

Constitution: Vedanta Study Circle Zurich (VSCZ)

1. Name/ Seat

- 1.1. The Association, under the name of Vedanta Study Circle Zurich (VSCZ), hereinafter called “The Association”, is established based on Article 60ff of the Swiss Civil Code (ZGB), with its seat in Zurich. VSCZ is a non-political, non-commercial and non-profit Association.

2. Language

- 2.1. The official Language is English. If needed the German language will be used.

3. Purpose

- 3.1. The ideal of the Association consists in establishing and maintaining a group of like-minded people inspired by Vedanta as taught and lived by Sri Ramakrishna and his disciples.
- 3.2. The Association wants to intensify the spiritual progress of individual members and to practice and propagate the universal spiritual ideas of all religions and equality of humankind.
- 3.3. Vedanta declares that each soul is potentially divine and the goal of human life is to realize and manifest that divinity. Sri Ramakrishna, Sri Sarada Devi and Swami Vivekananda broadened this goal by saying that realizing one’s own divinity is not enough, one must also contribute to the welfare of the world through service. The vision of this Association would be to help spiritual aspirants to realize one’s own divinity and at the same time contribute to the welfare of the world.

4. Activities

- 4.1. Holding of regular group meetings to read texts, reflect on them, meditate, sing, and chant etc.
- 4.2. Celebrating anniversaries of Sri Ramakrishna, Sri Sarada Devi and Swami Vivekananda.
- 4.3. Inviting Swamis and arranging Satsangs (religious talks), lectures and retreats.
- 4.4. Keeping members informed about matters of common interest.
- 4.5. Providing members information about the opportunities for service either in the Association itself, the local community or through fund raising and / or volunteer work for Centers of the Ramakrishna Mission and affiliated organizations or other NGOs
- 4.6. Maintaining a Website with basic information.
- 4.7. The Executive Committee (EC) will organize and execute these activities with the help of volunteers, if necessary.

5. Spiritual Guidance

- 5.1. The Head of the Vedanta Center, Geneva, a branch of Ramakrishna Math & Mission, India, is our main Spiritual Guide. His Guidance will be considered thoroughly by the EC and applied as far as possible. If needed, the EC may also seek advice from other Vedanta Centers as well as RK Math and Mission Office, Belur Math.
- 5.2. The Head of the Vedanta Center, Geneva may also advise VSCZ or put forward suggestions on organizational matters, which will be taken into consideration by the EC.
- 5.3. The Swamiji from Vedanta Center, Geneva will be most welcome to join any of our Satsangs or other events as our honoured guest. EC may request Swamiji to give a lecture on a particular subject or to perform puja.

6. Financial Resources

The financial resources of the Association are the following:

- 6.1. Yearly membership fees
- 6.2. Contributions from members and non-members
- 6.3. Donations from private, public and non-profit institutions.
- 6.4. Donations from private sponsors and through Testaments.

7. Membership

- 7.1. Members are individuals who support the objectives of the Association and have paid the yearly membership fee.
- 7.2. All members constitute the General Assembly of the Association
- 7.3. Applications for admission should be addressed to the President
- 7.4. Admission to the Association will be decided by the EC.
- 7.5. Members will be encouraged to serve in all organizational matters as well as to join EC.
- 7.6. Non-members are welcome to join in all events and are encouraged to assist in organizational matters, but will have no voting rights

8. Termination of Membership

- 8.1. The membership expires by resignation, exclusion, death or non-payment of membership fee after 2 reminders.

9. Resignation and exclusion of Membership

- 9.1. A resignation from the Association is possible at any time. The membership expires after the receipt of a written notice of resignation to the EC. Leaving members are not entitled to any refunds in terms of already paid voluntary contributions or membership fees.
- 9.2. A Member may be excluded without explanation from the Association at any time. The EC decides about the exclusion. The member may appeal against the decision of the EC within 30 days following which the final decision will be made by the General Assembly.

10. Management bodies of the Association

The Management bodies of the Association are:

- 10.1. General Assembly
- 10.2. Executive Committee (EC)
- 10.3. Auditor or Auditing team

11. General Assembly

- 11.1. All members of the VSCZ form the General Assembly. A formal General Assembly Meeting is to be held annually in the 1st half of the year.
- 11.2. The General Assembly will be announced at least three weeks in advance including the agenda. Each Member will receive a written invitation either by letter or by email.
- 11.3. Proposals from members for the General Assembly should be submitted to the EC in writing at least 14 days in advance. They will be added to the agenda.
- 11.4. The General Assembly will have the following functions:
 - 11.4.1. Election of the EC and of the Auditor/ Auditing team for a period of 2 years. The Auditor /Auditing team does not have to be members of the Association. An EC member can be the Auditor as long as he / she is not the President, Secretary or Treasurer.
 - 11.4.2. Modification of the Constitution, if necessary.
 - 11.4.3. Acceptance of the activity report and passing of the annual Accounts.
 - 11.4.4. Discussion on the annual budget (expenses for visiting monks or guests, donations, celebrations, retreats etc.)
 - 11.4.5. Recommend of the annual Membership fee.
 - 11.4.6. Dealing with exclusion of members
- 11.5. At the General Assembly, each Member has one vote; the decision will be taken by a simple majority (except for amendments to the Constitution and Dissolution of the Association (**Sections 16 and 17**). An absent Member can be represented by another Member by a written proxy.

12. The Executive Committee (EC)

- 12.1. The EC consists of at least five persons: President, Treasurer, Secretary and at least 2 EC Members. The term of office is two years. Re-election is possible. Accumulation of functions is permitted.
- 12.2. The EC manages the affairs of the Association. It represents the Association to the third parties and carries out all transactions, unless they are incumbent on the General Assembly.
- 12.3. All members of the EC are elected by the General Assembly.
- 12.4. Members of the EC are volunteers and have no entitlement to compensation.
- 12.5. Minutes of the EC meetings must be kept.

13. Roles and Responsibilities of Office Holders

- 13.1. The President represents the Association and presides over the Executive Committee meetings. He is permitted to take the decisions on behalf of the Association if authorized by the Executive Committee.
- 13.2. The Secretary takes the responsibility for the administrative and organizational work of the Association, as specified by the Executive Committee. He calls the Executive Committee meetings giving an agenda and records the minutes of these meetings.
- 13.3. The Treasurer manages the finances of the Association. He submits the annual Financial Reports of the Association to the Executive Committee for the annual General Body Meeting and files the yearly income tax for the Association.
- 13.4. An Assistant Secretary will be chosen from the EC members, who helps the Secretary in the organizational work.
- 13.5. EC members will be allocated special tasks e.g. organizing an event. All EC members will work as a team to organize all activities of the Association.
- 13.6. All events of the Association will be conducted under the leadership of the President, Secretary or any other EC members, as per the discretion of EC.

14. Signature

- 14.1. The President, Secretary and Treasurer can sign on behalf of the Association, but at least two signatures are needed. If EC feels necessary for a particular event - this responsibility can also be transferred to another EC member.

15. The Auditor

- 15.1. The General Assembly elects an Auditor/Auditing Team who checks the accounts. This can be either an internal or external Auditing Team.
- 15.2. In terms of the Liability of the Association, solely the Association's assets shall be liable. Personal liabilities of the members and of the EC members are excluded.

16. Amendment of the Constitution and Resolutions

- 16.1. For amending the Constitution and Resolutions taken by the Association, the following norms would apply:
- 16.2. At least 55% of the members must be present in the meeting (Quorum). An absent member can be represented by another member through a written proxy or unambiguous Email.
- 16.3. A notational voting by the members using written circulation can be carried out. The means will be either by letter or unambiguous Email.
- 16.4. For amendments to be accepted, 66% of the attending members must consent.

17. Dissolution of the Association

- 17.1. The dissolution of the Association can be decided at any time by at least 66% of registered members. An absent member can be represented by another member by a written proxy.
- 17.2. At dissolution of the Association, the Association's asset will be given to an institution with similar purpose in Switzerland. A distribution among the members is not permitted.

18. Financial year

- 18.1. The financial year is the calendar year.

19. Activation of the Constitution

- 19.1. This original Constitution went into effect with the signature of three EC members: Viktor Meier, Vamsi Krishna Marri and Tanmoy Pal on 12 April 2020 (Easter Sunday).
- 19.2. This amended Constitution as passed by the General Assembly held on 22nd August 2026 goes into effect with the signature of three Executive Committee members:

Tushar Ghosh _____

Prabuddha Banerjee _____

Tanmoy Pal _____