

Statutes of the

Cumann Gaelach na Gineimhe

Geneva Irish Association

Association Irlandaise de Genève

Dated: May 2025

Article 1. Name and Location

The "Geneva Irish Association" (GIA) is an association without economic purpose in accordance with Art. 60 of the Swiss Civil Code (ZGB) and is based in Geneva.

The name of the Association shall be:

In Irish: "Cumann Gaelach na Gineimhe"

In English: "The Geneva Irish Association"

In French: "Association Irlandaise de Genève"

The members and Management Committee of the Geneva Irish Association are volunteers and/or perform the activities of the association on a voluntary basis.

Article 2. Aims and Purpose

The objects of the Association shall be:

- To provide a focal point in Geneva for all who are Irish or Friends of Ireland.
- To promote Irish social and cultural activities.
- To further understanding between Ireland and our host country – Switzerland.

The Association shall support and participate in such activities as are intended to further its objects. Such activities may include Irish dancing, Irish language studies, music and singing, literature, drama, films, travel groups, lectures and discussion groups. Activities other than those listed and which are consistent with the Association's objects may also be undertaken, subject to the approval of the Committee.

Article 3. Financial Means

The following means are available to the Association:

- Membership Fees.
- Proceeds from its own events.
- Subsidies from the public sector (e.g. ESP Grant).
- Donations, contributions and other allowances.

Article 4. Liability

The liability of the Geneva Irish Association is borne solely by the association's assets in relation to the liabilities of the association. The Geneva Irish Association agrees that as it is a voluntary Association the personal liability of the members and that of the GIA Committee shall be excluded.

Article 5. Membership

Members of the association can be natural and/or legal persons. These are the categories of members:

5.1 Membership:

Open to all persons who are Irish or friends of Ireland and shall be by annual subscription. The Membership year shall be the normal calendar year (i.e. 1 January to 31 December).

Such membership shall be with an annual contribution set at the previous year's AGM.

5.2 Associate Membership:

All persons related to a Member and living under the same roof shall be deemed Associate Members and shall not be required to pay a subscription. Associate Members over the age of 18 years may become Members and thus acquire voting rights on payment the annual subscription.

Such membership shall be with no annual contribution and No Voting rights.

5.3 Honorary Membership:

A General Meeting of the Association may nominate Honorary Members, who are not required to pay a subscription.

Such membership shall be with no annual contribution.

5.4 Country Membership:

Open to all persons who are Irish or friends of Ireland and who reside outside the Cantons of Geneva and Vaud and Departments of Ain and Haute-Savoie.

Such membership shall be with an annual contribution set at the previous year's AGM.

Article 6. Establishment of Membership

Membership is established through the following steps:

- a. Through application (in writing or by email) and
- b. Through acceptance of the application by the GIA Committee (noted in its minutes).
- c. The Membership is valid as of the date of acceptance by the Committee.
- d. The Financial liabilities start as per date of the acceptance. The Committee has the competence to reduce the first year's membership fee 'pro rata temporis', if the acceptance happens after the first quarter of the year.

Article 7. Termination of Membership

Membership expires:

- a. Through **death**
- b. By **written notice of resignation** to the GIA Committee per end of the calendar year. Resigned members are not entitled to the association's assets.
- c. Through notice of **exclusion** for important reasons as notified by the Committee of Geneva Irish Association in a written decision. Financial liabilities are not invalidated by the exclusion.

Article 8. Bodies

The bodies of the Association are:

- a. The General Assembly of Members
- b. The GIA Committee
- c. The Auditor/s

Article 9. The Annual General Assembly (AGM)

The Annual General Assembly of Members [hereafter: Annual General Meeting, AGM] is the supreme body of the Geneva Irish Association. It is convened by the Committee once a year. The invitation shall be in writing or by email, and at least one month before the due date with details of the agenda.

An extraordinary general meeting shall be convened on the decision of the Committee, or upon the request of 10% of the registered members.

The AGM elects the President, the Committee and the Auditor/s. It also approves the annual accounts, decides on amendments to the Statutes and any other transactions that are submitted to it by the Committee or by the Members other than day to day management activities.

Requests from Members required to be discussed at the AGM shall be submitted to the GIA Committee in writing or by email, and at least two weeks before the due date with details of the request.

Important Requests from Members required to be discussed at the AGM, such as changes to the statutes, replacements/additions of members of the committee or the dissolution of the association must be forwarded to all Members (not just those already registered for their participation in the AGM) at least 4 days (96 hours) before the start of the AGM. This prior notification of all Members does not need to include every detail of the request/s, but the summarised content of each request.

The AGM has the following Duties and Responsibilities:

- a. Approval of Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
- b. Approval of the annual report of the GIA committee
- c. Acceptance of the Audit Report and approval of the Financial Statements
- d. Discharge of the outgoing Committee

- e. Nominations for Committee Membership should be submitted prior to the AGM or at the AGM. (Any resignations by Committee Members are to be notified to the Membership at least two weeks prior to the AGM).
- f. Election of the following roles (additional members may be elected as required):
 - a. Committee Positions:
 - i. President
 - ii. Vice- President
 - iii. Treasurer
 - iv. Secretary
 - b. Auditor(s)
- g. Determination of membership fees
- h. Acknowledgment of the annual budget
- i. Acknowledgment of the program of activities (as far as known at the time of the AGM)
- j. Decision-making on items on the agenda proposed by the Committee or by Association members
- k. Amendments to the Statutes
- l. Decisions regarding exclusion of members.
- m. Any other Business.

Article 10. Voting Rights

Each fully paid-up Association Member (as defined in Section 5.1, 5.2 & 5.4 but not 5.2) has one vote - regardless of the category of membership.

Paid up members of the association shall have the right to vote by proxy on any and all motion submitted for consideration to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM).

Such proxy votes must be in writing and in the format circulated by the committee and must reach the President or Secretary of the association not later than 48 hours prior to the holding of the AGM/EGM in question.

Article 11. Decision

Elections and votes at the Geneva Irish Association AGM meetings are usually decided by a show of hands of members present. Secret ballot will be held if 25% of the members present so request.

Amendments to the Statutes and reconsideration of agenda items require two thirds (2/3) majority and is decided by the Association members present.

Decisions on dissolution, merger or exclusion of members also requires two thirds (2/3) majority and is decided by the Association members present and shall be made by secret ballot.

Article 12. The Geneva Irish Association Committee

The GIA Committee consists of a minimum of three (3) members and must include at least a President, a Treasurer and a Secretary. The term of office for the GIA Committee shall be one (1) year which is renewable upon re-election at the AGM. The Committee members can be re-elected.

In case one or more additional members need to be elected to the Committee in order to comply with the statutes or replaced during its term, the committee has the right to nominate a replacement for any officer or committee member, the term for these replacements will be effective only until the next AGM.

Article 13. Convening and Decision

The GIA Committee shall be convened upon the request of the President or at the request of three (3) GIA Committee members.

For valid negotiation/decisions the presence of at least 3 members of the GIA Committee members is required, this must include either the President or the Vice-President.

GIA Committee decisions are made by majority vote of those present; in the event of a tie the President has the casting vote.

The Committee can decide to hold a committee meeting as a video conference, if a special situation (e.g. health considerations during a pandemic) requires that.

Article 14. Rights and Obligations of the GIA Committee

The GIA Committee is responsible for the management of the Association and carries out all business, unless reserved for the AGM. It writes the annual report, presents a statement of income and expenditure for the Association year (calendar year) and on the state of the Association's assets annually on 31 December. It also proposes the association's budget for the new Association year. For special purposes it may form sub-committees from its members.

Article 15. External Representation

President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer (and/or members of the GIA Committee as duly delegated or third-party personnel, specifically authorised with a power of attorney by the Committee) shall represent the Geneva Irish Association externally. In relation to contracts/agreements in order to bind the Geneva Irish Association, joint signature is required as follows:

- a. President with Vice-President
- b. President with Secretary
- c. President with Treasurer
- d. Vice President with Secretary
- e. Vice President with Treasurer
- f. Two (2) members of the GIA Committee as duly delegated.

Article 16. Protocol

A record must be kept of the Minutes of each Annual General Meeting and each GIA Committee Meeting, which must contain at least the proposals made and the decisions taken.

Article 17. Auditors

At least one – usually two – members of the Geneva Irish Association, who are not Members of the Committee (and ideally not a spouse/partner of a Member of the Committee), will carry out an annual audit of the financial statements and the financial status as well as the cash management during the Association year and make a short written standard report of this to the AGM. Their report contains a standardised proposal to the AGM of whether to grant formal approval (discharge) to the Committee for its economical actions of the referring Association year.

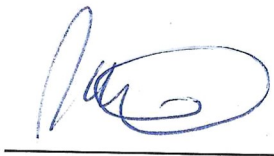
Article 18. The Association's Assets upon Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the association, profit and capital are transferred to another non-profit, tax-exempt entity based in Switzerland, to be decided by the AGM / EGM.

These Statutes replace any or all previous Statutes that were incorporated on behalf of the Geneva Irish Association.

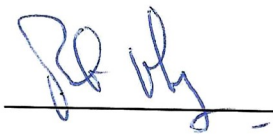
These Statutes were accepted by all 17 members present at the Geneva Irish Associations Annual General Meeting on 21st May 2025 at the Le Liotard (Julia & Vitor), Rue Liotard 9, 1202 Geneva.

The President



Phil Enright

Vice-President



Pat Murphy

Secretary



Niall Lehane