

# GAPHS STATUTES

## CONTENTS

1. Name and Domicile
2. Purpose of the Association
3. Membership
4. Finances
5. Organisation
6. General Assembly
7. Dissolution

## 1. NAME AND DOMICILE

### Art. 1

According to the present statutes and following Article 60 ff. of the Swiss Civil Code, a non-profit Association exists under the name of GAPHS - GLOBAL ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL HOME STAGERS.

### Art. 2

Domicile of the Association is c/o Verena Mumford, Zentralstrasse 36, 8003 Zurich, Switzerland.

## 2. PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION

### Art. 3

The Association intends to promote the professional image of Home Staging in Europe as well as to safeguard the interests of this profession. For this purpose, the Association can:

- Inform/educate the public about the profession
- Develop measures of quality control
- Endeavour to obtain governmental or other recognition
- Undertake to offer/do professional Home Staging Courses throughout the countries on the European continent
- Further the professional exchange
- Take measures to keep up the professional standards
- Be a member of relevant professional associations
- Support its members with ongoing education
- Promote/organise meetings, courses, events, and conferences, seminars, workshops, exhibitions, patronage events

## 3. MEMBERSHIP

### Art. 4

4.1 Eligible for membership are those professionals who belong to any home staging association in the World, that are recognised and affiliated by GAPHS and/or IAHS<sup>®</sup> INTERNATIONAL .

4.2 Eligible for membership are those professionals who have received professional education from an IAHS<sup>®</sup> INTERNATIONAL and GAPHS recognised and approved course. The applicants will be asked to submit a certificate or a diploma, as proof of the course completion.

4.3 Eligible for membership are those professionals who practise their profession in a European or worldwide country where there is no local/national association at the time of their registration for membership in GAPHS or there is one but it is not affiliated to IAHS<sup>®</sup> INTERNATIONAL or to GAPHS.

4.3a Eligible for membership are those professionals who practice their profession in any European or worldwide country; who have received a professional Home staging education; who are already active with their businesses and have at least three projects to showcase and present at the time of application for membership. The quality and the execution of their projects will be judged according to the principles of what is considered a professional Home Staging according to GAPHS, in the person of the President and/or the Vice President. The same governing bodies have the power to accept or deny the application in question.

4.3b Eligible for membership, under the name of Associate Member, are those professionals who offer services related within the Real Estate industry such as and not only: Real Estate Agents, Property Developers, Property Managers, Real Estate Service providers, Video makers, Photographers, Surveyors. The Associate Members do not have voting rights and attendance to the Annual General Assembly is not compulsory.

4.3c Eligible to join are those Home Staging Professionals who have taken an Interior Design course from an academy/university /school /college where basic or advanced Home Staging modules are incorporated and who have an already established business and can provide evidence of previously completed home staging projects.

4.4 Each member at the time of registration in the association acquires the lifelong membership right to belong and renew as long as he/she strictly continues to adhere to the GAPHS Code of Ethics.

4.5 All applications are to be directed in writing to the Association and have to be approved by the President or Vice President of GAPHS.

4.6 With acceptance into the Association all members pledge adherence to the GAPHS Code of Ethics.

#### Art.5

5.1 The membership is rendered null and void through resignation, expulsion or death.

5.2 Resignation is possible at any time. The letter of resignation is to be directed to the board. Membership fee for the current year is still due and no portion will be reimbursed.

5.3 Members can be expelled for significant reasons such as non-adherence to the Code of Ethics. The Board is in charge of making this decision. The Board is responsible of informing the Member in writing. The expelled member has the right to appeal against this decision at the General Assembly.

## 4. FINANCES

#### Art. 6

The finances of this Association are constituted by the Membership Fees of effective Members. The Membership Fees are determined yearly by the General Assembly. The commitments of the Association are covered uniquely by the Association's assets. The Association can accept any kind of donations from Foundations, affiliate Associations, or money from Sponsors, Partners, private donors, governmental or institutional donations. The business year begins on January 1st and ends on December 31st.

## 5. THE ORGANIZATION

### Art. 7

The organs of the association are:

- The General Assembly
- The Board

## 6. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### Art. 8

The General Assembly is the highest organ of the Association. It consists of all the members of the Association and is chaired by the President.

### Art. 9

The General Assembly has the following responsibilities:

- Election of the President and the Board Members
- Approval of the annual accounts and the revision statement
- Discharge of the Board
- Resolution of the annual budget
- Determination of the annual membership fees
- Changes to the statutes
- Dissolution of the Association
- Deciding on proposals, as long as they were communicated to the Board in writing more than 20 days prior to the Assembly

#### Art. 10

Every effective member has one vote at the General Assembly. Decisions are taken with a simple majority of the votes of members present at the Assembly. In the case of a tie, the President will cast the decisive vote.

#### Art. 11

The General Assembly meets a minimum of once a year in the first quarter of the business year. The board calls for the meeting in electronic or written form at least 30 days before the meeting date. The General Assembly can be held by physical or virtual presence of the members.

#### Art. 12

The President and Vice President are elected by the General Assembly. The rest of the Board constitutes itself. The Board consists of 5 Members, including the President, and will serve for a minimum of five years. The ad honorem Members of the Board serve for life. The board meets as often as necessary.

#### Art. 13

The Association is committed by the collective signature of two Board Members.

#### Art. 14.

The Board has the following duties:

- Taking the necessary measures to achieve the goals and purpose of the Association
- Calling ordinary and extraordinary General Assembly meetings
- Decisions on acceptance or refusal of members
- Control over adherence to statutes as well as bookkeeping and handling of the assets.

## 7. DISSOLUTION

### Art. 15

The dissolution of the Association is decided by the General Assembly and needs a 2/3 majority of members present. If the association owns assets, they will go to an association with similar purpose.

**These Statutes were approved at the Foundation Meeting in Zumikon, on January 31, 2018.**

### **Amendments:**

Article 4.3a added on March 2, 2019

Article 4.3b added on March 22, 2020

Article 1 amended on July 23, 2022

Article 2 amended March 23, 2024

Article 5.4 eliminated on March 23, 2024

Article 4.1 amended on September 13, 2024

Article 4.3 amended on September 13, 2024

Article 4.3a amended on September 13, 2024

Article 4.3c added on March 22, 2025

Article 1 amended on March 22, 2025