



PRIORAT TAL-KAVALLIERI TEMPLARI - MALTA

The International Association of Knights Templar Orders.

Created and Founded by
The Knights Templars of Albion
and
The Sovereign Priory
PRIORAT TAL-KAVALLIERI TEMPLARI -
MALTA.

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Introduction

All parties that sign this documentation must understand the terminology used in terms of Association. Association refers to:

“A group of people organized for a joint purpose.”

The following document will try and explain how an Association operates and how to create best practice to ensure that a democratic process is adhered to by all the parties that pertain to become a part of the Association.

The Purpose of the Association:

- To share best practice.
- To improve communication between tKnights Templar Orders.
- To promote the Association internationally.
- To meet on an annual basis at an organised Conference.
- To organize events and invite the others to become members of the Association.
- To discuss and vote upon innovative ideas and suggestions brought forward by the Association’s representatives attending the conferences arranged.
- To improve the understanding of how each Member Order operates and to share relevant documentation to set up a central archive accessible to Grand Masters and other sanctioned persons.
- To invite other orders to join the Association once order has been vetted according to an agreed process.

Structure and organization

Grand Masters:

1. All Sovereign Orders have their own individual Grand Master who is the head of their own respective Order. As members of the Association no Grand Master or any Orders hold jurisdiction over any other Grand Master or Member Order regardless of history, size or member body numbers. Every Grand Master of each member Order is deemed to be the same level of standing and respect.

Sovereignty:

2. Due to the nature of the individual Orders their sovereignty must be maintained. Each Order has freely entered into the Association and the representatives of the Orders who attend the conferences must understand the limitations of their authority in terms of their relationship with the other Grand Masters and Member Orders.

Structure:

3. Each Order has its own identifiable structure and set of constitutional rules although guided by the Templar Constitution of 1127-1129 and the Latin Rule laid down by Bernard de Clairvaux.

This again has to be recognised by the Association Members and documentation can be shared only to show other Grand Masters nominated persons the guiding rules and principles of any of the other Order Members or those applying for Membership.

Who represents Orders at Association meetings:

Each Order who joins the Association must have representation – this would be on the basis that nominated persons would be expected to hold a rank or position that allows permission for them to be able to speak on behalf of their Order and vote with clarity and permission of said Member Order.

Example of those expected to be nominated are:

- ❖ Grand Master
- ❖ Ruling Officer (or second in command)
- ❖ A third person who can be from any rank within the Order to act as an interpreter, scribe or voice in the absence of other nominated persons.

Membership levels

Two Level Membership

Full Members:

These are orders that have signed up for full membership of the Association and as such sit jointly alongside all other full members of the Association in any decision making process that effects the Association and or in day to organisation.

Associate members:

- 1) Associate Members are Orders that have applied to join but it is deemed by the Full Member Orders that they may need to enhance themselves in some way to warrant the status of advancing to Full Member status.
- 2) Orders that wish to enhance themselves by being Associated with the Association but feel they do not need to be a Full Member Order and do not wish any voting powers within the Association.

Any Order that wishes to become an Associate Order will be expected to provide the following (in full or in part) and have nominated representatives in the same vein as Full Member Orders.

1. Constitution, Order Oath, A copy of their Order structure
2. A document outlining the history of the Order including evidence of investitures that have been held.
3. A document outlining why they wish to become a Full Member of the Association.

Vetting protocols for member inclusions:

Any prospective new Order Member must be agreed by the Full Order Members and or the level they should be granted membership.

All Full Member Orders should have the right to a free say on the inclusion of any prospective new member so as to ensure that all Member Orders are in agreement or are able to voice any reservations placed forwards upon the prospective Member. No individual Order Member can grant right of access to any prospective Order.

Documentation Filing, Storage and Availability:

As prospective Member Orders apply to join and the submit documentation this needs to be placed in a central archive.

This will be available to all Full Member Orders upon request.

As the Association progresses it will be expected that more documentation will be produced. This will be held in electronic storage in accordance with GDPR regulations.

Implementation of the Association

The Association is not the birth of some new Confederation or Magisterium or a super Order with one person presiding over all. It is a democratic organisation aligning like minded Orders to allow collaborative working and a unified voice.

Historically Confederations and other quasi collaborations have been tried in the past but all failed due to a number of simple factors namely:

- Who will head these collective Orders
- What is the power given to the head of these Confederations.
- What powers are stripped from the Orders that join
- The loss of Sovereignty of Orders once they have joined.

The solution is relatively simple. The Association has a chairman to preside over the meeting and a scribe to take notes. A new Chairman can be chosen for the next conference at the end of the conference agenda.

How will this works:

- After the Chairman has been chosen for the current conference, each Order will state which topics they wish to be discussed and an agenda can be set. The Orders will then have adequate time to prepare for the next Conference and the new elected Chairman will prepare that conference.
- The topic or proposal will then be put forward by each order to be voted on. For the proposal suggestions etc to be implemented there must be a unanimous vote. If the proposal does not get a unanimous vote, those who voted against it will be given a specified time to give their reasons. The Order will then be asked to specify if they are happy to make amendments and then present those amendments to go for a second vote, or do they wish to remove the proposal from the table. This is democratic and follows a democratic procedure.
- With regards to issues the Association headquarters/office this will be with the PRIORAT TAL-KAVALLIERI TEMPLARI - MALTA. However each Member Order will be able to host a Conference should they wish and place that wish before the members for approval.

Democracy reins:

The Association is to remain a Democratic Organisation and as such each Member Order will take a turn acting as Chairman on a rotational basis. This enable all Member Orders to take a turn to be Chairman and or host.

The Chairman has no powers over any other member or Order, they are their to help maintain Order and harmony, organise meetings and or voting, take notes to be issued to file and for the period of their Chairmanship maintain Democracy throughout the Association.

Standards:

- During Conferences a dress code and standard shall be observed. The dress code is based on formal attire and each Grand Master is also expected to wear his Orders Mantle to identify the order he represents. This will be the same for all the Orders nominated persons.
- The reasoning behind this proposal is to bring together the Templar Community to create ONE BROTHERHOOD as it was before but still remaining as independent and Sovereign Orders.
- As Templar Orders we have the Croix Pattee, we have the Beauceant, we have a constitution, what we do not have is unity between Sovereign Orders. As part of this and to show unity and collaboration all Full Member Orders are invited to fly their personal Order flags when they are acting as Chairman.

Section two, the workings of an Association

The following will highlight the way an Association needs to operate
Each of the following are things that need to be observed as the standard way of working.

Voting Procedure

- Each Order will have one vote Pories associated with any given Order do not in their own right have a vote and must collaborate amongst each other to pass their views to their Grand Master and or those chosen to represent the Order they are affiliated with at the annual meeting.
- It will be the role of the Chairman to announce the decision and the outcome of the votes cast.
- If a motion is rejected it can return to the table with amendments to be re-voted upon. (This point explained in more detail below)
- If an Order is unable to decide for or against, they can abstain from the voting on that particular issue but will have to abide by the outcome of the other Orders that voted. They can ask for amendments to be made.
- No Proposals can be put forward to the Association that will impact upon the individual sovereignty or internal structure of any of the Member Orders as these are issues that can not be voted upon.
- Associate Orders will not have the right to vote at the annual conference, they are however invited to pass comments and recommendations for the Full Members to consider during conferencing.
- Full voting rights are only held by Full Member Orders as they have passed the criteria to be recognised as members and have signed the required documentation.
- Any vote will be cast as a secret ballot on paper with two boxes yes or no with the proposal or motion to be written in brief on the top of the voting slip or open ballot depending on the nature of the topic, which will be by a show of hands with again one arm raised from each Order or the chairman to ask the Grand Masters present yes or no and for the chairman to count the responses. If the vote is equal for and against the motion an opportunity will be given for further discussion and then a second vote will be taken as before.

The Role of the Chairman

- Each Order will on a rotational basis be given the opportunity to put forward a representative of that Order to hold the position of Chairman for a 2 year period. This person should be the Grand Master unless he is unable to attend then the next senior ranked Officer or other representative of the Order will take his place so that the order does not forgo its right to hold the Chair if the Grand Master is absent
- The Chairman will be responsible for maintaining Order during annual meetings and to make certain that proceedings follow the pre agreed order of discussions and topics.
- The Chairman will not be able to vote in his own right but can obviously discuss with his Order how he wishes to vote.
- The Chairman will have the authority to stop proceedings if he feels that it is necessary.
- The Chairman will formally start the meeting and read out the Order of events.
- The Chairman will officially close the meeting.
- The Chairman will make certain that individuals are given equal time to present their views to those Orders present.
- The Chairman is not expected to answer any questions asked regarding the motion from other members present as this is not his role and could bias proceedings. In the same respect the Chairman is not allowed to ask questions of those that have spoken as again this could place bias on the eventual voting to be carried out.

The Role of Full Member Orders

- To meet and discuss the way forwards for the Templar community
- To evaluate Orders that wish to become members of the Association and the level at which they should be permitted to join.
- To look at and evaluate how Orders can work together on international projects and areas where the Templar Community can aid and assist those in need.
- To look at helping others Orders with their status and being.
- To work as a single unit where possible on Charity Projects headed by the Association and placed before the Association.

- To act as permanent representatives to the Association to the benefit of the Association and the workings thereof.
- To help ensure that other member Orders do not bring the Association name into disrepute.

Role and governance of Associate Members:

- Associate members will not be recognised as full members of the Association.
- An associate Order will be one that the Member Orders of the association feel meets certain requirements for example an elected Grand Master but still needs guidance to be recognised as a Templar Order in its own right. The Associate Order might need to produce evidence of the following.
 1. An established commandery or Order Council that meets on a regular Basis.
 2. Acceptable vetting process and application procedure for new members.
 3. Proven and structured training for new recruits to be accepted as Novices or Apostles of the Order.
 4. Established and written Order Constitution that is based upon the original teachings of St Bernard and the 1127-1129 Constitution that includes the Latin Rule and clear and detailed rules on behaviour and Clearly specified Order Structure including Ranks and the expected duty of each rank.
 5. The Associate Order will be expected to create its own identifiable Logo and have a recognised and formal process in place for Investiture. Only Invested Grand Masters will be recognised as having the legitimate right to hold that rank as per Templar Constitutional Rule.
 6. Associate Orders will be sponsored by one of the orders from the main body of the association. It will be that Full Member Orders responsibility to monitor the Associate Order and when the Order is satisfied that the Associate Order is ready, they can put them forward to become a full Full member of the Association. To become a full member the vote must be unanimous.
 7. Associate Orders will be expected to have a representative attend (of a ranked title presumably the Grand Masters) to any annual conference to observe and learn from the proceedings they witness.

8. Associate Orders will be issued with a Associate Member badge that can be worn at meetings to show their status.

9. Associate Orders will be expected to understand and follow within the modern context the basic Constitutional Rules and practices of a Knights Templar.

10. Any associate Order has the right to remain as an Associate Order if they so wish.

Those that aspire to become full members of the Association will be given guidance on how to do this.

11. Any associate Order that brings the Templar community into disrepute or is found to uphold and promote racist views, or breaches confidentiality and Data protection rules will be removed from not only the privileges set out for associate members, but also a notification will be sent out to the wider Templar community notifying them that the said order is and will not ever be recognised as a Knights Templar Order by the International Association of Knights Templar Orders.

Right to withdraw:

Any Order or associate Order has the right to withdraw from the Association.

- Any associate Order that withdraws from its position must not publicly attack the Association or Make slanderous comments about any other associate order or Order of the Association or any individual members.

- If an associate Order wishes to withdraw a written statement must be presented to the main body of the Association giving reasons for this decision. Once this document has been received All Grand Masters of the Association will sign a document acknowledging the associate orders wish to withdraw. A statement will then be made stating that the associate order no longer holds that status and is no longer associated in any manner with the International Association of Templar Orders.

- If a full member Order wishes to leave the Association the same process is to be followed. The process of withdrawal or resignation will also include the GM beeing given the opportunity if he so wishes to explain during an annual meeting why his Order wishes to leave.

- All conflicts of interest should be resolved before an associate or full member of the association gets to the point where they feel they need to leave. It will be the Grand Masters responsibility to inform other members of the Association if he or

members of his Order have any problems with the way the Association is run as it is important to make certain that all concerned feel they have a voice that will be heard.

- The right to withdraw must be honoured and no Order is to be forced to remain a member of the Association if they no longer want to be guided by its principles as this is part of the democratic ethos of the association.

Data Protection:

Each country have slightly different laws regarding data protection. This will be noticeable regarding EU and Non-EU members.

- Each Order has the right to hold its own data of its own individual members on its own data base. It is not the duty of any Order that is a member of the Association to share data regarding individual membership relating to personal data or membership numbers of their specific Order to any other Order.
- If any of those whose information is contained within the data base withdraw from the Association their personal details must be deleted.
- Any individual has the right to share his personal details with any other member for reasons of communication and if this is given freely it does not break Data Protection Laws.
- If an individual knowingly shares the information stored on the central data base to another individual or on a public forum without the permission of those concerned, he or she could be prosecuted under the UKs data protection laws. This serious breach of confidentiality could if found to have been done maliciously lead to that individuals expulsion from the Association and the Order will also implement its own disciplinary proceedings. This applies to all ranks even the Grand Masters.
- All discussions held at annual meetings and individuals' views are to be kept to the confides of the Associations members. This information can be passed down to the other members of the Associations Orders as they are all bound by the same Oath of loyalty to their Order and not to discuss Order business with a third party which is a breach of confidentiality.
- At each meeting of the Associations members, one person will be given the duty to record the minuets of the meeting and these minuets will be made available to those that attended so that records can be kept not only for clarification but also to refer to in the future. These written records are also data protected and must not be shared with any third party or electronically reproduced for general reading on any media platform.

The Associations relationship with other bodies.

Being a member of the Association does not mean that an individual forgoes his or her right to become a Citizen of a body such as Templar Nation. Templar Nations proclaimed role is to promote the Templar movement and to work towards international recognition by the UN.

Being a member of the International Association of Templar Orders does however mean that it could be seen to be a conflict of interest to become a member of another Magisterium or Confederation where by your Sovereignty is diluted into the realms of a governing body.

If any Member Order should unify with another Order to become one Order then a conflict of interest would arise and one of those respected Orders would need to denounce their membership in respect of their governing Order.

Why only one Association?

- It is not practical to be aligned to more than one association due to not only commitment of time but also in terms of practicality.
- There only needs to be one Association as it needs to be developed on an international scale.
- All Orders who are part of the Association will have agreed to abide by the document that is to be signed and thus cannot sign another Association document as this would cause a conflict of interest.
- The principles set out for the guidance of the Association cover all aspects of what an association is hence not more than one association would ever be in reality able to function as it would be a distraction to the original association.

Role of the Grand Masters

- The main role of the Grand Master is to attend all Association meetings and functions to represent the interests of his Order. He will attend the meetings with his Ruling Officer and one other.
- The Grand Master only has authority over his own Order and does not have any authority over any other Order that is a member of the Association.

- All Grand Masters are equal in status as is in line with the democratic principles of the Association.
- Grand Masters will network with each other on a regular basis for the development and benefit of all members of the Association.
- The Grand Master must fully understand the principles of the Association and be a signatory on the original document of association to be signed and co signed as witness by his chosen second in command or nominated person.
- The Grand Master must also fully understand what is expected of him when he is chairman and must abide by the accepted principles of this role and in no way have a biased or judgemental view of the opinions discussed at the meetings.
- The Grand Master will at all times conduct himself in accordance with his rank as he acts as the Ambassador for the Order and must be seen to be working within the parameters of his authority for the benefit of his Order and the Association in general.
- If the Grand Master does not act according to his role the Order he is Grand Master of has the right to call his behaviour to Order and disciplinary procedures can be implemented according to the Orders written documentation. Only the Order he is Grand Master of can implement this process as the Association fundamental principle is the sovereignty of each order with the right to self-governance without interference.

The role of Priories:

A priory is a satellite body of the main Order that is based in another country. It is usually administered by a Grand Prior who is answerable to the Grand Master.

- Each Priory can be represented by the attendance of the Grand Prior at the annual meetings.
- Each Grand Prior will be able to contribute to that Orders discussion but does not have the right to an individual vote.
- Only the Order headed by the Grand Master has the right to a single vote on each proposal put forward.
- If for example an Order has five priories this does not mean they get five votes plus the vote of the Main Body of the Order. They only get one vote.
- Each Grand Prior will be able to bring to the table the views of his priory.

- Due to the language differences for example English, Italian and French any discussions will need to be interpreted and it is advised that the main Language spoken and documentation to be written in primarily English and Italian.
- If priory cannot attend a meeting it is the duty of the Grand Prior to relay to his Grand Master the views of his priory on the proposals/mandates that will be voted on.
- Each priory is bound by the outcome of the vote in the same way each Order is also bound by the outcome of the vote that is held according to the principles set out.
- Each Grand Prior is responsible for communicating and networking with other grand priors both from within and external to his Order. This develops a healthy and constructive working relationship where new and innovative ideas can be discussed and implemented if agreed upon at the annual meeting.

A new direction for the Templar Community

It is well known that over the years many Confederations etc have been tried and none have ever really succeeded – one of the primary reasons for this is a breach of the Democratic Process and the seeming loss of individual Sovereignty and Status.

The above proposal represents a way forwards to unite the Templar Community in a many that ensures no Orders losses its individuality and Sovereignty while enabling Knights Templar Orders a chance to be part of a unity of equals with unification towards common goals.

Every Full Member Orders sits as equals at a table of like minded persons representing their individual Order. No Order above any other. Managed by a Chairman on rotation so that all Full Member Orders gain the same chance to hold the chair as any other with no Grand Master above any other. With each chair having access to the pre selected cross order Committee who will be there to maintain all admin duties and maintain a process of information for the Association.

With branding dedicated to the two levels of entry it creates a chance for all Orders across the globe to look at being a member and having the ability to display their membership to further the cause of the Association.

By creating a NON single hierarchy structure it should be easier to persuade like minded Orders to join the journey, by creating a simple price point for yearly membership based at two levels it should help create an Association based on the greater good rather than singular status, greed or financial gain. With the object being the greater good maintenance of sovereignty and individual integrity the possibilities are endless.

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The Knights Templars of Albion look forwards to hearing from you.



Working to a united Knights Templar Community