



Constitution of Shree Kutch Satsang Swaminarayan Temple (Mandir), London

Affiliated to Shree Swaminarayan Temple of Bhuj, Kutch, India

This document is to be read in conjunction with Appendix 1

1 Name

- (a) The name of the temple shall be Shree Kutch Satsang Swaminarayan Temple (Mandir), London herein after referred to as 'The Temple'.
- (b) Its registered office for the time being, is Westfield Lane, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex HA3 9EA.
- (c) As the devotees of 'The Temple' are spiritually guided and directed by Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Bhuj, Kutch, India, The Temple will be affiliated to Shree Swaminarayan Temple of Bhuj, Kutch, India (known as Shree Nar Narayan Dev Temple).

2 Aims and Objectives

The objectives of The Temple shall be to advance and propagate the Hindu Religion according to the teachings of Lord Shree Swaminarayan, and in furtherance of that objective 'The Temple' shall be empowered as follows:

- (a) to distribute and disseminate knowledge concerning the teachings
- (b) to promote any charitable purpose in connection with The Temple
- (c) to advance the cultural interest of the devotees of The Temple
- (d) to establish, maintain and manage a centre or centres for activities promoted by The Temple to further any of the objectives contained herein
- (e) to obtain, collect and receive money and funds by way of contributions, donations, subscriptions, grants and any other lawful means and to accept and receive gifts of property of any description (whether or not it is subject to any trust) and use such money, funds and property to further any objectives contained herein

The Temple shall have power to establish a branch or branches of The Temple in any part of the United Kingdom and to make such rules and regulations as may be deemed necessary for the management of such a branch or branches.

3 Membership

- (a) Only those who follow the preaching of the saints of Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Bhuj, Kutch, India or those who are followers of either the Nar Narayan Dev diocese (Dharam Dhura) or Laxmi Narayan Dev diocese (Dharam Dhura) shall be entitled to be members. Each member shall be bound to follow the commands of the Shikshapatri. The qualifying age for membership shall be eighteen years of age and above.
- (b) If any member indulges or has indulged in any activity which is detrimental to The Temple and whose conduct is derogatory to the faith and who does not observe the five fundamentals or Nishkamadik Pancha Vartman, would be disqualified and dismissed from the membership; but this dismissal will depend upon a three-quarter majority from those members present.
- (c) All members shall pay such subscriptions as may be determined from time to time by the Executive Committee, provided that any member aged sixty years or over shall be eligible for free membership.

4 Officers

- (a) **Honorary Officers:** The General Meeting of The Temple members shall elect a President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Joint Treasurer and other such honorary officers as it may require for the proper conduct of The Temple's activities. Such honorary officers must be able to approach and discuss religious matters with Saints (Sadhus) or Acharyas of Swaminarayan Sampraday. All honorary officers shall hold their post for a one-year term.
- (b) **Paid Employees:** The Temple shall have power to appoint and dismiss any paid employee as the Executive Committee may determine.

5 Executive Committee

- (a) The day-to-day management of The Temple shall be vested in the Executive Committee under the overriding authority of the General Meeting.
- (b) The Executive Committee shall comprise the honorary officers as defined in 4 (a) above, and eleven members elected by and from members as defined in 3 above, at the General Meeting.
- (c) The Executive Committee has to work and act in accordance with the rules and regulations of The Temple and also with the mandate which it may receive from time to time from the General Meeting or Special Meeting, and no one has to interfere in its work or its activities.
- (d) If the Executive Committee works or acts in contravention of 5 (c) above, or the Temple trust, then a Special Meeting shall be convened and the advice of the members shall be taken accordingly.

- (e) The Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional members who shall be members of The Temple, provided that the total number of members co-opted does not exceed one third of the total committee members elected. Co-opted members shall not have the right to vote in the Executive Committee.
- (f) All members of the Executive Committee shall retire annually, but shall be eligible for re-election or nomination as a co-opt member.
- (g) The Executive Committee shall have power to appoint such sub-committees as it may from time to time determine. Such committees shall operate with delegated authority and terms of reference.
- (h) The Executive Committee shall meet at least once every three months and notice of every such meeting shall be sent to all members of the Executive Committee at least seven days before the date of the meeting.
- (i) The Holding Trustees shall be entitled to attend any meeting of the Executive Committee.
- (j) The proceedings of the Executive Committee shall not be invalidated by any vacancy among their number or by any failure to appoint or any defect in the appointment or qualification of a member.
- (k) A member of the Executive Committee shall cease to hold office if he or she is disqualified from acting as a member of the Executive Committee by virtue of section 72 of the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision).
- (l) No person shall be entitled to act as a member of the Executive Committee whether on a first or any subsequent entry into office until after signing in the minute book of the Executive Committee a declaration of acceptance and willingness to act in the trusts of the Temple.

6 Qualification of the Voters

Only those member devotees of either the Nar Narayan Dev or Laxmi Narayan Dev dioceses who have contributed to the funds of The Temple by way of physical and mental labour i.e., Seva, Tun, Mun and Dhan, and will be regularly attending the religious rites, festivals and preachings shall be entitled to vote at the General or Special General Meeting. The ultimate discretion to vote shall remain vested with the Executive Committee.

7 Treasurer

- (a) The treasurer of The Temple shall keep proper records and accounts and a list of inventory such as furniture, utensils etc. that are the property of The Temple.
- (b) The librarian shall be in charge of the religious books and magazines of The Temple.S
- (c) The Kothari (Cashier) may receive funds and donations on a daily basis and maintain records on behalf of the treasurer.
- (d) The treasurer may keep up to £501 (five hundred and one pounds sterling) for petty expenses, but all other monies should be banked in The Temple's authorised bank.

8 Finance and Management

- (a) The Executive Committee in pursuit of the faith and teachings of Lord Shree Swaminarayan shall determine the propagation of the funds, to further the aims and objectives of The Temple.
- (b) The Executive Committee shall comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that Act).
- (c) If the Executive Committee or Sub-Committee or the Holding Trustees incur any expenditure to further the aims and objectives of The Temple, then The Temple will reimburse any out-of-pocket expenses from its income but any personal expenses would have to be borne by the members themselves.
- (d) The funds of The Temple, including all donations, subscriptions, grants and contributions and bequests, shall be paid into an account operated by the Executive Committee in the name of The Temple at such bank as the Executive Committee shall from time to time decide. All cheques drawn on the account shall be signed by any two Honorary Officers.
- (e) The accounts of The Temple should be audited annually by external auditors as appointed by the Executive Committee. The accounts will normally cover the financial year from the first day of January to the thirty-first day of December.
- (f) The Executive Committee will submit the audited statement of accounts and annual return for the last financial year to the General Meeting. After approval, also send a copy to the Charity Commissioner.
- (g) No member of the Executive Committee shall acquire any interest in property belonging to the Temple (otherwise than as a Holding Trustee of the Temple) or receive remuneration or be personally interested in any contract entered into by the Temple.

9 General Meeting

The Executive Committee shall call a General Meeting, which all members of The Temple shall be entitled to attend. The purpose of the General Meeting shall be:

- (a) To confirm the minutes of the previous General Meeting.
- (b) To receive the report of the Executive Committee.
- (c) To receive and approve the audited statement of accounts.
- (d) To present the budget for the following year.
- (e) To elect a new Executive Committee in accordance with clause 4 and 5 (b).
- (f) To vote on any proposal to amend this Constitution in accordance with clause 13.
- (g) To vote on recommendations of the Executive Committee in respect of subscription rates payable by the members in accordance with clause 3(c).
- (h) To vote on any proposal notified in writing to the Secretary at least 21 days before the date of the General Meeting.
- (i) To discuss and vote as appropriate, on any other business with the permission of the Chairman.

10 Special General Meeting

The President or the Secretary of The Temple shall call a Special General Meeting by giving not less than 21 days notice to members for any of the following purposes:

- (a) To amend the Constitution in accordance with clause 13.
- (b) To satisfy the written request of members to call a meeting provided that such a request is supported by the signatories of at least 33% of the normal average Sunday evening congregation.
- (c) To satisfy a written request from at least ten members of the Executive Committee stating the business to be considered.

11 Rules of Procedure at General and Special General Meetings

- (a) **Records:** The Secretary or other person specially appointed by the Executive Committee shall keep a full record of proceedings at every General and Special General Meeting.
- (b) **Voting:** Subject to the provisions of clause 12, all questions arising at the General and Special General Meetings shall be decided by a simple majority of those members present and entitled to vote. No member shall cast more than one vote, and in case of equality of vote, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
- (c) **Quorum:** One third of the members shall form a quorum at meetings of the Executive Committee or any sub-committee. 15 per cent of the normal average Sunday evening congregation shall form a quorum at any General or Special General Meeting of The Temple. No quorum shall be necessary at any adjourned General or Special General Meeting, if such adjournment was due to want of a quorum. Such adjourned meetings may be held without any further notice to members other than notification of date and time.
- (d) **Minutes:** The Executive Committee and all other committees shall maintain a written record in the form of minutes. The minutes shall be recorded by the Secretary and shall contain details of all proceedings and resolutions.
- (e) **Chairman:** The President or in his absence, the Vice President shall preside as the Chairman at General, Special General and Executive Committee meetings. If neither is present, or if he is unwilling to act as Chairman, then those present shall elect one of their members to be the Chairman.

12 Rules and Regulations

The Executive Committee shall have the power to adopt rules and regulations which they may decide from time to time, provided that such rules do not contradict the Constitution or any resolution passed by the members at any General or Special General Meeting.

13 Alteration to the Constitution

- (a) No change whatsoever, shall be permissible to the first and second clauses of this Constitution, without prior written approval of the Charity Commissioner, except clause 1(b). That is the name and the objectives of The Temple may not be altered, but the registered office may change from time to time.
- (b) In case there arises any doubt or dispute regarding the explanation or interpretation of this Constitution, then reference shall be made to the Executive Committee of Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Bhuj, Kutch, India. Upon receipt of their advice a Special General Meeting shall be convened and the advice of the members taken whose decision shall be final and binding.
- (c) No amendment may be made to the Constitution, which would have the effect of making The Temple cease to be a charity at law.
- (d) Subject to compliance with all of the following provisions of this clause the Constitution may be altered by:
- A notification in writing to the Secretary at least 21 days before the date of the meeting at which it is to be first considered
 - A resolution passed by a majority of members of the Executive Committee and not less than two thirds of the members present and voting at General and Special General meetings. The notice of the General or Special General meeting must include notice of the resolution, setting out the terms of the alteration proposed.
 - If Holding Trustees have been appointed in accordance with clause 15, then any alteration shall not be made without their knowledge and consent. However, they shall not unreasonably withhold such consent.
 - Any alteration to the Constitution shall be sent to Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Bhuj, Kutch, India for citation.
- (e) The Executive Committee shall promptly send to the Charity Commissioners a certified copy of the amended constitution.

14 General Notes

- (a) Any persons found using indecent or abusive language shall be asked to withdraw from the premises of The Temple by any member of the Executive Committee.
- (b) All devotees of The Temple should act in accordance with the principles and conventions of Shree Swaminarayan Sampraday of both dioceses (Dharam Dhura) under the guidance of Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Bhuj, Kutch, India. They shall then enjoy rights and act in the best interest of The Temple.
- (c) All devotees of The Temple who follow the principles of both dioceses (Dharam Dhura) may request permission from the President or Secretary to

hold meetings for religious purposes. Such meetings shall be conducted in a quiet and courteous manner.

- (d) The deities of Lord Shree Swaminarayan, Dharam Bhakti, Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj, Shree Radha Krishna Dev, Shree Nar Narayan Dev and other such images acceptable to the Executive Committee of Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Bhuj, Kutch, India, shall be inaugurated and installed in The Temple.
- (e) In The Temple, the Jay will be proclaimed generally in accordance with the pattern of Shree Swaminarayan Sampraday of both dioceses.
- (f) Accommodation and hospitality shall be provided to followers of Shree Nar Narayan Dev and Shree Laxmi Narayan Dev dioceses and Saints (Sadhus), Brahmcharis and Parsadas who observe and act in accordance with the rules and regulations of either diocese. At the discretion of the Executive Committee, a letter of recommendation from the Acharya of either diocese or the Executive Committee of Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Bhuj, Kutch, India may be requested. However, if the Executive Committee has an acquaintance by virtue of a previous stay in The Temple, then such accommodation and hospitality shall be provided. The Executive Committee shall exercise its discretion in this respect but shall not unreasonably withhold such permission.
- (g) Those devotees who have rendered funds to The Temple and whose names are engraved in the table should be preserved, and new names should be added or commemorated as appropriate.

15 Holding Trustees

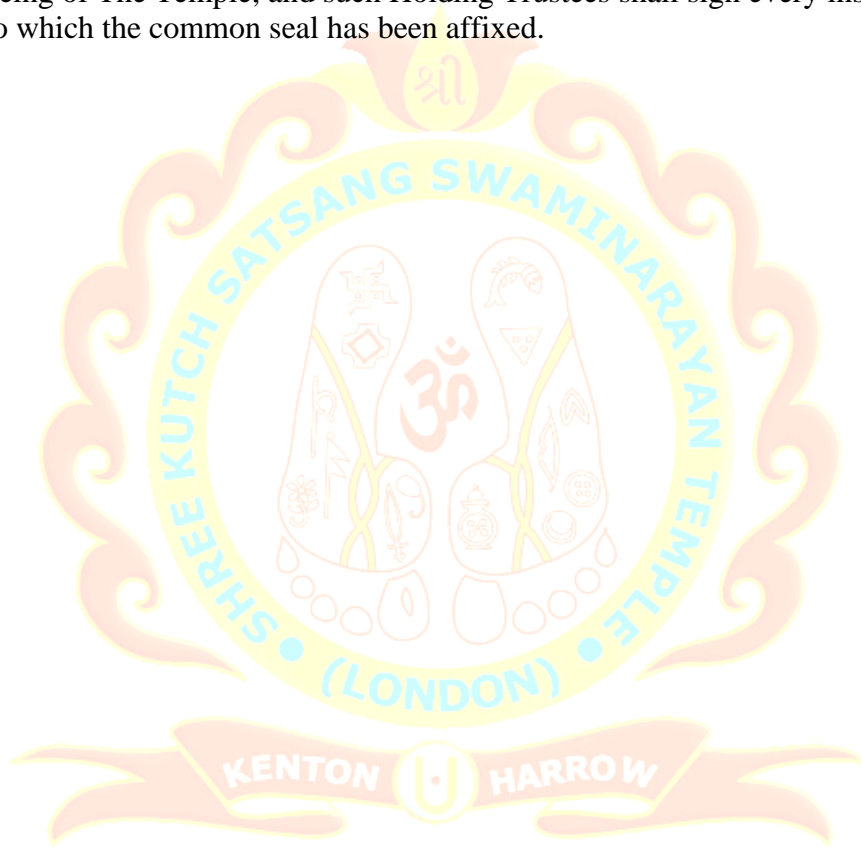
- (a) There shall be a Board of Holding Trustees comprising 7 members of The Temple. Members of The Temple shall appoint these Holding Trustees and they shall serve on the Board for a term of 5 years.
- (b) Any member wishing to stand as a Holding Trustee must have served at least two years as an Honorary Officer of The Temple, as defined in 4(a) above, or served at least five years as a member of the Executive Committee of the Temple, as defined in clause 5 above.
- (c) The title of all and any real property, which may be acquired by or for the purpose of The Temple, shall be vested in the Board of Holding Trustees. Any other property as may be decided upon from time to time by the Executive Committee or the General Meeting can also be vested in the Board of Holding Trustees.
- (d) The Board of Holding Trustees shall have power, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee or the General Meeting in writing, as the case may be, to sell, convey, transfer, mortgage or in any way part with the possession of the properties of The Temple.
- (e) The Holding Trustees shall be registered under the title of Holding Trustees of Shree Kutch Satsang Swaminarayan Temple (Mandir), London.
- (f) If the Executive Committee has acted in breach of the mandate given by the General Meeting or this Constitution, or in breach of trust, then the Board of Holding Trustees shall support the Executive Committee to convene a Special General Meeting to take the advice of the members. They shall keep comprehensive minutes of such a meeting and decide this matter by a vote of simple majority.

- (g) The Holding Trustees shall not receive remuneration, or be personally interested, other than in the interests of the Temple, in any contract entered into by the Board of Holding Trustees.

16 Common Seal

The common seal of The Temple shall be kept in the custody of the Secretary of Shree Kutch Satsang Swaminarayan Temple (Mandir), London at the registered office of The Temple.

The common seal shall not be affixed to any instrument required to be executed by The Temple except by the authority of the Executive Committee or the General Meeting and in the presence of Holding Trustees for the time being of The Temple, and such Holding Trustees shall sign every instrument to which the common seal has been affixed.



17 Election

- (a) Members of The Temple who wish to propose a candidate for election shall nominate such persons who are not disqualified under the provisions of section 72 of the Charities Act (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision), of holding such a post. The nomination should be seconded and votes taken on the proposition at the General Meeting. Proxy nominations shall be accepted provided that such nomination has been received in writing by the Secretary at least 14 days prior to the date of the General Meeting.
- (b) The proposed candidate should be a member of The Temple.
- (c) Candidates elected should have served at least one year on any sub-committee of The Temple to be eligible for a post on the Executive Committee.
- (d) Candidates for honorary officers should have served at least one year on the Executive Committee in addition to the year served on any sub-committee.
- (e) Committee membership will be determined if they become incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering their own affairs.

18 Dissolution

If the Executive Committee decides that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve The Temple it shall call a meeting of the members of which not less than 21 days' notice, stating the resolution to be proposed, shall be given. If the proposal is confirmed by two-thirds majority of those present and voting, The Executive Committee and the Holding Trustees shall have power to realise any assets on behalf of The Temple. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be transferred to such charity as Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Bhuj, Kutch, India (known as Shree Nar Narayan Dev Temple) or charities having similar objects to those of this charity as approved by the General Meeting.

A copy of the statement of accounts for the final accounting period of the Temple must be sent to the Charity Commissioner.

Appendix 1

Origins of the Swaminarayan Sampraday and the Principles to be Observed

Lord Shree Swaminarayan the founder of Udhav Sampraday, has divided the country of India by a line running from Calcutta in the East to Bet-Dwarka in the West. He established a religious throne known as Gaadi or Dharam Dhura (diocese) in each region either side of this line. In the northern region it is the diocese of Shree Nar Narayan Dev at Ahemdabad and adopted Shree Ayodhya Prasadji Maharaj, the son of his elder brother Shree Rampratabjibhai as the head of the diocese. In the southern region it is the diocese of Shree Laxmi Narayan Dev at Vadtal and adopted Shree Raghuvirji Maharaj, the son of his younger brother Shree Ichharambhai as the head of the diocese.

After appointing both of these adopted sons as the heads of their respective dioceses, Lord Shree Swaminarayan expounded his principles of entire salvation i.e., Maya (emancipation from illusion), or Aatyantik Moksh (true salvation), through living a sacred life of Dharma (religion), Gnan (knowledge), Vairagya (detachment or renunciation) and Bhakti (devotion or reverence).

Through the scriptures of Shikshapatri (the commands of teachings), Satsangi Jivan (a sacred life for devotees to follow) and Vachnamrutam (the preachings by Lord Shree Swaminarayan himself), these principles can be learnt. The principles pronounced by Lord Shree Swaminarayan should be understood and preached, as these are Sanatan (from time immemorial). To understand and preach these great teachings of Lord Shree Swaminarayan, one must engage in Bhakitmarg (a devotional life) through Navdha Bhakti (nine-fold devotion) and celebrate Mohatsavs (religious festivals) common in our Sampraday.

In The Temple, the above scriptures sanctioned by Lord Shree Swaminarayan and any books approved by the heads of either diocese will be permitted to be read and preached.

In The Temple, hymns including Kirtans, Bhajans, Chorus, Aarti, Worships and verses shall be in accordance with the Sanatan principles of Udhav Sampraday and Shree Swaminarayan Temples, which are guided by Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Bhuj, Kutch, India.

The satsangis (devotees) of The Temple shall devote as much time as possible to spread the teachings of Lord Shree Swaminarayan.