

FOUNDING DOCUMENT FOR THE
ASSOCIATION FOR PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP IN CYPRUS

I FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES: A VISION FOR A NEW CYPRUS

We are deeply concerned that the Cyprus problem has remained unsolved for a very long time, keeping the Greek and Turkish Cypriot Communities divided and antagonistic, and the Island partitioned. Despite its complexity, this problem is capable of analysis, rational debate and a negotiated settlement by people of good will from the two Communities. To this process we are anxious to make a contribution, mainly through the creation of a climate of ideas conducive to a successful outcome of UN-sponsored intercommunal negotiations. Our efforts are inspired and guided by a shared vision of a new Cyprus that may be realized through a peaceful settlement which embodies the following principles:

1. All Cypriots belong to Cyprus and possess a distinct Cypriot identity, besides the special cultural characteristics they possess by virtue of their ethnic Community, national origin or religion. A lasting peace in Cyprus requires intercommunal understanding, friendship, trust and respect, which, therefore, should be continuously encouraged and developed.
2. An agreed federal system of government is the most appropriate for Cyprus in the present circumstances. The advantage to the security of the Turkish Cypriots of having a region administered by themselves is recognised as legitimate and desirable. It should, however, be left to future generations to decide whether this arrangement should remain immutable in perpetuity. The security of Cyprus as a whole and all its people should be guaranteed by appropriate international arrangements.
3. The freedom of movement of all Cypriots throughout the Island should be implemented when the Federal Republic of Cyprus comes into existence. The freedoms of settlement and the ownership of property can best be achieved in stages, each stage coming into operation upon an agreed timetable.
4. The way we educate our young is the key to intercommunal understanding and friendship, and therefore to peace in the future. Consequently, it is essential to conduct a comprehensive review of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot education systems to make it conducive to good intercommunal relations. As a first step, the schools in each Community should teach the language of the other Community as soon as practicable.
5. The establishment of a University for all Cypriots, and others too, is important to the peaceful evolution of the Island, fostering good relations between the two Communities and constituting a significant centre of learning in the Eastern Mediterranean with all the benefits that can bring to Cyprus.

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<http://www.st-cyprus.co.uk/intro.htm>

<http://www.st-cyprus.co.uk/english/home/index.php>



6. The protection of the environment in, around, and beyond Cyprus is of vital concern to all Cypriots. Environmental problems transcend any differences and must be faced by the two Communities jointly for their common good.

II PURPOSE AND AIMS

Inspired and guided by our vision for a new Cyprus, we resolve to establish in the United Kingdom the Association for Peace and Friendship in Cyprus with a twofold basic purpose: to encourage and support the search for a peaceful and fair settlement of the Cyprus problem involving the establishment of a unified and democratic bicomunal Federal Republic that takes account of the concerns, needs, rights and legitimate interests of Greek Cypriots, Turkish Cypriots, as well as Armenians, Maronites and other ethnic groups in the Island; and to make a practical contribution to the development of understanding, reconciliation, trust, and a belief in a common destiny among the two main Communities, both because these conditions are important in themselves, and also because they create a climate of ideas and attitudes which facilitates the search for a settlement.

In accordance with this basic purpose, the Association of Peace and Friendship in Cyprus will plan and carry out practical measures to promote the following specific aims:

1. To support every effort towards a settlement, principally the UN-sponsored intercommunal negotiations, which the Greek and Turkish sides should approach constructively, in good faith and with good will. The Association shall not become identified with the position of any one side, but it will urge both sides to work for an *honourable compromise* through balanced and reciprocal concessions.
2. To provide a challenge and an inspiration to Greek and Turkish Cypriot politicians, opinion-makers, officials and ordinary citizens by holding up a vision of a peaceful federal Cyprus which (a) can give people from all Communities security, protection for their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, as well as opportunities for their personal fulfilment; and (b) can contribute to the great causes of peace, cooperation, social development and higher education in the Eastern Mediterranean.
3. To encourage and contribute to the study of practical social problems facing Cypriots in Cyprus and the United Kingdom, and the pursuit of practical solutions through common effort. Where possible, the Association shall try to reach common positions and analyses concerning current problems and other developments which are of interest to Cypriots, and present them to the people through statements to the media and its own publications, public discussions and other means.

III ORGANIZATION

1. The Association is a democratic organization. Membership of the Association is open to anyone who accepts the principles, purpose and aims set out in the Founding Document and is willing to contribute positively to its work. The Association shall act through an Executive Committee accountable to the Members.
2. There are two categories of Membership. *Full Membership* is open to Cypriots and their partners, and the fee for this is £5.00 per annum; and *Associate Membership* is open to all others, and the fee is £3.00 per annum. Both categories carry the same rights and privileges, except for the fact that only Full Members may vote for, and be elected to, the Executive Committee.
3. The Executive Committee shall consist of nine officers, comprising a minimum of three persons from each of the two Communities, elected for a period of one year by the Full Members at an Annual General Meeting held in London. All officers of the Committee shall have the same standing, but specific functions may be assigned to particular officers. The Executive Committee shall meet at least four times a year in London to formulate proposals for policy, programmes and other arrangements for submission to the Membership, and to plan and carry out various activities which promote the basic purpose and specific aims of the Association.
4. The Executive Committee shall call an Annual General Meeting in not less than 9 months and not more than 13 months from the date of the previous Annual General Meeting. The Annual General Meeting shall (a) elect an Executive Committee, (b) receive audited accounts; and (c) consider any proposals for amendments to this Founding Document. Amendments may be proposed by the Executive Committee or any other Member, and they become valid when at least two-thirds of the members present at the Meeting vote in favour of it.
5. General Meetings open to all Members shall be held in London at least five times a year in which the Executive Committee and the Membership shall discuss proposals, plans, and any other items relating to the Association. Decisions shall be taken by consensus, or failing that by simple majority vote among the Members present.