

**Federation of Global Tamil Organizations, Inc.**  
**(A Registered, Non-Profit, Tamil Rights Advocacy Organization)**

**BYLAWS**

**ARTICLE I – NAME**

**1.1** The name of this organization is the **Federation of Global Tamil Organizations, Inc.** (hereinafter referred to as “FGTO”)

**ARTICLE II -- DEFINITIONS**

**2.1** In this Bylaw and all other Bylaws of the Federation of Global Tamil Organizations, Inc., unless otherwise specified or required:

- a) “FGTO”, “Federation”, “Organizations” or “Corporation” means Federation of Global Tamil Organizations, Inc.
- b) "Bylaws" means any Bylaw of the Corporation from time to time in force and effect
- c) "Director" means the person elected as a director of the Corporation’s Board from time to time
- d) “Board” means the Board of Directors
- e) “Member Association” means the Tamil Association which is a member of the Federation
- f) “Delegate” means the delegate representing the Member Association at the Federation
- g) Words importing the singular number only shall include the plural and vice versa; words importing masculine gender shall include the feminine and neuter genders
- h) The Board of Directors shall be the final arbiter in the interpretation of any clause of this Constitution and of any Bylaws thereunder. In doing so, the advice of the legal and procedural committees may be obtained
- i) "Property" or "Premises" or "Building" means any property, premises, ground, space owned, leased or rented by the Corporation.

**ARTICLE III – OFFICE**

**3.1 Principal Office:**

The street address, mailing address and county of the initial registered office of the corporation in the State of New York are:

339 Victory Blvd, Staten Island, Richmond County, New York 10301.

**3.2 Change of Address:**

The Board of Directors may change the address of the principal office from one location to another. Such a change shall not be deemed an amendment of these Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE IV – PURPOSES**

This section is repeated from the Constitution (Certificate of Incorporation) of this Corporation for completeness and information.

- 4.1** Cultivate, promote and foster the exchange of ideas and understanding between the Tamil people and other cultures of the world
- 4.2** Engage in fundraising for social and economic development of the suffering Tamil people in Ilangai
- 4.3** Advocate for human rights and political rights of the Tamil Eelam National people in Ilangai as per the Universal fundamental rights enshrined in the United Nations charter and enlist the support of the United Nations and other international agencies
- 4.4** Advocate justice for all genocide victims in the world, including the Tamils in Ilangai
- 4.5** Coordinate the activities of this corporation with those of similar organizations, societies and individuals in the United States of America and other parts of the globe
- 4.6** Follow the laws, rules and regulations of the Federal, State and local governments in USA.

## **ARTICLE V – OBJECTIVES**

- 5.1** Be an independent, global organization which adheres to the universal principles of democracy and non-violence
- 5.2** Be a Federation comprised of registered and recognized Tamil Associations from around the globe that have purposes and objectives consistent with this Corporation
- 5.3** Exercise Tamil Eelam National people's right to self-determination by an internationally-supervised Referendum, with the option to establish independent, sovereign State of Tamil Eelam
- 5.4** In conducting the above-mentioned Referendum, include not only the people who have been living in their traditional homeland of the North and East of Ilangai for thousands of years, but also their descendants who are living in the diaspora
- 5.5** Bring to justice in the international courts such as the International Criminal Courts (ICC) and other duly constituted International Courts the State of Sri Lanka and others who committed genocide against the Tamils, war crimes against the Tamils and crimes against humanity
- 5.6** Mobilize the Tamil people in various countries and all the democratic forces in the world against the various atrocities being perpetrated against the Tamils in Ilangai by the Sri Lankan government and its forces
- 5.7** Provide the suffering Tamil people in Ilangai with all kinds of needed help, support and assistance in their education, culture, health, economic development, and other necessities
- 5.8** Obtain all the evidences of atrocities perpetrated against the Tamils by the Sinhalese and their Sri Lankan government starting from 1948 and document them so that these evidences can be submitted at the International Criminal Court (ICC) and other International Investigative and Criminal Courts of Justice when the Sri Lankan State and other perpetrators are brought to justice

- 5.9** Make every effort to remove the Sri Lankan occupying forces from the traditional Tamil areas
- 5.10** Mobilize efforts to stop Sri Lanka's colonization of the traditional Tamil areas from settling its Sinhalese people and confiscating the lands belonging to the Tamil people
- 5.11** Carry out activities that are beneficial to the Tamil community throughout the globe, as determined by the Federation's General Body from time to time
- 5.12** Engage in advocacy efforts with diplomatic, civic, religious, human rights, political and advocacy groups, including the United Nations (UN), the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), Amnesty International (AI) and other such agencies, in order to confront the gross human rights abuses, war crimes and genocide against the Tamils perpetrated in Sri Lanka and to support the Tamil people's inalienable political rights
- 5.13** Work actively with the next generations of youth to carry forward our aspirations and struggle globally
- 5.14** Mobilize and encourage Tamil diaspora to make financial contributions liberally for humanitarian reliefs and capital needs for economic development in Tamil Eelam.

## **ARTICLE VI -- MEMBERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION**

- 6.1** Membership in the Federation is open to every duly registered, non-profit Tamil Association from around the globe that meet the criteria set forth in Article 6.2 with compatible purposes and objectives to join the Federation as "Member Association".
- 6.2** Any duly registered, non-profit Tamil Association with a duly elected Board in any of the countries from around the world which is interested in becoming a member of the Federation must initiate a written request to the Federation's Board in the prescribed application form obtainable from the Secretary of the Federation. An affirmative motion passed by two-thirds of the Federation's Board shall be required to approve the Tamil Association's application and admit the Association to be a Member Association.
- 6.3** Eligibility for Member Association: The applying Tamil Association must have contributed significantly in the past to the purposes and objectives of the Federation, as determined by the Board of Directors of the Federation. However, those Associations that have acted directly or indirectly in a way or manner detrimental to the purposes, objectives or interests of the Federation, as determined by the Board of Directors, are not eligible to become Member Associations.
- 6.4** Any Tamil Association, whose membership application has been denied by the Federation's Board, has the right to appeal in writing to the Federation's President who shall submit the Association's appeal to the Federation's General Body within (15) days of receipt of the appeal. The concerned Tamil Association shall be admitted as a Member Association if the Federation's General Body votes in the affirmative by two-thirds majority in the next General Body meeting.
- 6.5** Each Member Association of the Federation is entitled to be represented by two (2) Delegates to the Federation. Each Member Association which has been serving as an incorporated/registered organization continuously for the previous ten (10) years or more shall be

credited with an additional Delegate, for a combined total of three (3) Delegates. The Delegates shall be elected by the respective Member Associations as their representatives. Each Delegate of the Federation shall have one vote.

**6.5.1** The Board is required to monitor and verify the “good standing” of each Member Association and each Delegate, as determined by the Board.

**6.6** An elected Director on the Federation’s Board shall have one vote in each of the Board and the General Body of the Federation and shall continue to be part of the Board for the entire term in spite of not being a Delegate of his/her Member Tamil Association during his/her entire term as a Director on the Board.

**6.7** Members of the General Body: The Delegates representing the Member Associations constitute the General Body of the Federation.

**6.8** The non-refundable membership dues of the Member Associations to the Federation for each year shall be determined by the Federation's Board of Directors.

**6.9** The fiscal year of the Federation shall be from January 1-st through December 31-st of each calendar year. Annual membership dues to the Federation shall be payable on admission or by January 31-st of each year.

**6.9.1** Payment of annual membership dues is an absolute requirement in order for a Member Association to be in good standing.

**6.9.2** At the time of paying its membership dues, the Member Tamil Association shall submit a report summarizing its activities performed in the previous calendar year and its Secretary's report presented at its annual meeting of the previous calendar year. However, if the General Body meeting of the Federation is held before March 1-st, the status of the Member Association in the year before last shall prevail.

**6.9.3** Any Member Association whose annual membership dues have not been received by the Federation on or before March 1-st of a given year will not be allowed to vote in the elections for the Federation's Board during that year, but its Delegates can vote at the Federation's meetings if the payment of annual membership dues is received by then.

**6.10** All Member Associations shall notify, by email, before March 1-st of each year the name, mailing address, cell number, home phone number (if available) and email address of each of their Delegates and their office bearers to the Secretary of the Federation. Any time a change occurs in the status of a Member Association's Delegate or Delegates, the concerned Member Association shall immediately notify the Secretary of the Federation by email with the changes in name, mailing address, cell number, phone number and email address of the Delegate or Delegates.

**6.11 Suspension or Revocation of Membership in the Federation:**

**6.11.1** The Board may suspend a Delegate of a Member Association by two-thirds majority vote when the Board determines that the Delegate's conduct is detrimental to the purposes, objectives and/or interests of the Federation. The Board may also suspend the membership of a Member Association by two-thirds majority vote when the Board determines that its conduct is detrimental to the purposes, objectives and/or interests of the Federation. Suspension of a Member Association automatically suspends its Delegates as well.

**6.11.2** When a Delegate or a Member Association is considered for suspension or revocation of membership, the concerned party shall be notified in writing at least thirty days prior to the meeting of the Board at which such action will be considered. The concerned party shall also receive written notice of the general nature of the reasons for which such action may be taken. The concerned party shall have the right to present its defense in writing to the President and it should do so at least two weeks prior to the day of the meeting.

**6.11.3** A Delegate or a Member Association whose membership is suspended shall have the right to appeal against the Board's action to the Federation's General Body. The action of the Board can be expunged by two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at the General Body meeting of the Federation. To exercise the right of appeal, the President must be notified by the affected party in writing the intent of appeal within thirty days of the outcome of the Board's action. Revocation confirmed by the General Body of the Federation shall be valid for three (3) years.

**ARTICLE VII – OFFICERS**

**7.1** The Officers of the Federation shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Joint Secretary, a Treasurer, and a joint Treasurer..

**ARTICLE VIII -- BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**8.1** The Board of Directors ("Board") of the Federation shall be comprised of the six Officers as per Article 7.1 and four Board Members, thus there shall be between 5 and 15 Directors on the Board. The immediate past President shall serve as one of the four Board members as ex-officio, with all the privileges and responsibilities of a Board member.

**8.2** The President shall act as the Chairperson of the Board of Directors.

**8.3** The Board shall have and exercise authority in the management and control of the affairs, funds and property of the Federation. It shall be the duty of the Board to carry out the purposes and objectives of the Federation according to the Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws and to make and enforce such rules and regulations as required.

## **ARTICLE IX -- TERM OF OFFICE**

**9.1** The Board shall be elected for a term of two years. The new Board shall take office immediately after the completion of the annual convention which will be held subsequent to the election.

**9.2** In case of resignation or permanent absence of any Officer or Board Member, the Board of Directors shall, by a simple majority vote, elect a successor from its Directors or from the General Body for the remaining portion of the term. Permanent absence is defined as absence from three consecutive meetings of the Board. The meeting of the Board is defined as a meeting by video conferencing. Such changes of deletions from or additions to the Board shall be notified to the general body for information by generally accepted electronic media such as email.

## **ARTICLE X -- ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **10.1 Nominations:**

**10.1.1** The Board shall appoint an Election Officer at least 120 days prior to the Annual General Body meeting of the Federation. The Election Officer shall not be part of the current Board. The Election Officer shall not be a candidate for any position in the Board at the time of the election. The Election Officer must be a Delegate in good standing.

**10.1.1.1** Not less than 75 days prior to the Annual General Body Meeting, the Election Officer shall call for nominations, by written notice via generally accepted electronic media such as email, to elect the new Board from all the Delegates of the Member Associations in good standing. The Election Officer will devise plans and procedures for conducting the election. In case of dispute due to any unanticipated events, the Elections Officer's decision is final and binding.

**10.1.1.2** No changes (addition or deletion) in the Delegates list will be permitted after the Election Officer has called for nominations. If a Member Association requires a change in its Delegate list, it can be accommodated only after the completion of the election process.

**10.1.2** The call for the nominations shall be sent by generally accepted electronic media such as email to the addresses as they appear in the current Delegates records.

**10.1.3** The nomination shall be proposed and seconded by any Delegates of Member Associations in good standing.

**10.1.3.1** A person can be nominated for one position only.

**10.1.3.2** The nominee for the position of the President must have served in any of the previous Board of the Federation for at least one full term, or must be serving in the current Board since its commencement.

**10.1.3.3** No Officer who continued in that office for a full two-year term shall be eligible for election to the same category of office for the immediately following two-year term. If an Officer resigns from the Board before the end of the term or is forced to vacate his/her position for not attending three consecutive meetings, he/she is not allowed to contest in the next immediate election. However, he/she can contest in future elections.

**10.1.4** The notice of nomination bearing the signed consent of the nominee shall reach the Election Officer within fifteen days from the date of the notice calling for nominations.

**10.1.4.1** Signed and scanned copy can be sent by electronic media which shall be specified by the Election Officer. Electronic media is the only form of communication for nominee application.

**10.2 Withdrawal of Nomination:**

**10.2.1** The Election Officer, in consultation with the Secretary, shall finalize the list of all eligible nominees and share that list with all the nominees within one week from the last date set for the receipt of nominations. Nominees desirous of withdrawing should do so by written communication to the Election Officer within two weeks from the last date set for the receipt of nominations. Signed and scanned copy can be sent by electronic media such as Email. Electronic media is the only form of communication for nomination withdrawal.

**10.3 Voting:**

**10.3.1** Every Delegate needs to cast his/her ballot using his/her registered electronic address. No proxy voting is allowed.

**10.3.2** The Election Officer shall conduct the election by secret ballot not less than thirty days prior to the General Body Meeting.

**10.3.3** The Election Officer shall declare the results at least one week prior to the Annual General Body Meeting.

**ARTICLE XI – RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OFFICERS**

**11.1 PRESIDENT:** The President shall

- a) Call and preside at meetings of the Federation and of the Board
- b) Appoint, with the approval of the Board, members of all special committees as and when he/she deems necessary
- c) Sign all documents in the name and on behalf of Federation
- d) Ensure that all activities of Federation are properly documented and filed

- e) Assign the responsibilities of any Officer, in his/her temporary absence, to other members of the Board as necessary
- f) Perform the duties which may be assigned to him/her from time to time by the Board
- g) Enforce the Constitution/Bylaws
- h) Exercise all other usual functions as the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation.

**11.2 VICE-PRESIDENT:** The Vice President shall

- a) Assist the President in the discharge of his/her duties
- b) Perform all of the duties of the President when the latter is absent
- c) Work towards increasing the membership
- d) Perform any other duties that may be assigned to him/her by the Board.

**11.3 SECRETARY:** The Secretary shall

- a) Operate under the general direction of the President
- b) Be responsible for recording and presenting the minutes of all meetings
- c) Sign and attend to all correspondences and present the same to the Board at its meetings
- d) Be the custodian of the records, papers, minutes, and documents of Federation other than those under the jurisdiction of the Treasurer
- e) Maintain an up-to-date list of all Member Tamil Associations of Federation in detail in collaboration with the Treasurer
- f) Maintain an up-to-date list of all Delegates in detail from Member Tamil Associations of Federation
- g) Notify all Member Associations and Delegates of all the meetings of Federation
- h) Notify each member of the Board of regular and special meetings
- i) File any certificates and documents required by the Government in USA
- j) Provide for the safekeeping of the corporate seal, if any
- k) Perform any other duties that may be assigned to him/her by the Board.

**11.4 JOINT-SECRETARY:** The Joint-Secretary shall

- a) Assist the Secretary in the discharge of the latter's duties
- b) Perform any other duties that may be assigned to him/her by the Board.

**11.5 TREASURER:** The Treasurer shall

- a) Collect all monies due Federation
- b) Deposit all monies in a bank or trust company approved by the Board
- c) Pay all taxes, interest, and amortization on debt owed by FGTO in the order mentioned
- d) Pay all bills contracted by FGTO or its authorized representative(s), except that disbursements in excess of the limit for contingent expenses require ratification by the Board
- e) Make other disbursements as directed and approved by the Board

- f) Keep accurate records of all receipts and disbursements
- g) Submit the Income Statement and the Balance Sheet at all meetings of the Board and at all general body meetings, in accordance with the accounting principles established by the Board
- h) Perform such other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the Board.

## **ARTICLE XII – SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**12.1** Special Committees shall be formed for certain specific purposes, with defined guidelines, by the Board of Directors. Each committee, containing the name of the Chairperson and the names of the other members, must be approved by the Delegates at the Annual General Body meeting.

**12.2** Not more than 20 percent of the total members (which includes the Chairperson) in a committee should be from the Board of Directors and the remaining must be from the Delegates.

**12.3** All the committees must report their financial status and activities to the Board of Directors every quarter.

## **ARTICLE XIII – MEETINGS**

### **13.1 Meetings:**

- a) All meetings will be held via electronic video conference
- b) All official communications will be done by generally accepted electronic media such as email.

### **13.2 Annual General Body Meeting:**

Annual General Body Meeting shall be held between the first of May and the last day of September of each year

- a) Every Delegate shall be notified by the Secretary in writing of the date, time and purpose of the meeting at the advice of the President or majority of the Board;
- b) Notification of the meeting shall be sent with complete details to all Delegates not less than thirty days and not more than sixty days prior to the date of the meeting
- c) Notice mailed to the addresses on record on file with the Secretary shall constitute notification.

### **13.3 Special Meetings of the General Body:**

Special meetings shall be held for any purpose concerning Federation

- a) The Secretary shall call a special meeting upon a resolution of the Board or upon receipt of a petition to the Secretary for a meeting signed by not less than one-third of the Delegates

- b) All Delegates of Federation shall be notified of each special meeting explaining the reasons for the meeting
- c) Notice must be sent to all Delegates not less than fifteen days prior to the date of the special meeting
- d) The notice must contain full details including the date and time.

**13.4 Meetings of the Board of Directors:**

- a) The Board shall hold at least three meetings in a year and more as it becomes necessary
- b) At least one meeting of the Board shall be held before the Annual General Body meeting
- c) The Board shall meet at the call of the President or by a majority of its Directors
- d) The meeting shall be held via video conference
- e) The agenda shall be prepared by the President and the Secretary shall send the details including the date and time at least one week before the meeting.

**13.5 Quorum:**

**13.5.1** One-third of Delegates or ten (10) Delegates, whichever is smaller, shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the Federation.

**13.5.2** A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Board.

**13.6 Resolutions:**

**13.6.1** A simple majority of the Delegates present and voting at the Federation's meetings shall be necessary to adopt any resolution. A vote shall be taken on any questions or issues. There shall be no votes taken by proxy. The President or the Presiding Officer shall not vote unless there is a tie, in which case he/she shall vote to break the tie.

**13.6.2** A simple majority of the Directors present and voting at the Board meetings shall be necessary to adopt any resolution. A vote shall be taken on any questions or issues. There shall be no votes taken by proxy. The President or the Presiding Officer shall not vote unless there is a tie, in which case he/she shall vote to break the tie.

## **ARTICLE XIV – MANAGEMENT OF FUNDS**

**14.1** The Board is vested with the authority in managing the funds, as per Article 8.3, and the Board, in the discharge of its responsibilities, shall exercise its authority in managing the funds and operating the bank account.

**14.2** Any account by and on behalf of the Federation shall be opened only upon the approval of the Board of Directors by a majority vote of the Board. The bank or trust company in which the Federation's account is opened and maintained must be an insured one by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

**14.3** All the collections or receipts shall be deposited into the Federation's bank account within ten (10) days of the receipt.

**14.4** Any expenses or grant to a project involving more than \$ 3,000 USD must be approved by the General Body in a simple majority.

**14.5** As stated in Article 6.9, the fiscal year shall be from January 1 to December 31 of each calendar year.

**14.6** The Treasurer is accountable for the income and expenses.

**14.7** The current Treasurer is responsible for filing the taxes for the previous year.

**14.8** Any instrument used to draw funds or to make payments from the Federation's accounts must be signed by the Treasurer.

**14.9** At every Board meeting, the Treasurer shall submit the status of the Federation's financial statement which shall be reviewed and certified by all the members attending the meeting.

**14.10** The Treasurer shall present the complete annual financial statement at the Annual General Body meeting.

## **ARTICLE XV – AMENDMENTS**

### **15.1 Proposal:**

- a)** Any Delegate of the Federation, seconded by at least ten (10) Delegates of the Federation may propose any amendments to the Certification of Incorporation or Bylaws
- b)** A notice stating the proposed amendments together with the proposed amendments must be received by the Secretary.

**15.2 Passage:**

The proposal to amend, if approved by the Board by a two-thirds majority, shall be circulated to all the Delegates. After this announcement, a period of not less than sixty days shall be allowed prior to the voting. The Delegates shall register their vote within thirty days after the voting begins. Any vote not received by the due date shall be presumed to be invalid and not counted. The passage of the motion for amendment shall require the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the valid votes received by the due date. The amendment(s), if passed, shall become effective immediately.

**ARTICLE XVI - INDEMNIFICATION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

Any person made party to any action, suit or proceeding by reason of the fact that he/she, his/her testator or intestate, is or was an Officer or Director of the Federation shall be indemnified by the Federation against the reasonable expenses, including attorney's fees actually and necessarily incurred in connection with the defense of such action, suit, or proceeding. Any person party to such suit, action, or proceeding shall further be indemnified by the Federation for any judgments or liabilities resulting therefrom. Such right of indemnification shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which such Officer or Director may be entitled under the provisions of the Corporation Law of the State to which the Officer or Director belongs.

**ARTICLE XVII – DISSOLUTION**

**17.1** A Motion to consider the dissolution of the Federation must be petitioned in writing to the President by not less than two-thirds of the Delegates. The Secretary shall circulate the petition to all Delegates within thirty days of receipt of the petition.

**17.2** The Delegates shall register their votes within thirty days of receipt of the petition from the Secretary. The votes that are not received by the due date will be considered null and void and hence not counted. The petition for dissolution shall require, for passing, an affirmative vote of four-fifths (80 percent) of the valid votes that are received by the due date.

**17.3** Upon passage of the motion to dissolve, the existing Officers and Directors shall remain in office until the dissolution is completed. The Board of Directors shall cause all debts of the Federation to be discharged to ensure compliance with all requirements of the laws. Any remaining assets of the Federation shall be liquidated and donated to the ongoing projects sponsored by the Federation.