Leonard Cheshire Disability Global Alliance Constitution

1. **Mission**

1.1 The Leonard Cheshire Disability Global Alliance (hereafter referred to as “the Alliance”) are united by a desire to change attitudes towards disability around the world and foster mutual support among members through shared skills and experience.

1. **Purpose**
	1. Facilitate international links among services and share experiences and resources to promote best practice in delivering quality services for persons with disabilities.
	2. Support national and international awareness of disability rights.
	3. Maintain and safeguard the shared reputation, values, standards and name of the Alliance.
2. **Values**
	1. The members of the Alliance believe every person is equally valued. We believe persons with disabilities should have the freedom to live their lives the way they choose. To have the opportunity and support to live independently, to contribute and participate fully in society. These values are represented under four key words whereby all Alliance members recognise that each individual has the right to:

**Acceptance**

• be accepted for who they are

• be treated with dignity and respect

• confidentiality and privacy

• a safe living and working environment

• feel valued

**Empowerment**

• be empowered to take control over their lives and accept responsibility for their decisions

• learn through goal-oriented, outcome-focussed programs

• personal independence and choice

• explore and share new initiatives

• contribute to their communities

**Independence**

• reach their optimal level of independence, through encouragement and support

• accessible environments

• community integration and inclusion

• celebrate successes

**Opportunities**

• pursue opportunities that will enhance their quality of life

• contribute to the development and implementation of best practices

• personal and professional growth

• seek continuous quality improvement

1. **Guiding Principles**

The Alliance commits to the following principles:

* 1. Alliance Members affirm the dignity of the individual in compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).
	2. Alliance Members will work alongside persons with disabilities to offer a wide range of support services.
	3. Alliance Members shall promote and respect all human rights for persons with disabilities.

* 1. Alliance Members must be governed with integrity and transparency and be accountable to our clients.
	2. Alliance Members are committed to continuous quality improvement recognising that co-operation among Alliance Members is essential for success.

4.6 Alliance Members may work with other key stakeholders to advocate for persons with disabilities with governments, policy makers and others to change attitudes, policies and service provision.

**-ends-**

**Procedures and Guidelines for the Alliance**

1. **Roles and Responsibilities**
2. *The Global Alliance Council*

The Global Alliance Council comprises all Regional Chairs and the International Director of Leonard Cheshire UK. Each member has one vote.

The Global Alliance Council shall be convened at least every year either in person or by virtual meeting. The hosting country is expected to cover venue costs and arrange logistics for the meeting. Delegates are expected to arrange and cover transport and accommodation costs.

The Global Alliance Council may:

* ratify new procedures, proposals and alliance activities;
* delegate actions to regional and national councils;
* determine constitutional changes for the alliance;
* resolve issues arising from national and regional councils;
* implement new matters of business;
* provide advice and support to regional councils;
* act on behalf of the regional councils including ratifying actions, decisions and plans;
* invite non-voting members to attend Global Alliance Council meetings.
1. *Regional Councils*
* Each Regional Council will have a written constitution which clearly defines how it fulfils the mission, values and principals of the Alliance. A copy of this should be held by the Regional Council and by the Secretariat.
* Each Regional Council will clearly set out procedures for meetings and elections
* Regional Councils shall provide leadership and support to National Councils in resolving disputes, governance issues and complaints.
* Each and every Regional Council shall consist of one voting member from each National Council. Each and every Regional Council shall be headed by a Chairperson and, where possible shall include a Vice-chairperson, Secretary and where deemed necessary a Treasurer
* Persons holding said positions shall be eligible for re-election. Regional Councils may specify the maximum number of terms for which these offices may be held
* Each Regional Council must meet at least every two years, either in person or virtually. Agenda, minutes and attendance lists should be shared with all National Chairs and the Secretariat
* Non-voting representatives of National Councils may attend Regional Council meetings, by invitation of the Regional Council
1. *National Councils*
* Each National Council will have a constitution which clearly defines how it fulfils the mission, values and principals of the Alliance. A copy of this should be held by the Regional Council and by the Secretariat.
* Each National Council will clearly set out procedures for meetings and elections
* National Council’s represent the interest of all services in one country.
* Each and every National Council shall be headed by a Chairperson and, where possible, shall include a Vice-chairperson, Secretary and where deemed necessary a Treasurer
* Where there is only one Cheshire service in the country the Chair of the board of trustees of that service or designated proxy will automatically be representative on the National Council.
1. *Secretariat*
* The Secretariat will act as the main hub for the alliance, maintaining a directory of Alliance members and supporting the Global Alliance Council
* The Secretariat will coordinate the sharing of information through newsletters, the Global Alliance Portal, and other forms of communication where relevant
* The Secretariat will support the Global Alliance Council meetings including developing the agenda based on global relevance, minutes and coordination of workshops
* The Secretariat will provide capacity building support to members where possible
* Where required the Secretariat will support National Councils to resolve governance issues
* The Secretariat will lead on the risk management of the Alliance brand and call upon Regional and National councils for support where appropriate and as per the complaints procedure
* Leonard Cheshire UK owns the red square logo and trademark globally. The Secretariat will manage all brand related issues – monitoring the brand globally, sharing branded resources and advising national and regional councils on their brand identity where applicable.
1. **Members**

The Alliance is a network of independent organisations who share common values and principles.

The current membership constitutes all Cheshire Services that have been accepted into the Alliance. These services are automatically affiliated with the Alliance and are able to participate through their National and Regional Councils. The Leonard Cheshire name and logo is not to be further distributed.

The Alliance represents a loosely affiliated structure which exists to change attitudes towards disability around the world and foster mutual support among members through shared skills and experience.

1. **Risk Management**

All the organisations that make up the Alliance remain independent. None of the organisations has any authority or regulatory role over each other. Whilst the Secretariat, Global Alliance Council, Regional Council and National Councils act as representative bodies for alliance-related work they have no authority or regulatory role over the independent organisations.

1. *Brand Identity*
* The Red Square logo is the property of Leonard Cheshire in the UK. It has been carefully designed and should never be recreated, re-proportioned or distorted.
* The logo should only be used with a clear statement that the relevant service is a member of Leonard Cheshire Disability Global Alliance:

|  |
| --- |
| **Member of the****leonard cheshire disabilityGlobal Alliance** |

1. *Complaints*
* As the Secretariat, Leonard Cheshire in the UK does receive complaints from residents, staff and other stakeholders about Alliance Members and their services.
* If the nature of the allegation is found to have safeguarding implications then the Secretariat may decide to report this to the national regulatory body of the country in question.
* The Secretariat will always respond to the complainant to acknowledge any allegations and inform them that we have passed it on to the relevant authority
* The Secretariat Manager will investigate all complaints received.
* Regional and National chairs will be required to comply and support the investigation by gathering information, meeting with relevant stakeholders where required and oversee the implementation of agreed actions. All information will be reported back to the Secretariat for reference.
* The secretariat will maintain a confidential record of incidents. The UK Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) regulates how Leonard Cheshire in the UK collects, stores and manages personal data, and Leonard Cheshire in the UK is defined as the Data Controller of all personal information or data it holds.
1. *Ongoing Quality Improvement*
* All Alliance members are committed to delivering and supporting the delivery of services whilst upholding the mission, values and principles of the Alliance.
* All Alliance members have a duty to provide services of the highest standards and that customers are sage, cared for and treated with dignity and respect.
* Where Regional and National Councils are aware of services where standards may not being met and there is a duty to work with the Secretariat to develop an appropriate action plan to address the issue.
* Regional and National Councils should provide leadership to ensure that customers and stakeholders can be confidents in Alliance members’ ability to meet customer needs.

* Underpinning all quality improvement activities is the alliances commitment to working with persons with disabilities, understanding the outcomes that customers want, building on their aspirations and choices to ensure that provision of services is enabling and relevant.

1. **Leonard Cheshire Global Alliance Regions**

The list of Global Alliance Regions are below:

1. **East and North Africa**

1. **Southern Africa**
2. **West Africa**
3. **South Asia**
4. **East Asia and Pacific**
5. **The Americas**
6. **Europe**