

# **POLITICAL VIOLENCE & TERRORISM SPECIALIST GROUP (PVTSG) OF THE UK'S POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION (PSA)**

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **1. MISSION STATEMENT & AIMS**

The Political Violence & Terrorism Specialist Group (PVTSG) of the UK's Political Studies Association (PSA) is an international, non-profit network of leading experts on Political Violence & Terrorism. Its mission is to support research on Political Violence & Terrorism, organise scholarly events and provide a link between academics, practitioners, policymakers and the media

The primary aims of the group are:

- To promote the study of Political Violence & Terrorism;
- To disseminate research about the Political Violence & Terrorism;
- To promote a critical discussion about Political Violence & Terrorism between academics, practitioners, and policymakers;
- To promote a higher profile for Political Violence & Terrorism studies;
- To foster collaboration and the exchange of ideas and research about Political Violence & Terrorism at subnational, national, and international level;
- To facilitate a group that is able to respond to Political Violence & Terrorism events and needs in a timely and critical manner;
- To promote the dissemination of good practice in the teaching on Political Violence & Terrorism.

### **2. MEMBERSHIP**

Membership shall be open to all academics, teachers, postgraduate students, practitioners, policymakers and media professionals with an interest in the study of Political Violence & Terrorism, as long as they are current members of the PSA. Membership is not limited to the UK.

There are two **types of membership**: full and affiliate.

**Full Members** pay an annual membership fee to be determined and reviewed periodically by the PVTSG Executive Committee. There shall be a discount for members of the PSA. Full members are entitled to all benefits and are eligible for all offices of the Group.

**Affiliate Membership** is free. Affiliate Members do not have voting rights or decision-making powers. Also, they shall not be eligible for funding or other benefits as determined by the Executive Committee.

The Group is committed to equal opportunities and academic merit in all aspects of its organisation and work. No member shall be refused access to the Group's resources on the basis of race, ethnic origin, gender, sexuality or disability.

The Executive Committee has the right to decline membership applications or expel members from the Group if there is evidence that the individual applicant or member has engaged in activities or behaviour that goes against the Group's principles and aims. The Executive Committee shall notify

the affected individual of its decision and rationale in writing.

### **3. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE**

The principal decision-making bodies of the Group are its Chair, the Executive Committee and the General Meeting of the Full Members. An Advisory Committee may be appointed in an auxiliary role.

All officers and committee members of the Group shall be Full Members of the PVTSG at the time of the election or reshuffle. The Chair of the PVTSG shall have been a Full Member for at least two years prior to election or appointment.

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer and such other officers as the group deems necessary. These may indicatively include one or more of the following: Vice-Chair, Panel Convenor(s), Publications Officer, Events Officer, Membership Officer and Newsletter Editor.

The principal appointment and decision-making mechanism of the PVTSG is consensus. Therefore, officers and committee members shall aim to reach an agreement about appointments, decisions and changes to the composition of the committees. The Chair is ultimately responsible for the assignment of roles and offices amongst members of the Executive Committee.

The Membership of the Executive Committee shall generally be reviewed every three years. If the number of nominations for the Executive Committee is greater than the number of available offices, then an election shall be held amongst all Full Members.

An Annual General Meeting (AGM) of all members shall be held once per annum.

### **4. BUDGET, ANNUAL REPORT and CONSTITUTION**

The Group shall produce an Annual Report, which shall be submitted to the PSA Executive Committee and presented at the PVTSG AGM. The Annual Report should list the Group's aims, recent activities, and review of finances.

The Convenor(s) and Executive Committee are responsible for the allocation of funds. Invoices and receipts shall be collected for expenses where possible.

This constitution may be amended or altered only by a resolution supported by a simple majority of Full Members voting at a general meeting, provided that no alteration shall contravene any part of the PSA's Constitution.

*This constitution will be made public through the PSA website.*