising;

3. Makes decisions regarding the association's participation in or withdrawal from international associations;

4. Is responsible for carrying out other tasks and exercising the powers assigned to it by the association's bylaws and relevant legislation;

5. Board members are obligated to attend all meetings. If they fail to attend three consecutive meetings without a valid excuse, their Board membership shall be terminated by a decision of the Disciplinary Board;

6. If, due to vacancies, the number of Board members falls below half of the total number of members, the current Board of Directors must convene a General Assembly within one month.

Formation and Duties of the Supervisory Board;

The General Assembly elects 2 principal members and 1 substitute member from among its members to the Supervisory Board. The elected members shall choose one among themselves as Chairperson by secret ballot. This board shall carry out its supervisory duties twice a year in accordance with the principles and procedures established in the association's bylaws, and shall present the results in a report to the General Assembly.

Formation and Duties of the Disciplinary Board;

The General Assembly elects 3 principal members and 1 substitute member from among its members to the Disciplinary Board. The elected members shall choose one among themselves as Chairperson by open or secret ballot.

1. The Disciplinary Board investigates and resolves any disputes and/or disciplinary matters that arise among association members upon written application by either of the parties involved or by the Board of Directors.

2. In cases where association members display inappropriate attitudes and/or behaviors toward each other or toward the association's administration, and/or act contrary to the association's objectives and/or fields of activity, and/or engage in behaviors that harm the order and/or harmony of the Association and/or its assets, and/or cause any form of damage to the Association, the Disciplinary Board is authorized to decide on the member's dismissal from the Association and/or impose any other sanction deemed appropriate.

3. The requirement for a General Assembly decision regarding the dismissal of founding members remains reserved. The decisions of the Disciplinary Board are final.

Election of members to the two bodies mentioned above shall be carried out by open ballot, and votes may only be cast for as many candidates as there are principal (full) member positions. In determining results, the candidates with the highest votes are designated as principal members in descending order, and thereafter, substitute members are designated according to their ranking. In the event of a tie among candidates with the lowest votes for principal membership, a drawing of lots shall be conducted. The winner becomes the principal member, and the other candidate shall be selected as a substitute member.

Formation and Duties of the Association's Advisory Board:

The Association's Advisory Board aims to strengthen the participation of elderly individuals in decision-making processes, make elderly individuals more visible within society, and contribute to the work of the Association.

The Advisory Board shall consist of no fewer than 8 and no more than 15 members. Members shall be active and productive individuals aged 80 and over, and shall serve for a term of two years upon the invitation of the Board of Directors. Through media channels and various activities, Advisory Board members create public awareness regarding the rights of the elderly and mental health. They also present their views and recommendations to the Board of Directors concerning the needs of elderly individuals and people with mental health conditions, as well as current issues in society. The Advisory Board convenes at times deemed necessary upon invitation by the Chairperson.

ARTICLE 11: Rules Regarding the Format of Documents to Be Used for Collecting Association Revenues, and Their Printing and Certification

Membership fees and donations to the Association shall be collected by issuing Membership Fee Receipts and Donation Receipts. These receipts shall be printed at a printing house

authorized and certified by the tax office. Other rules regarding the format of these documents and the procedures for their printing and certification shall be determined by the General Assembly.

Revenues and Expenses of the Association;

1. The revenues of the Association consist of membership fees, participation and contribution fees, donations and grants, revenues obtained from association activities, revenues derived from association assets, assistance received from public institutions and organizations through banks, and other lawful revenues.

2. The Association may incur expenditures for the establishment and operation of branches and representative offices, the acquisition, maintenance, and improvement of movable and immovable property, the payment of salaries and other allowances of employees, and in general for the purpose of fulfilling and promoting its objectives.

3. The revenues of the Association shall be collected using a "receipt," and expenditures shall be made using supporting documents such as invoices, retail sales slips, or professional service receipts. If association revenues are collected through banks, documents such as bank statements or account summaries shall serve as receipts. However, each receipt issued in return for collected donations must be stamped by the District Governorship.

4. The Association shall conduct its fundraising activities in accordance with the rules of the law governing street and door-to-door fundraising.

5. Individuals authorized to collect the Association's revenues shall be designated by decision of the Board of Directors, and an authorization certificate shall be issued in their name.

ARTICLE 12: Dissolution of the Association and Procedures and Rules for the Liquidation of Assets in the Event of Dissolution

The dissolution of the Association is only possible by a decision of the General Assembly and with the affirmative vote of two-thirds of its members. In the event that the Association is disbanded or dissolved, all of its assets, after the completion of liquidation procedures, shall be

transferred in equal shares to a charitable organization and/or charitable organizations to be determined by the General Assembly. The dissolution decision shall be announced to the public by publication in a local newspaper printed in the TRNC. Within 15 days from the date of the General Assembly decision, a financial report showing the financial status of the Association shall be submitted to the District Governorship.

ARTICLE 13: Procedures and Rules Regarding Amendments to the Association's Bylaws

1. Matters related to amendment of the bylaws and dissolution may only be discussed at the General Assembly and only if they are included on the agenda announced in the General Assembly invitation.

2. In order to take a decision regarding dissolution, more than half of the registered members who have fulfilled their obligations must be present at the first meeting. Decisions shall be taken with the approval of two-thirds of the members present.

3. If the required quorum is not reached at the first meeting, the second meeting shall be opened with the members who are present. However, a dissolution decision shall still require the approval of two-thirds of those present.

4. Decisions related to amendment of the bylaws shall be taken with the approval of more than half of the registered members present at the meeting who have fulfilled their obligations.

ARTICLE 14: Internal Audit Procedures and Methods of the Association

1. The Association's expenditures are regulated by the Board of Directors. Payments up to 20% of the minimum wage shall be made under the joint signatures and joint responsibility of the Chairperson and the Treasurer. Larger expenditures shall be made only upon a formal decision of the Board of Directors.

2. All funds of the Association shall be deposited into a bank, and payments shall be made by bank transfer, cash, or check, against supporting documents such as receipts or invoices.

3. Association revenues shall be collected using counterfoil, serial-numbered receipts.

4. The Association shall maintain the following decision books, files, and records:

I. Membership Register
II. General Assembly and Board of Directors Decision Book
III. Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence Book
IV. Income and Expense Records
V. Budget, Final Accounts, and Balance Sheet Records
VI. Fixed Assets Register

All of these books may be kept in electronic form on computers, either in whole or in part.

ARTICLE 13: Other Cases

For matters not specified in these bylaws, the Associations Law No. 23/2016 in force in the TRNC shall apply.