

Ananda Sangha for Self-Realization

Extracts from the By-Laws

Article 1

NAME, REGISTERED OFFICE AND DURATION OF THE SANGHA

1.1 It consists of an association called Ananda Sangha of Self-Realization has been founded, which follows the teachings of Paramhansa Yogananda and his disciple Swami Kriyananda. It adheres to - and from a religious point of view is an integral part of - the Ananda Sevaka Order, based in Nevada City, California, USA, this being the central Ananda institution that spreads the teachings of Paramhansa Yogananda and Swami Kriyananda around the world.

1.2 The registered office of the Association will be in the town of Nocera Umbra at the address resulting from the registration submitted to the Internal Revenue Service. The governing body may establish or dissolve other local units in Italy and Europe.

1.3 The Association is a religious institution which also pursues educational, cultural and humanitarian purposes, which are integral to their religious principles.

1.4. Its duration is unlimited.

1.5 The Association is herein referred to as 'Sangha'.

Article 2

THE PURPOSE OF THE SANGHA

2.1 The Sangha is a religious institution that follows the teachings of yoga and of “Self-realization”, as proposed by Paramhansa Yogananda, Swami Kriyananda and their spiritual descendants. It is part of and cooperates with the worldwide Ananda movement.

Its aims are:

2.2 To promote the principles of “Self-realization” and the practices of the ancient science of Yoga in the European territory, and to emphasis spiritual experience rather than dogma, while at the same time showing the utmost respect for all religions and doctrines.

2.3 To help all people grow in the common ideal of universal brotherhood, and to promote stronger cultural and spiritual integration among all nations and people.

2.4 To conduct meditations, rituals and ceremonies related to the principles of Self-realization in centers and places of worship in Italy and abroad.

2.5 To promote the practical application of spiritual principles to everyday life.

2.6 To conduct the spiritual, educational and cultural activities in order to achieve harmony of physical, mental and spiritual health of the human beings.

2.7 To conduct courses and spiritual curricula for its members at the main center and at other locations in Italy and Europe.

2.8 To organize seminars, conferences, retreats and events throughout Europe so as to promote the principles of the Sangha.

2.9. To publish and distribute educational material of editorial and audiovisual nature regarding the principles and activities of the Sangha.

2.10 To establish centers in the European territory which promote the principles of the Sangha.

2.11 To establish spiritual communities based on the principles of cooperation and friendship, and of “simple living and high thinking.”

2.12 To encourage the spiritual growth of people, promote the practical application of spiritual principles in daily life, and support the physical, mental and spiritual health of the individual, also by granting awards and scholarships, the criteria of which will be decided upon by rules established by the Board of Directors.

The Association will participate in various types of initiatives that might be useful or necessary to achieve the statutory purposes.

Article 3

MEMBERSHIP

There are three different categories of membership and they are:

1. SANGHI MEMBERS

Those who request Sanghi membership of the Ananda Sangha of Self-Realization, regardless of sex, race, language, nationality, religion, or political views, declare to accept the principles of the Way of the Sanghi described in detail in the rules of procedure, and pledge to support the aims, ideals and activities of the Sangha.

The membership application is presented directly to the headquarters of the Association by the candidate, or sent by post, fax or e-mail. It is evaluated and accepted by the directors of the structure itself.

The Sanghi members may not attend the Sanghi meetings, as referred to in article 11, and do not have voting rights.

The Sanghi members undertake to respect the provisions of this statute and the regulations approved, and are eligible to receive newsletters and to participate in Sangha activities.

Sanghi membership status ceases upon death or resignation of a member, or on the grounds of exclusion which may occur for the following reasons:

**when a member does not comply with the provisions of this statute, the internal regulations or the decisions made by the governing bodies;

**when, in any way, a member causes moral or material damage to the Sangha or incites hatred, discord or disruption of the smooth running of the Association's activities .

The exclusion of a member, after being summoned and granted a hearing, will be decided by an absolute majority of those present at the meeting of the Executive Council.

In order to protect their rights, the excluded members may appeal against the decision only at the first membership Assembly. The appeal procedure can only be effectuated by submitting a registered letter with return receipt, addressed to the Chairman of the Board of Directors so it can arrive in time and, whenever possible, be included, in writing, on the agenda of the Assembly, that is to say, that the matter will be addressed urgently at the beginning of the Assembly itself.

2. DISCIPLE MEMBERS

All those who request Disciple membership in the Ananda Sangha for Self-Realization, regardless of their sex, race, language, nationality, religion or political views, declare to accept the principles of Self-realization, and undertake, as disciples, to embrace and practice the techniques of the path of Kriya Yoga, described in detail in the rules of procedure. They pledge to support the aims, ideals and activities of the Ananda Sangha for Self-realization.

The membership application is presented directly to the headquarters of the Association by the candidate, or sent by post, fax or e-mail. It is evaluated and accepted by the directors of the structure itself.

The Disciples Members do not have the right to attend the Assembly meeting, as referred to in article 11, and do not have voting rights.

Disciple Members undertake to respect the provisions of this statute and the regulations approved, and are eligible to receive newsletters and participate in the activities of the Sangha.

Disciple membership status ceases upon death or resignation of a member, or on the grounds of exclusion which may occur for the following reasons:

**when a member does not comply with the provisions of this statute, the internal regulations or the decisions made by the governing bodies;

**when, in any way, a member causes moral or material damage to the Sangha or incites hatred, discord or disruption of the smooth running of the Association's activities .

The exclusion of a member, after being summoned and granted a hearing, will be decided by an absolute majority of those present at the meeting of the Executive Council.

In order to protect their rights, the excluded members may appeal against the decision only at the first membership Assembly. The appeal procedure can only be effectuated by submitting a registered letter with return receipt, addressed to the Chairman of the Board of Directors so it can arrive in time and, whenever possible, be included, in writing, on the agenda of the Assembly, that is to say, that the matter will be addressed urgently at the beginning of the Assembly itself.

3. LIFE MEMBERS

Those who request Life Membership with the Ananda Sangha for Self-Realization, regardless of their sex, race, language, nationality, religion or political views:

a) are already Disciple members

b) have completed the training in the Ananda Sevaka Order

c) have taken the Life Vow of the Ananda Sevaka Order

They are appointed automatically by the Sangha Council of Ministers, as well as by written approval of the Spiritual Director of the Sangha. They undertake to support the aims, ideals and activities of the Ananda Sangha for Self-realization and to follow the guidelines of the Ananda Sevaka Order, as defined in the regulations.

Those who are Life Members have the right to attend the Assembly meetings, as referred to in article 11, and are entitled to intervene and vote.

The status of members of the Sangha Lifetime membership is perpetual and may cease upon death or resignation of a member, or on the grounds of exclusion, which may occur for the following reasons:

**when a member does not comply with the provisions of this statute, the internal regulations or the decisions made by the governing bodies;

**when, in any way, a member causes moral or material damage to the Sangha or foments hatred, discord or disruption towards the smooth running of the Association's activities;

The exclusion of a member, or after being summoned and granted a hearing, will be deliberated by an absolute majority of those present at the meeting of the Sangha Council of Ministers and approved, in writing, by the spiritual Director of the Sangha.