



Bylaws of the Timur Cultural and Social Association

Timur Cultural and Social Association

Pennsylvania, United States of America

Preamble

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

The Timur Cultural and Social Association was founded on the initiative of a group of cultural and social activists in the State of Pennsylvania, United States of America, with the aim of safeguarding, strengthening, and promoting the cultural, social, and historical identity of the Turks of Afghanistan (Uzbeks, Turkmen, and other peoples who consider themselves part of the great Turkic nation).

Through building solidarity, convergence, and cooperation between members of the Afghan community and the host community, the Association strives to provide opportunities for growth, development, education, social participation, and the introduction of the authentic cultural, historical, and social values of Afghanistan, especially the rich culture and heritage of the Turks of Afghanistan.

The Timur Association also commits itself, within the framework of the laws of the United States of America, to supporting Afghan immigrants and refugees through cultural, educational, social, and humanitarian programs. It further commits to building the academic, cultural, educational, and skills capacity of Afghan children, adolescents, youth, and women, both within the immigrant community and inside Afghanistan, through in-person and online training courses, seminars, workshops, counseling programs, and other empowering activities.

These Bylaws, as the strategic document of the Association, define the framework of its activities, objectives, powers, and the responsibilities of its members and officers, so that effective and sustainable steps may be taken toward cooperation, peaceful coexistence, raising public awareness, serving the immigrant community, and developing cultural and social activities.

We, the members of the Timur Cultural and Social Association, believing in shared human, cultural, historical, and moral values, commit ourselves to supporting and helping one another while far from our homeland; to passing on to future generations the cultural heritage, language, good traditions, and authentic values of Afghanistan, especially those of the country's great Turkic community; and, alongside the other multicultural communities of the United States of America, to playing an active and constructive role in strengthening social solidarity, understanding, peace, coexistence, and public welfare.

We hope that, through the faithful implementation of these Bylaws, while safeguarding the identity and culture of our motherland, we may play a lasting and effective role in raising awareness, empowering the immigrant community, supporting vulnerable groups, developing cultural cooperation, and spreading a spirit of empathy and social responsibility.

Part One

Article 1

The Timur Social-Cultural Association, hereinafter referred to in this document as the "Timur Association," was founded on 12/4/2025 at a civic and cultural gathering attended by a large group of distinguished figures, merchants, cultural figures, women, youth, and committed and informed intellectuals of the Uzbeks of Afghanistan residing in the State of Pennsylvania, United States of America.

The Timur Association is a non-profit, independent, non-political, and non-ideological cultural and social organization whose programs of work are preserving cultural and linguistic identity, maintaining communication, defending one another's rights, and assisting compatriots, both within the United States of America and in Afghanistan, in various fields.

Objectives and Duties

Article 2

The purpose of establishing the Timur Cultural and Social Association is to provide the grounds for communication, solidarity, awareness-raising, enlightenment, and service in the cultural, social, educational, historical, and identity fields. Its main objectives are:

- A) Creating educational, upbringing, and nurturing opportunities for the children, adolescents, and youth of Afghan families, in order to preserve their mother tongue, the common languages of Afghanistan, religious, moral, and cultural values, the authentic traditions of the motherland, and the important values of the host country;
- B) Studying and implementing effective approaches to strengthen solidarity, convergence, and cooperation among all Turkic-origin peoples of Afghanistan residing in the United States of America, especially in the State of Pennsylvania, with the aim of maintaining social cohesion and preventing cultural and identity disconnection;
- C) Preserving, protecting, developing, and promoting the language, culture, history, literature, art, and spiritual heritage of the Afghan community;
- D) Teaching English to Afghan immigrants and teaching the common languages of the country, including Dari Persian, Pashto, Uzbek, and Turkmen, using modern teaching methods and digital technologies, and holding in-person and online courses for children, adolescents, and adults;
- E) Holding conferences, seminars, workshops, and cultural, artistic, and scientific programs; commemorating the achievements of great scholarly figures and national and cultural occasions; and providing material and moral support to writers, researchers, artists, and craftspeople;
- F) Supporting Afghan immigrants and refugees through cultural, educational, social, advisory, and informational programs, in order to facilitate their social integration, raise awareness, and improve their quality of life;
- G) Designing and implementing academic, educational, cultural, and skills empowerment programs for Afghan women, children, and youth, within the immigrant community and inside Afghanistan, through training courses, online education, vocational training programs, workshops, seminars, and other educational activities;
- H) Establishing cooperative relations and coordination with associations and cultural, social, educational, and charitable institutions in the United States of America and other countries, and benefiting from their successful experiences;
- I) Creating and developing information platforms, including a website, a newsletter, and official social media pages, in order to reflect the Association's activities and to publish articles, reports, news, and research, and to introduce the culture and values of Afghanistan;

- J) Printing, publishing, and distributing books, magazines, treatises, and scholarly, cultural, literary, and educational works in Uzbek, Turkmen, Dari Persian, Pashto, and English;
- K) Striving to attract and distribute humanitarian aid, carrying out charitable programs, supporting families in need, especially women, children, and vulnerable groups of Afghanistan, and implementing economic and social empowerment programs for them;
- L) Creating a database and recording statistics of Afghan families residing in the State of Pennsylvania and other U.S. states, in compliance with privacy protection laws;
- M) Encouraging youth to participate in cultural, social, volunteer, and civic activities, and raising a future generation that is informed, responsible, and committed to human and cultural values;
- N) Expanding scholarly, cultural, and educational cooperation with universities, research centers, civil and cultural institutions, libraries, and other cultural institutions, within the framework of applicable laws.

Part Two: Conditions of Membership

Article 3

- A) Any citizen of Afghanistan or the United States of America who has a good reputation, sufficient literacy, and work experience in various fields of social activity, who is interested in the language, literature, and culture of Afghanistan, especially the culture and identity of the Turks of Afghanistan, and who accepts the Bylaws of the Timur Association and is committed to working toward their fulfillment, may become a member of this Association;
- B) The applicant for membership submits a written application, in person or online, to the Board of Directors or to the nearest representative office of the Timur Association;
- C) Admission to membership in the Timur Association is carried out by its representative branches in the State of Pennsylvania and in other states of this country, if established, and this authority has been granted to them by the Board of Directors;
- D) Those membership applicants who are willing only to provide financial support are accepted as honorary members of the Timur Association. Honorary members are not subject to the conditions of Article 4 of these Bylaws, and they are invited to the meetings and gatherings of the Association as guests.

Article 4

Rights and Duties of Members

- A) Every member of the Timur Association has the right to:
 1. Participate, as a candidate or as a direct or indirect voter, in elections for all positions of the organization, including the Board of Directors, administrative boards, committees, and branches;
 2. Express their views, suggestions, criticisms, and proposals on all matters related to the work and activities of the Timur Association;
 3. With the permission of the Board of Directors, participate in conferences, gatherings, and seminars on behalf of the Association.

- B) Every member of the Timur Association is obligated to:
1. Study the Bylaws and strive to achieve the objectives contained in them;
 2. Regularly attend the regular and extraordinary meetings of the Association;
 3. Carry out assigned duties in the best manner and within the specified time;
 4. Demonstrate a spirit of openness to criticism, cooperation, mutual acceptance, and friendly relations with all members of the Association;
 5. Pay their monthly membership dues regularly;
 6. Support the Association financially, to the extent of their ability, by making donations;
 7. The rate of membership dues is determined through a separate regulation, proposed by the Finance Committee of the Timur Association and approved by the Board of Directors.

Part Three: Structure, Duties, and Powers of the General Assembly (Board Members)

Article 5

Structure: The Timur Association consists of the General Assembly (Qurultay), the Board of Directors (Kengash), working committees, and branches.

General Assembly (Qurultay): The General Assembly is the highest decision-making authority of the Timur Association and consists of the members of the Board of Directors (Kengash), the members of the committees, and the elected representatives of the branches of the Timur Association.

- A) Sessions of the General Assembly
1. The regular session of the General Assembly is held once a year; an extraordinary session may be convened at the request of one-third and the decision of two-thirds of the members of the Board of Directors;
 2. The session of the General Assembly may be held in person, virtually, or in a hybrid format;
 3. The quorum of General Assembly sessions is reached with the presence of more than half of the members, and its decisions are made by a majority vote of the members present;
 4. The first session of the General Assembly is chaired by one of the active members of the Association; the youngest representative serves as secretary and presents the list of candidates for membership in the Board of Directors to the assembly for approval;
 5. Subsequent sessions of the General Assembly are chaired by the head of the Board of Directors, and the youngest member of the Board of Directors serves as secretary; after completing the report and the formation of the new body, they hand over their places to the new members;
 6. After the approval of the General Assembly, the elected Board of Directors manages the proceedings of the session;
 7. The sessions of the General Assembly of the Timur Association are held in the Uzbek language;
 8. The resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, in addition to Uzbek, may also be published in Dari Persian and English.
- B) Duties: The General Assembly has the following duties:

1. Determining major and fundamental policies;
 2. Hearing and approving the annual work report of the Board of Directors;
 3. Reviewing the proposals of the Board of Directors regarding the need to establish a new committee or to abolish unnecessary committees.
- C) Powers: The General Assembly has the following powers:
1. Approving and amending the Bylaws;
 2. Electing and dismissing members of the Board of Directors;
 3. Approving the flag and emblem of the Timur Association;
 4. Approving the work program, organizational structure, and annual budget;
 5. Deciding on the establishment of branches;
 6. Reviewing objections to decisions of the Board of Directors regarding the penalizing and expulsion of a member of the Timur Association;
 7. Deciding on the Timur Association joining or withdrawing from federations;
 8. Deciding on the dissolution of the Timur Association.

Article 6

Board of Directors (Kengash): The Board of Directors is responsible for the direction, policymaking, and oversight of the organization's activities. It consists of six (6) of the founding members of the Association, who are elected for 2 years.

The composition of the members of the Board of Directors is as follows:

President, Vice President, Secretary, Head of Finance and Procurement, Head of Administration and Organization, and Head of Women's Affairs.

The heads of the committees participate in all meetings of the Board of Directors with the right to vote. The committees report on their work to the Board of Directors and are accountable to it.

- A) Meetings of the Board of Directors (Kengash) (BOARD OF DIRECTORS)
1. Meetings of the Board of Directors are conducted by the President; in the absence of the President, the Vice President may chair the meeting;
 2. At the first meeting of the Board of Directors, one of the members is elected as Secretary for a term of 2 years;
 3. Meetings of the Board of Directors are held once every 45 days; extraordinary meetings may be convened at the request of one-third of the members;
 4. The quorum of Board of Directors meetings is reached with the presence of more than half of the members, and its decisions are made by a majority vote of the members present;
 5. Meetings of the Board of Directors may be held in person, virtually, or in a hybrid format;
 6. At the end of each meeting of the Board of Directors, the place and time of the next meeting are announced;
 7. Within three days of the end of each meeting, the Secretary prepares the draft minutes and sends them to the meeting participants, and the participants are obliged to send their approval

or comments to the Secretary within three working days. After incorporating the members' comments, the Secretary has the minutes signed by the President and then sends the decisions made to the committees and branches.

B) Duties: The Board of Directors (Kengash) has the following duties:

1. Exercising the powers of the General Assembly in the interval between two sessions;
2. Representing the Timur Association in academic and cultural forums and international conferences;
3. Submitting proposals to the General Assembly regarding amendments to the Bylaws, the flag, and the emblem;
4. Proposing the organizational structure, work plan, annual budget, and establishment of branches to the General Assembly;
5. Presenting reports on the implementation of the work plan and budget.

C) Powers: The Board of Directors (Kengash) has the following powers:

1. Managing the affairs of committees and branches;
2. Reviewing and approving the terms of reference of the committees;
3. Nominating delegations to participate in conferences in the State of Pennsylvania and beyond;
4. Concluding protocols and memoranda of cooperation with other cultural and social institutions;
5. Reviewing the committees' proposals regarding the rewarding or penalizing of Association members for submission to the General Assembly;
6. Following up on the administrative and organizational affairs and programs of the organization;
7. Accepting the resignations of members of the Board of Directors and members of the administrative boards of the committees.

Part Four

Article 7

Committees: The working committees of the Timur Association are formed in order to achieve its objectives and implement the decisions of the General Assembly.

A) The Timur Association has the following committees:

1. Committee for Cultural and Social Affairs;
2. Committee for Information and Communication;
3. Committee for Financial Affairs and Fundraising for the Association.

B) At their first meeting, the working committees elect their administrative board, consisting of a head and a secretary, by open vote for a two-year term. If a position on the administrative board becomes vacant due to resignation or other reasons, the committee members elect another person in their place;

C) The quorum of working committee meetings is reached with the presence of a majority of the members, and their decisions are made by a majority of all members. Each working committee

prepares its own terms of reference, proposes them to the Board of Directors for approval, and operates in accordance with them.

Part Five

Article 8

Branches: The branches of the Timur Association are its main constituent units, and they operate in accordance with the Bylaws of the Association to promote language and culture and to preserve the identity of the Turks of Afghanistan among the people.

- A) Branches may be established in the State of Pennsylvania and in other cities where Afghan families live;
- B) A branch of the Timur Association may be established only if there are at least ten applicants for membership in the Timur Association in accordance with the Bylaws;
- C) If the number of applicants is fewer than ten, their membership is registered at the central office;
- D) After the decision of the Kengash regarding the branch, the members of the Timur Association in each city or county meet together and elect from among themselves the administrative board of the branch, consisting of a head, a deputy, and a secretary, and introduce it to the Board of Directors;
- E) Branches carry out their activities independently, in cooperation with the committees of the Association, and are accountable to the Board of Directors;
- F) To facilitate their activities, branches create the sections they need and appoint their heads;
- G) The Board of Directors (Kengash) sets the procedures and manner of operation of the branches.

The branches carry out the following activities:

- 1. Recruiting and attracting members and honorary members in accordance with the Bylaws;
- 2. Maintaining a membership register in physical or online form;
- 3. Establishing training courses and encouraging Turkic-origin Afghan adolescents and youth residing in the United States of America to learn the common languages of the country, religious sciences, and the history and culture of their original homeland;
- 4. Holding language courses for adults, in person or online;
- 5. Holding ceremonies to honor great scholarly, literary, and cultural figures, and important historical and cultural events and days of the Turkic-origin peoples of Afghanistan;
- 6. Collecting membership dues and donations and submitting timely reports on activities.

Part Six

Article 9

Symbols of the Timur Social-Cultural Association:

- A) The flag of the Timur Association is decorated with the logo of this Association;
- B) The emblem or logo of the Association is beautifully designed, combining an image of Amir Timur Sahibqiran, a crescent, a star, and a book;
- C) The offices and online pages are decorated with the flag of the Association, and the correspondence of the Timur Association bears its emblem.

Article 10

Financial Affairs:

- A) The revenues of the Timur Association are derived from the following sources:
 - 1. Membership dues of members;
 - 2. Donations from members and honorary members, merchants, and persons with financial means.
- B) Expenditures: The expenditures of the Timur Association include administrative expenses; funding of scholarly, educational, and cultural activities; publishing activities; online media; assistance to compatriots in need; and the granting of awards and rewards.
- C) The Board of Directors, committees, and branches follow the principles of transparency, accountability, and economy when receiving revenues and making expenditures.
- D) Branches report their revenues to the Finance Committee on a quarterly basis.
- E) The Board of Directors prepares and implements the procedures for financial affairs in accordance with applicable laws.

Part Seven

Article 11

Rewards and Penalties

- A) Rewards: Members of the Timur Association who demonstrate merit and competence in carrying out their duties are rewarded in one of the following forms:
 - 1. Granting a letter of thanks from the branches;
 - 2. Granting a certificate of appreciation from the Board of Directors and the General Assembly;
 - 3. Presenting the flag and emblem of the Timur Association;
 - 4. Publishing the member's photo and achievements in newspapers, on the website, and on other online pages;
 - 5. Granting other material and moral privileges within the means of the Timur Association.
- B) Penalties: Members of the Timur Association are penalized in one of the following forms in case of violation of the Bylaws, failure to perform assigned duties, repeated absence from meetings, failure to pay membership dues, judicial conviction for committing crimes, misuse of the Association's assets, or violation of the privacy of other members:
 - 1. Verbal reminder;

2. Written warning;
3. Removal from position;
4. Suspension of membership;
5. Expulsion from membership;
6. Referral to judicial and legal authorities in case of embezzlement of the Association's assets;
7. In the case of evident misuse of the Association's assets, the revocation of a person's membership does not exempt them from settling their debts.

Article 12

Miscellaneous Provisions:

- A) The Board of Directors prepares and implements the procedures for financial affairs, the procedures for penalties and rewards, and other guiding documents needed for the better regulation of affairs.
- B) These Bylaws consist of a preamble, seven parts, and twelve articles, and shall enter into force after approval by the General Assembly of the Timur Social-Cultural Association.

And success is from God.