ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION
2019-2023

NORWEGIAN PEOPLE’S AID TOWARDS 2030:
SOLIDARITY IN PRACTICE
INNHOLD

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NAME, OBJECTS AND MEMBERSHIP

§ 1 OBJECTS
1.1 Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) is the Norwegian trade union movement’s organisation for humanitarian solidarity.

1.2 NPA is an independent organisation not affiliated with any political party. NPA takes an independent position on all issues, based on the organisation’s policy platform and core values. NPA’s vision is “solidarity in action”.

1.3 By means of advocacy and practical activities, NPA strives to improve the peoples’ living conditions and create a more fair society. This applies both nationally and internationally.

1.4 NPA is a membership-driven organisation.

§ 2 MEMBERSHIP
Anyone who supports NPA’s objects and articles of association may become a member. Members are bound by the organisation’s guidelines. Membership of the organisation can be achieved in the following ways:

2.1 Personal membership of a local association. Exceptionally, it is possible to become a member of the central organisation.

2.2 Collective membership of a local association or the central organisation. Local organisations, institutions and other societies become collective members of their nearest local association. Nationwide organisations, other societies, institutions and companies join NPA’s central organisation.

§ 3 MEMBERSHIP FEES
3.1 The General Assembly determines the allocation of personal membership fees applicable to the different organisational levels.

3.2 The National Board determines the membership fee payable by both personal and collective members. Everyone under the age of 30 is counted as a “youth member”.

3.3 Membership fees from personal members are invoiced by the central administration. Members must pay their annual membership fee by 31 January.

3.4 The membership fees from collective members are invoiced by the individual organisational level, and are wholly retained by the level to which the collective members belong.

3.5 Members who give notice of a change to a new local association during the year, transfer their membership rights to the new association.

3.6 Other issues relating to membership fees are dealt with in accordance with guidelines issued by the National Board.

STRUCTURE

§ 4 STRUCTURE AND FRAMEWORK CONDITIONS
4.1 Structure

NATIONAL CONFERENCE
- Audit Committee

NATIONAL BOARD
- Organisational committee
- Sanctions committee
  - Central first aid and rescue committee
  - Central first aid and rescue service youth committee
  - Central socio-political committee
  - Board of solidarity youth

LOCAL CHAPTERS
- First aid and rescue service
- First aid and rescue service youth
- Socio-political involvement
- Solidarity youth
FRAMEWORK CONDITIONS

4.2 The entire organisation is bound by agreements, guidelines and mandates entered into or adopted by the National Board.

The various areas of activity described in Articles 11 to 14 adopt their own guidelines for the organisation of their own field.

However, this does not apply where it is required that the same guidelines are adopted by NPA Solidarity Youth and NPA First Aid and Rescue Service Youth with respect to the granting of financial support. In all elected bodies, efforts will be made to achieve a balanced gender and geographic representation.

4.3 Relevant organisational levels have a duty to obtain a limited police certificate of good conduct from members who perform or are going to perform tasks for the organisation that involve a position of trust or responsibility with respect to minors or people with learning difficulties. See the guide to obtaining and managing police certificates.

4.4 An overarching body may draw up guidelines for the compensation of elected officials’ financial losses or expenses in connection with the performance of their duties.

4.5 The establishment of commercial entities must be approved by a higher organisational level in order to properly safeguard its financial foundations, governance mechanisms and registration in the Norwegian Register of Business Enterprises.

§ 5 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5.1 The General Assembly is NPA’s highest governing body. A General Assembly is held ordinarily every four years.

5.2 The General Assembly shall consider:
A. The agenda and proxy authorisations.
B. Reports, financial statements and auditor’s reports for the period since the last General Assembly. Reports from the Audit Committee, NPA First Aid and Rescue Service, NPA First Aid and Rescue Service Youth, NPA Socio-political Committee and NPA Solidarity Youth for the period.
C. Submitted proposals.
D. The distribution of personal membership fees among the organisational levels.
E. Amendments to the Articles of Association.
F. The policy platform.
G. Overarching organisational priorities for the period until the next General Assembly.
H. Election of the National Board.
I. Election of the Audit Committee, comprising a chair, two members and two deputy members.

5.3 Preparations for the General Assembly:
A. The National Board issues invitations to attend the General Assembly at least six months in advance.
B. The National Board appoints a Nomination Committee and General Assembly preparatory committees.
C. The Nomination Committee comprises a chair and four members, plus three deputy members, who are appointed at least one year prior to the General Assembly.
D. Proposals for the General Assembly must be submitted to the National Board at least three months before the General Assembly’s scheduled start. An organisational level that submits a proposal must be able to present minutes documenting the resolution approving the proposal.
E. The following are entitled to submit proposals to the General Assembly: local chapters, organisations belonging collectively to the central organisation, the National Board, NPA First Aid and Rescue Service, NPA First Aid and Rescue Service Youth, NPA Socio-political Committee and NPA Solidarity Youth.
F. The National Board must send out the agenda, with supporting documents and the Nomination Committee’s recommendations, to all delegates, organisational levels and organisations belonging collectively to the central organisation at least four weeks prior to the General Assembly.
5.4 The General Assembly comprises:
A. The National Board.
B. Six delegates, plus six deputies in numbered order, from NPA First Aid and Rescue Service.
C. Twelve delegates, plus 12 deputies in numbered order, from NPA First Aid and Rescue Service Youth.
D. Six delegates, plus six deputies in numbered order, from NPA Socio-political involvement.
E. Six delegates, plus six deputies in numbered order, from NPA Solidarity Youth.
F. Delegates from the local chapters, based on the number of paying members as at 31 December of the year before the year in which the General Assembly is held. The following allocations apply:
   • Up to 50 members: 1 delegate
   • 51–100 members: 2 delegates
   • 101–250 members: 3 delegates
   • 251–500 members: 4 delegates
   • More than 501 members: 5 delegates
   • Each association’s representation must reflect its activities
   • Local chapters that are able to send only one delegate, may send an observer as well. Observers are not entitled to address the conference, nor may they table proposals or vote.
G. Associations with more than 2,500 collective members may send an additional delegate, provided that the delegate comes from the collective membership.
H. One delegate for every 25,000 members, plus one delegate for each subsequently commenced multiple of 25,000 members, from organisations that belong collectively to the central administration, up to a maximum of five delegates from one single organisation.

5.5 Named delegates and deputy delegates are elected in numbered order at the respective local chapters’ AGM (Annual General Meeting) or Board of Representatives meeting. Approved minutes of the AGM or Board of Representatives meeting and the delegate form must have been received by the National Board at least three months before the General Assembly starts. All elected delegates must have a proxy authorisation signed by two members of the board/committee of the body they are representing.

5.6 The General Assembly elects the following representatives to the National Board:
A. Chair and two vice-chairs.
B. Five representatives from the membership organisation, each with two personal deputies in numbered order.
C. Three representatives from the collectively associated membership, each with two personal deputies in numbered order.

5.7 The National Board is not entitled to vote during the General Assembly’s consideration of the periodic report and financial statements.

5.8 The delegates’ travel expenses will be reimbursed on the basis of a cost-sharing formula. The delegates’ other expenses will be defrayed by the collectively associated organisations and the local chapters themselves.

5.9 All expenses incurred by members of the National Board will be defrayed by NPA’s central administration.

5.10 An Extraordinary General Assembly may be held when at least two-thirds of the National Board’s members so decide or when requested by half of the local chapters. An Extraordinary General Assembly may consider only those matters that are published in the invitation to attend.

§ 6 NATIONAL BOARD
6.1 The National Board is NPA’s highest governing body in the interim between General Assembly’s. The National Board comprises:
A. A chair and two vice-chairs.
B. Five representatives from the membership organisation.
C. Three representatives from the collectively associated organisations.
D. The chair of NPA First Aid and Rescue Service.
E. A representative from NPA First Aid and Rescue Service Youth.
F. The chair of the NPA Socio-political Committee.
G. The chair of NPA Solidarity Youth.
H. Two representatives elected by and from among the employees.
All National Board members (B to H) shall have two personal deputies in numbered order.

The National Board is in quorum when at least half of its members are present. In the event of a tied vote, the proposal concerned is not carried.

6.2 Matters may be proposed by National Board members, central committees/boards, collectively associated organisations, local chapters and the Secretary General.

The elected leadership draws up an agenda in conjunction with the Secretary General.

6.3 The National Board is responsible for:
A. Approving the organisation's overarching strategy documents.
B. Approving the organisation's budget and financial statements.
C. Approving guidelines and mandates.
D. Appointing representatives to boards, councils and committees.
E. Discussing NPA's entire set of contingency plans.
F. Adjudicating appeals relating to matters dealt with by central committees.
G. Making recommendations to and staging the General Assembly.
H. Issuing invitations to and staging the Management Conference.
I. Interpreting questions relating to the Articles of Association.
J. Employing the Secretary General, determining issues relating to the Secretary General's salary and compensation, dealing with altered working conditions and terminating the Secretary General's employment relationship.
K. Engaging the NPA's external auditors.
L. Staging by-elections.
M. Facilitating the organisation's development and growth, and setting its direction.

6.4 The National Board's chair and two vice-chairs together comprise the National Board's Working Committee.

6.5 Management Conference
The Management Conference is staged annually, apart from the year in which the General Assembly is held. Invitations to attend the Management Conference must be issued at least three months in advance.

The Management Conference comprises the National Board and the chair of each association or their designated deputy, as well as the NPA First Aid and Rescue Service Committee, the NPA First Aid and Rescue Service Youth Committee, the NPA Socio-political Committee, the Board of Solidarity Youth and the Organisational Committee.

The Management Conference discusses:
A. Current status and challenges
B. Plans and priorities
C. Topical issues and focus areas

§ 7 LOCAL CHAPTERS
7.1 NPA's local chapters comprise:
A. Personal members
B. Collectively associated organisations and local societies

7.2 The local chapters are independent financial and legal entities, with the obligations and responsibilities this entails. They are nevertheless subject to resolutions and guidelines adopted by the central organisation.

The local chapters must have an administrative contact for follow-up and assistance.

7.3 The establishment of local chapters, their choice of names and changes in their geographic boundaries must be approved by the Organisational Committee.

7.4 The association's name should preferably be the name of its locality.

The Organisational Committee issues organisational guidelines in cases where there are several local chapters within the same geographic area.

Annual general meeting
7.5 The Annual General Meeting (AGM) must be held by the close of February
each year. An invitation to attend the AGM must be issued at least four weeks in advance. Matters to be considered at the AGM must be submitted to the association's board at least two weeks before the AGM’s scheduled date.

Case documents, submitted proposals and the Nomination Committee’s recommendations must be made known to the members at least one week before the AGM’s scheduled date.

7.6 All personal members are entitled to attend the AGM. Collective members send one representative for every 50 members, plus one delegate for each subsequently commenced multiple of 50 members, up to a maximum of five representatives.

Members enjoy all rights and privileges provided that they have paid their membership fees by 31 January.

For the AGM to be in quorum, at least three members who are not board members must be present.

7.7 The auditor and, if required, the bookkeeper may attend the AGM. In that case, they are entitled to address the AGM and submit proposals relating to the financial statements.

7.8 The Annual General Meeting considers:
   A. The annual report
   B. The annual financial statements
   C. Submitted proposals
   D. Plans and budgets for a period of at least two years
   E. The election of:
      • the association’s board and their deputies
      • delegates and deputy delegates to the NPA’s General Assembly
      • the Nomination Committee, comprising at least three members and their deputies

Only those entitled to vote at the AGM are eligible.

The association’s board is not entitled to vote on matters relating to the annual report and financial statements.

7.9 To ensure continuity in the board’s activities, board members should be elected for a term of two years, with half of the seats coming up for election at each AGM.

7.10 Accounting and auditing
The financial statements must be audited before the AGM.

Local chapters with gross revenues of up to and including NOK 500,000 may select two people with a knowledge of accounting to review the financial statements and submit a report to the AGM. Such a review must be performed in accordance with a template adopted by the National Board.

Local chapters with gross revenues in excess of NOK 500,000 must engage a registered auditor.

7.11 The annual report, financial statements and auditor’s report must have been received by NPA’s central administration by 15 March.

7.12 Audit Committee
Local chapters may elect an Audit Committee to act as an oversight body. In that case, the Audit Committee’s mandate will be:
   A. to ensure that organisational, financial and political decisions comply with the organisation’s policy platform, articles of association and the association’s own decisions.
   B. to perform a critical review of the association’s decisions and financial figures and submit a written report to the AGM for each financial year.

Extraordinary general meeting
7.13 An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) must be held at the request of at least two-thirds of the board’s members or when a third of the members so demand.

7.14 An EGM must be called at no less than two weeks’ notice, and may consider only those matters that are published in the invitation to attend.

Case documents are sent out to members at least one week before the EGM’s scheduled date. The invitation to and the minutes of the EGM must be sent to NPA’s central administration for their information.
Governing board

7.15 Local chapters are led by a governing board comprising at least three members, who shall perform the following functions:

• Chair
• Secretary
• Treasurer
• Membership Manager
• Chairs of local committees

Collective members may be elected to a local association’s governing board.

The administrative contact tasked with following up with the local association is entitled to address board meetings and submit proposals for consideration thereby.

7.16 The board is in quorum when at least half of its members are present at a board meeting. In the event of a tied vote, the proposal concerned is not carried.

7.17 The board may establish a working committee to lead the association’s day-to-day activities between board meetings or as authorised by the board. The working committee’s decisions must be submitted to the board for approval.

7.18 Procedures relating to signing, financial statements and auditing must comply with NPA’s Guidelines for Financial Management.

The board’s role and responsibilities

7.19 The board shall ensure:

• The local association operates in accordance with plans and budgets approved by the AGM.
• Good contact with members and a good flow of information.
• Regular activity.
• Good cooperation with the local community and relevant partners.
• Recruitment.
• Proper operation of the association.
• Necessary training and competence.
• Engagement of an auditor, when required.

7.20 The board has a duty to keep minutes of all decisions relating to financial matters. Any borrowing must be approved by an AGM or EGM.

Dissolution of local chapters

7.21 The dissolution of a local association must be approved by the Organisational Committee, after a resolution to do so has been passed by the association’s AGM with a two-thirds majority.

7.22 The Organisational Committee shall, in conjunction with management, strive to reorganise local chapters in the municipality/village concerned.

If no activity has been reported by the association for the past two years, the Organisation Committee may call an AGM and, if relevant, resolve its dissolution.

7.23 Upon its dissolution, the association’s assets shall be protected as well as possible. The funds must be utilised to reorganise local chapters or activities within the same geographic area. The funds shall be placed in a separate, interest-bearing account, such that the interest accruing may also be used for this purpose.

Tangible assets whose value will be impaired must be utilised or sold.

7.24 If no new association has been formed in the same area within a period of five years, the funds will be transferred to the central activity account managed by the Organisational Committee.

§ 8 ORGANISATIONAL COMMITTEE

8.1 The Organisational Committee’s objects are to ensure good organisational practice and organisational training within NPA.

8.2 The Organisational Committee is appointed by the National Board and comprises:

• Chair
• Vice-chair
• Three members
8.3 The Organisational Committee is responsible for:
A. Facilitating organisational training and leadership development.
B. Advising local chapters on organisational matters.
C. Approving the establishment of new local chapters, the reestablishment of local chapters and their choice of name.
D. Approving the dissolution of local chapters.
E. Winding up local chapters.
F. Allocating funds for activities upon application.

§ 9 AUDIT COMMITTEE
9.1 The Audit Committee is accountable to the General Assembly and is entitled to address National Board meetings and the General Assembly.

9.2 The committee's mandate is to provide oversight of the National Board's work and decisions by:
A. Ensuring that organisational, financial and political decisions comply with laws and regulations, as well as the organisation's articles of association, guidelines and decisions.
B. Summoning the appointed auditor, or any such individuals as the committee wishes, to its meetings.
C. Commissioning the auditor to perform further investigations to meet the committee's need for information.
D. Submitting a written report to the National Board after the close of each calendar year.
E. Submitting a written report to NPA's General Assembly on its work and its findings during the period since the last General Assembly.

§ 10 SECRETARY GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATION
10.1 The Secretary General is employed on a fixed, six-year contract, with an option to extend for up to six years.

10.2 The Secretary General leads NPA's central administration and is accountable to the National Board.

10.3 The Secretary General attends and is entitled to address the General Assembly. The Secretary General is entitled to attend, address and submit proposals to meetings of the National Board.

10.4 The Secretary General is responsible for preparing matters to be put to and implementing decisions taken by the National Board.

Employees
10.5 Employees may not be elected by an AGM to a seat on the same board as has legal responsibility for them as their employer, or in which the employee concerned performs their day-to-day work. The employee concerned may join the association's governing board with the right to address and submit proposals thereto.

10.6 When an organisational level has more than 30 employees, a majority of the employees are entitled to demand that one board member and one deputy member be elected by and from among the employees. If the organisational level has fewer than 30 employees, an employee representative may be entitled to attend and address board meetings, when such meetings consider matters relating to the relationship between NPA as employer and the employees. The employees' representative is not entitled to participate in consideration of matters relating to the employer's preparations for negotiations with employees, labour disputes or litigation with trade unions or similar organisations.

10.7 Apart from those elected to the National Board, employees in the central administration cannot be elected as delegates to the General Assembly.

AREAS OF ACTIVITY
§ 11 NPA FIRST AID AND RESCUE SERVICE
11.1 Objects
The objects of NPA First Aid and Rescue Service are to create safe local communities by means of a stand-by rescue service, first-aid training and accident prevention.

11.2 Central First aid and Rescue Committee
NPA First aid and Rescue Service is led by the Central First aid and
Rescue Committee, comprising:

- Chair
- Two vice-chairs
- Two deputy members

The NPA First aid and Rescue Committee is elected by the Board of Representatives for a term of two years, with the possibility of re-election. In General Assembly years, the committee elected by the Board of Representatives does not take up its duties until after the General Assembly. All elections should strive to achieve a diverse committee membership, with the emphasis on necessary experience and competence.

The chair of NPA First Aid and Rescue Youth and appointed specialist functions join the committee. On relevant matters, NPA First aid and Rescue Service advises the board.

The chair of the Central First aid and Rescue Committee joins the National Board as a permanent member, with all rights and privileges, with the first and second vice-chairs acting as first and second deputy, respectively.

The Central First aid and Rescue Committee issues directives to NPA First aid and Rescue Service with respect to first-aid and the voluntary rescue service. The committee's mandate is described in detail in “Mandate and Guidelines for NPA First aid and Rescue Service”.

11.3 Coordinating level
At the coordinating level, the service is organised such that it has one national emergency coordinator and one emergency coordinator per police district. The holders of these functions are appointed by the Central First aid and Rescue Committee.

First aid and rescue groups within a police district, or in collaboration with nearby police districts, can choose to organise themselves into a partnership for training purposes and to meet shared challenges.

11.4 Locally
At the operative level, the service is organised into first aid and rescue groups operating under the direction of NPA First aid and Rescue Service. Where there are youth first aid and rescue groups, training shall be facilitated so that members of NPA First Aid and Rescue Youth can participate in the provision of first-aid and become approved rescue team members when they turn 18.

Locally, “cub” groups of children aged 10–13 may be established. Such groups shall have their own programme of activities and events. Their primary activities will be first-aid, outdoor pursuits and rescue services.

11.5 Meetings of the Board of Representatives
A meeting of the Board of Representatives shall be held every second year. The Board of Representatives comprises the Central First aid and Rescue Committee and up to two delegates from each local association engaged in first aid and rescue activities. Invitations to attend the Board of Representatives meeting must be issued at least two months in advance. Proposals for matters to be considered must be received by the Central First aid and Rescue Committee at least four weeks before the meeting’s scheduled date. Final case documents must be sent to delegates at least two weeks before the meeting’s scheduled date.

The Board of Representatives’ meeting shall consider:
A. The agenda and proxy authorisations.
B. Guidelines for NPA First aid and Rescue Service.
C. Submitted proposals.
D. Election of the Central First aid and Rescue Committee.
E. Election of the Nomination Committee.
F. The report on activities since the last General Assembly, in years when there is a General Assembly.
G. Matters to be discussed at the General Assembly, in years when there is a General Assembly.
H. Election of six delegates, plus six deputy delegates in numbered order, in years when there is a General Assembly.

The National Board may attend as observers, address and submit proposals to the Board of Representatives meeting.
First aid and Rescue Conference

The objects of the First aid and Rescue Conference are to help boost activity and specialist expertise within the field of first aid and rescue. The timing and content of the First aid and Rescue Conference will be determined by the Central First aid and Rescue Committee in consultation with the Central Youth First aid and Rescue Committee.

§ 12 NPA FIRST AID AND RESCUE YOUTH

12.1 Objects

The objects of NPA First Aid and Rescue Youth are to offer a safe and meaningful leisure activity to young people aged between 13 and 20. It is permissible for representatives elected to central functions to be up to 26 years of age. First-aid, rescue services and outdoor pursuits must form the core of the organisation’s activities.

NPA First Aid and Rescue Youth shall work to ensure young people are trained to become rescue team members and/or first-aiders, as well as go on to join NPA First aid and Rescue Service once they have turned 18.

12.2 Organisation

NPA First Aid and Rescue Youth is led by the Central Youth First aid and Rescue Committee, comprising:

- Chair
- Two vice-chairs
- One member and
- the representative of the National Board
- Two deputy members

The Central Youth First aid and Rescue Committee is elected for a term of two years, with the possibility of re-election. The committee is elected at the meeting of the Board of Representatives and takes up its duties after the General Assembly, in years when there is a General Assembly.

The Central Youth First aid and Rescue Committee is governed by the NPA First aid and Rescue Service in matters relating to first-aid and rescue issues. The Central Youth First aid and Rescue Committee's chair joins the Central First aid and Rescue Committee with all rights and privileges.

12.3 The Board of Representatives meets every second year. The Board of Representatives' meeting shall consider:

A. The agenda and proxy authorisations.
B. The report on activities since the last General Assembly, in years when there is a General Assembly.
C. Submitted proposals.
D. Guidelines for NPA Youth First aid and Rescue.
E. Matters to be discussed at the General Assembly, in years when there is a General Assembly.
F. Election of the Central Youth First aid and Rescue Committee.
G. Election of a representative to the National Board, plus two deputy representatives in numbered order.
H. Election of 12 delegates, plus 12 deputy delegates in numbered order, in years when there is a General Assembly.
I. Election of a Nomination Committee.

The Board of Representatives comprises two representatives from each local youth first aid and rescue group and the Central Youth First aid and Rescue Committee.

Both the National Board and NPA First aid and Rescue Service may attend as observers, address and submit proposals to the Board of Representatives' meeting.

12.4 The Central Youth First aid and Rescue Committee shall:

A. Adopt an activity platform and action plan for NPA Youth First aid and Rescue.
B. Take responsibility for planning and staging key youth activities for NPA Youth First aid and Rescue, including the adoption of a programme for the Youth First aid and Rescue Conference.
C. Advise NPA First aid and Rescue Service on youth matters.
D. Advise the NPA's National Board on youth matters.

12.5 Coordinating level

Local chapters with youth first aid and rescue activities are coordinated by a single youth committee per police district. The committee comprises at least one young person and an adult leader appointed by the Central Youth First aid and Rescue Committee. Together with an employed...
resource, they will stage joint activities for local groups in the district.

12.6 Locally
NPA First Aid and Rescue Youth is organised into local youth first aid and rescue groups.

The AGM elects a local youth leader and an adult leader. Youth committees may be established if so desired.

The youth leader must be represented with all rights and privileges on the local association's board. If there is no young person in this position, or the youth leader is unable to attend, the adult leader will represent the youth first aid and rescue group with all rights and privileges on the local association's board.

Local youth first aid and rescue groups must be called “NPA Youth First aid and Rescue” plus the local association’s name. For example, “NPA First Aid and Rescue Youth Jæren”.

§ 13 NPA SOCIO-POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

13.1 Objects
The objects of the NPA Socio-political involvement are to contribute to a fair distribution of power and resources, international solidarity, an inclusive society and involvement with the local community. The committee is intended to act as a link between NPA's local socio-political local chapters and contribute to the creation of arenas for the sharing of experiences and joint activities.

13.2 Organisation
NPA's socio-political activities are led by the NPA Socio-political committee, comprising:
• Chair
• Three members, two of whom are elected as first and second deputy to the National Board,
• One deputy member
• A representative from the board of NPA Solidarity Youth may attend committee meetings.

The NPA Socio-political Committee is elected by the Board of Representatives for a term of two years, with the possibility of re-election.

In years when there is a General Assembly, the committee is elected at the Board of Representatives' meeting, but does not take up its duties until after the General Assembly. All elections shall strive to achieve a diverse committee membership, with the emphasis on necessary experience and competence.

13.3 In relevant cases, the NPA Socio-political Committee advises the National Board.

13.4 The chair of the NPA Socio-political Committee joins the National Board as a permanent member, with two committee members acting as their first and second deputy.

13.5 Board of Representatives' meeting
The Board of Representatives shall meet at least every second year. The Board of Representatives' meeting comprises the NPA Socio-political Committee and up to two delegates from each local association actively engaged in Socio-political issues. Invitations to attend the Board of Representatives meeting must be issued at least two months in advance. Proposals for matters to be considered must be received by the NPA Socio-political Committee at least four weeks before the meeting’s scheduled date. Final case documents must be sent to delegates at least two weeks before the meeting’s scheduled date.

The Board of Representatives' meeting shall consider:
A. The agenda and proxy authorisations.
B. The report for the General Assembly period, in years when there is a General Assembly.
C. Guidelines for the NPA Socio-political Committee.
D. Submitted proposals.
E. Matters for the General Assembly, in years when there is a General Assembly.
F. Election of the NPA Socio-political Committee at the recommendation of the Nomination Committee.
G. Election of six delegates, plus six deputy delegates in numbered order, to attend the General Assembly, in years when there is a General Assembly.

H. Election of a Nomination Committee.

The National Board may attend as an observer and address and submit proposals to the Board of Representatives meeting.

13.6 Socio-political Conference
Shall contribute to increased activity and knowledge concerning Socio-political issues. The timing and content of the Socio-political Conference are determined by the NPA Socio-political Committee.

§ 14 NPA SOLIDARITY YOUTH

14.1 Objects
The objects of NPA Solidarity Youth are to achieve a fairer distribution of power and resources through active lobbying and information activities with respect to international solidarity, humanitarian disarmament, anti-racism and asylum and refugee policies.

NPA Solidarity Youth is subject to NPA's principles and articles of association, but is free to adopt its own points of view and priorities.

Members of NPA Solidarity Youth are those aged between 13 and 30 who are associated with a solidarity youth association or solidarity youth group engaged in Socio-political issues. A member is eligible for election to office until the end of the year in which they turn 30.

14.2 Organisation
NPA Solidarity Youth is organised such that it has its own national AGM, solidarity youth board and solidarity youth local chapters and groups.

14.3 National AGM
Is a body with the authority to pass resolutions on behalf of NPA Solidarity Youth. Invitations to attend the AGM must be issued at least two months in advance.

The AGM shall consider and pass resolutions relating to:
A. The annual report from the solidarity youth board.
B. Guidelines for NPA Solidarity Youth.
C. The political platform.
D. NPA Solidarity Youth's action plan.
E. Election of the solidarity youth board, comprising a chair and two vice-chairs, two board members and two deputy members. The chair and the first and second vice-chairs act as the representatives and first and second deputy representatives to the NPA's National Board.
F. Election of six delegates, plus six deputy delegates in numbered order, to the General Assembly, in years when there is a General Assembly.
G. Election of a Nomination Committee, comprising a chair, three members and one deputy member.
H. Other priorities.

All local chapters and youth groups which define themselves as Solidarity Youth are entitled to send three delegates to NPA Solidarity Youth's AGM. In addition, solidarity youth local chapters with more than 50 members may send a further delegate. The youth local chapters may send up to four delegates.

The delegates' travel expenses will be reimbursed on the basis of a cost-sharing formula. Delegates, observers and candidates for election must have paid their membership fees by the prescribed date.

Both the National Board and NPA First aid and Rescue Service may attend as observers, address and submit proposals to the Board of Representatives’ meeting.

14.4 Solidarity youth board
The highest decision-making body in the interim between the national AGMs. On an independent basis, the solidarity youth board may issue statements on behalf of NPA Solidarity Youth in line with the adopted political platform.

The chair of the solidarity youth board represents the solidarity youth local chapters/groups on the National Board, with all rights and privileges.

In relevant cases, NPA Solidarity Youth advises the National Board.
14.5 Local solidarity youth chapters and groups
NPA Solidarity Youth may establish its own solidarity youth, which are organised as local chapters in NPA.

The solidarity youth local chapters are run in accordance with articles of association and guidelines adopted by the NPA Solidarity Youth AGM.

When local solidarity youth chapters are established, they should preferably be named thus: NPA Solidarity Youth + name of locality.

When solidarity youth groups are established within a local chapter, they should be named thus: Solidarity Youth Group in “local chapter’s name”.

SANSIONS, AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION AND DISSOLUTION OF NORWEGIAN PEOPLE’S AID

§ 15 SANCTIONS

15.1 The imposition of sanctions pursuant to this article may be considered with respect to members who act in contravention of NPA’s objects, articles of association and guidelines, or who misuse the organisation’s name. Members and organisational levels may notify the Sanctions Committee about matters they believe should be dealt with pursuant to this article.

The member concerned is entitled to be heard before the proposed sanction is considered. Before sanctions are imposed in connection with matters not related to financial irregularities or other criminal offences, the local association has a duty to hold a conflict-resolution meeting. The parties involved must attend such a meeting. Minutes of the meeting shall be taken. These must be signed by all parties. The minutes must express the views of both parties.

Conflict-resolution meetings shall not be held in cases relating to inappropriate behaviour.

15.2 The National Board adopts a “Guide to Sanction Cases”, which provides guidelines for the way sanction cases should be dealt with.

15.3 The following sanctions may be imposed:
A. Suspension of up to three months – Responsibility: Local association
B. Exclusion for up to one year – Responsibility: Local association
C. Exclusion for up to five years – Responsibility: Sanctions Committee
D. Permanent exclusion – Responsibility: Sanctions Committee

All resolutions relating to sanctions must be justified and a report thereon sent to the central administration for information purposes.

A local association’s board may suspend a member for up to three months and temporarily exclude a member for up to one year. The board may also recommend to the Sanctions Committee that a member be excluded permanently or for a period of up to five years. Resolutions to exclude someone for up to one year, recommendations to exclude someone permanently or for up to five years must be passed by at least a two-thirds majority of the association’s board.

Resolutions to exclude someone permanently or for a period of up to five years are passed by the Sanctions Committee. Resolutions to exclude must be passed by at least a two-thirds majority of the Sanction Committee’s members.

15.4 A local resolution to exclude for up to one year may be appealed to NPA’s Sanctions Committee.

Resolutions to exclude passed by the Sanctions Committee may be appealed to the HR Committee appointed by the National Board.

The deadline for appeals is 30 days from the date on which the resolution was made known, and the appeal must be heard within a period of two months.
15.5 The Sanctions Committee is appointed by the National Board. The committee has five members, who are elected on the basis of their personal qualities, competence and experience.

15.6 The National Board may take the initiative to impose sanctions on all organisational levels and boards. The National Board may otherwise call Extraordinary General Meetings and meetings of subordinate organisational levels when there are particular grounds therefor.

§ 16 AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION
16.1 Amendments or additions to NPA's Articles of Association are adopted by an Ordinary General Assembly with at least a two-thirds majority. Proposals must be submitted at least three months before the General Assembly's scheduled start.

§ 17 DISSOLUTION OF NORWEGIAN PEOPLE’S AID
17.1 Dissolution of Norwegian People's Aid requires at least a two-thirds majority at two successive Ordinary General Assemblies.

17.2 In connection with the dissolution of Norwegian People's Aid, the dissolving meeting decides how existing funds shall be applied. This resolution must be passed by at least a two-thirds majority.