



Asociacioni i Gazetarëve të Kosovës  
Association of Journalists of Kosovo

# Statute of the Association of Journalists of Kosovo

Based on Law No. 06 / L-043 on Freedom of Association in Non-Governmental Organizations adopted on July 19, 2021, the Assembly of Members of the Association of Journalists of Kosovo, in order to govern the organization, adopts this Statute.

## **Article 1** **Name, form and address**

1. The name of the organization is the Association of Journalists of Kosovo.
2. It is also known by the abbreviation AJK.
3. AJK is a non-profit association, defined according to Articles 16 and 20 of Law No. 06 / L-043 on Freedom of Association in Non-Governmental Organizations in the Republic of Kosovo.
4. AJK does not distribute any net income or profit to any person. The assets, revenues and profits, which the organization benefits according to its mandate as a non-governmental organization, are not used for special benefits to individuals, whether directly or indirectly for any of its founders, leaders, members, employees or partners (donors). These persons can be provided reasonable compensation for certain commitments in the development of the AJK activities.
5. Any transaction between the AJK and another affiliated organization, or between the NGO and its members, officials, board members or employees is prohibited, unless the governing body decides, after reasonable investigation, that the transaction is in the interest of the organization, is fair and reasonable and that the same could not have secured more favorable arrangements with reasonable effort and within the existing circumstances.
6. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article 35 of Law No. 06 / L-043, and in accordance with Article 12 of the same law that defines the non-profit character of the organization, the AJK has the right to engage in economic activities provided that the realized income is used to achieve the goals set out in this Statute.
7. The AJK upholds the principles of the Declaration of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) and the International Federation of Journalists on the Freedom of Journalists and the Media in Europe, adopted on March 5, 1993 and March 2, 1995 respectively.
8. The AJK has its own logo which will be the trademark of the organization as well as its seal.
9. The main office of the AJK is based in Prishtina.

## **Article 2 Purpose and Scope**

1. The main goal of the AJK is to protect the rights and freedoms of journalists, cameramen and photojournalists, to promote free, investigative, independent and professional journalism. To achieve this, the AJK is committed to:  
Adopting the professional Code of Conduct (Code of Ethics) in order to raise the awareness of our membership regarding professional ethics.  
Promoting the social and professional rights of journalists.  
Promoting solidarity among members as well as representing and protecting their interests before the relevant authorities.  
Establishing, developing and maintaining forms of cooperation with similar organizations abroad.
2. The scope of this Statute extends to the protection of the rights of the community that the AJK represents, throughout the territory of Kosovo, and the observance of the rights recognized by law, during their work.

## **Article X Principles**

1. The principle of independence – the AJK is an organization which is independent of any form of political, ideological, religious, and racial influence or any other influence that conflicts with the principles and standards of democracy.
2. Principle of transparency - the work and activities of the AJK are based on transparency, accountability and responsibility during all stages of its activity, as defined by law and other internal normative acts.
3. The principle of freedom of expression – the AJK is organized and operates according to the principles of freedom of expression contained within the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo.

## **Article 3 Membership**

1. Membership in the organization is open to:

Every journalist, cameraman, photojournalist, editor, editor-in-chief, director of information, regardless of their race, gender, nationality, or religion.

2. Non-payment of membership (after the payment application begins), after written notice, will serve as a basis for expulsion of the member from the organization. Membership of any member may also be terminated or suspended by decision of the AJK Board in the following cases:  
If they decide to quit the journalism occupation,  
if they violate the norms of the Statute of AJK,

#### **Article 4 The AJK structures**

1. The structures of the AJK are: the Assembly of Members, the Board of the AJK, the President of the AJK, the Director and the Executive Staff.
2. Each member of the AJK can be elected to its governing structures, with the exception that journalists, cameramen and photojournalists, who are media owners, co-owners or media shareholders, executive directors, general directors, and deputy directors have no right to represent or vote in the governing structures of the AJK. Those who are elected and have a leading mandate in the bodies of the AJK, at the moment they become media owners or move to any of the positions mentioned above in Article 4, point 2, will have their mandate terminated.

#### **Article 5 The Assembly of Members**

1. The AJK Assembly is the highest governing and decision-making body, which consists of all its members. The Assembly has a particular responsibility in determining the general policies of the organization, overseeing its subordinate bodies, with special emphasis on the financial management of the AJK.
2. The competencies of the Assembly are:  
Election and dismissal of the Board of Directors President;

Election and dismissal of board members;  
Approves and amends the Statute and other internal acts;  
Approves the documents arising from the regular and extraordinary meetings of the assembly which have procedural character;  
Decides on the dissolution of the organization.

3. Board members are elected from the lists of candidates, which contain at least 10 (ten) proposals of members of the assembly.

The voting method is preferential, where each of the members of the assembly can vote 1 to 5 members from the list of at least 10 (ten) candidates proposed.

Eight (8) candidates from at least 10 (ten) nominees who have received the largest number of votes are elected board members.

4. The president (president) of the AJK is the 9th (ninth) member, who is directly elected by the assembly.

The mayor is elected from a list of 2 or more candidates. The candidate who receives the majority of votes is elected president.

Voting for president and board members is done at the same time, but with separate ballots.

5. All candidates for president and board members must send their candidacies to the official address of the AJK, no later than 3 days before the day of the elections.
6. Candidates who have five (5) or more years of experience in active journalism have the right to run for president and members of the AJK Board.

## **Article 6**

### **Meetings of the Assembly**

1. At the request of the majority of the board members, the board has the obligation to convene an extraordinary assembly.
2. The written notice of the meeting including the date and place of the meeting, together with the agenda for the meeting shall be distributed to all members at least five days before the meeting.
3. The Assembly can carry out its work only if 50% of the membership participates.

4. Each member of the organization has the right to one vote.
5. The President of the AJK opens the proceedings of the Assembly and leads the meeting until the moment of election of the working group. If the president is absent, the meeting is led by one of the members delegated by the president.

## **Article 7 The Board**

1. The board is responsible for controlling and managing the affairs of the organization. The board acts in accordance with the goals of the organization.
2. In addition to the authority set forth above in this Statute, the Board shall also have the following powers:

Adopting a program and strategy of AJK in accordance with the goals and objectives of the Association.

Implementing the general policy and general orientation of the activities approved by the Assembly of Members, in accordance with the norms of the AJK.

Reviewing the work and financial reports of the President and of the Executive Director before submitting them to the Assembly meeting for consideration.

Reviewing and considering the annual program plan and budget prepared and submitted by the Executive Director.

Overseeing the budget of the Association and approving the financial reports by the Executive Director.

Proposing to the Assembly the dismissal or election of a new member of the Board.

Selecting as needed the staff of the AJK, experts, and external collaborators of the Association and deciding on any kind of cooperation of the AJK with third parties.

Updating the internal regulations regarding the operation of the AJK.

Proposing to the Assembly the amendments and supplements to this Statute.

Appointing and dismissing the Executive Director.

Overseeing the representation of the Association by the President at the relevant bodies and authorities in Kosovo and abroad.

3. The Board may take decisions only when a majority of the members are present and by a majority vote of those present.
4. The board will meet as needed, at least once a month. The Board will be obliged to convene the meeting if required by the majority of the Board members. If any member of the Board is absent without reason more than twice, he / she shall be dismissed from the position of Board member.
5. The Board shall be composed of nine (9) members, including the president.
6. The mandate of the board members is 3 years with the right of re-election.
7. In case of death, resignation or dismissal of a board member, the Assembly of Members must select the candidate with the most votes on the waiting list to serve for the remainder of the term.
8. In order to have a meritorious representation of the community, a medium shall not have more than two members on the governing structures of the board of AJK. More than two persons from the same medium shall be allowed to run for board members, but only two of them will be able to become part of the governing structures of the organization if they gain enough votes in the general list of candidates.

## **Article 8**

### **The President**

1. The President of the AJK will represent the Association and will act in accordance with the general decisions of the Assembly and the Board. The president is elected according to the procedure defined in article 5.3.
2. The competencies of the president are as follows:

Implements the general policies of the AJK, approved by the assembly in accordance with the rules and norms of this Statute.

Heads the assembly and board meetings.

Oversees the work of executive staff.

Represents the organization at the relevant bodies of local government and abroad. This task may be delegated to other board members, the Executive Director or the Executive Staff.

Performs other tasks defined by this Statute and at the request of the assembly and the board.

3. The mandate of the President of AJK is 3 years, with the right of re-election.

#### **Article 9 The Executive Director**

1. The Executive Director is elected by the board according to the procedures set out in Article 7. The nomination of candidates may be done in writing by the members of the board or through an open competition.
2. The Executive Director exercises his / her function based on the goals of the AJK, and the authorizations and instructions of the board.
3. The Executive Director submits a work report and financial report to the board, whenever the latter requests it.
4. The Executive Director participates in all board and assembly meetings without the right to vote.
5. The mandate of the Executive Director is 3 years, without restriction for re-election. In case of expiration of the mandate, when the procedure for re-election of the new director has not started beforehand, the contract / mandate is automatically extended for another 3 years.

#### **Article 10**



## **Officers and clerks**

If necessary, the Board, in coordination with the Executive Director, may appoint officials or hire persons to take on the day-to-day tasks of the organization. The duration of their employment and compensation depends on the projects in which they are engaged.

## **Article 11 Use of revenues**

1. The AJK may accept gifts, positions and donations but may also seek other ways of gaining benefits for its work. These revenues should be used exclusively to support the non-profit purposes of the Association.
2. The AJK property shall not be divided either among its members, or between Board members or employees.

## **Article 12 Dissolution of the organization**

1. The association can be dissolved by decision of the majority of the Assembly members.
2. When deciding on the dissolution of the organization, the Assembly will indicate the name of the association or foundation that will receive the remaining assets after being released from the obligations of the organization. The selected association(s) or foundation(s) must have the same or similar purposes as the Association.

## **Article 13 Amendments to the Statute**

The Statute can be amended by a decision of the majority of the Assembly members, upon the proposal of the president/ by a majority of votes of board members.

## **Article 14 Reporting periods and financial year**

1. The Board, the President and the appointed officials shall submit annual work reports and financial reports on the AJK elections day.

2. The financial year of the organization shall coincide with the calendar year. This Statute was unanimously approved by the AJK Assembly.

#### **Article 15**

##### **Reactions by the AJK**

1. A decision PRO reaction is made in case when a PRO vote of 5 board members out of 9 in total is secured, including the president of the AJK board.
2. The AJK Board does not react in support of media editorial policies.
3. The AJK Board reacts in cases when journalists, cameramen, photojournalists are attacked (whether physically or verbally), insulted, lynched, threatened, or addressed in connection with their professional work.

#### **Article 16**

This Statute enters into force on the day of its approval and signing by the President of AJK.