



Constitution

Updated following Veida at Summer Machane 5771

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(A) NAME

A1 The name of the movement shall be Bnei Akiva of Great Britain and Ireland, hereinafter called Bnei Akiva.

(B) PURPOSE

B1 Bnei Akiva is the national organisational body of all the Bnei Akiva branches, institutions, and activities in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

B2 Bnei Akiva espouses the ideology of Torah Va'Avodah, as a means of unifying Am Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael, and Torat Yisrael.

B3 Torah Va'Avodah reflects the desire to be actively involved in the rebuilding of Medinat Yisrael, bringing Torat Yisrael into fruition.

B4 Bnei Akiva's educational framework shall encompass its three fundamental principles, namely: Am, Eretz, and Torat Yisrael.

(C) AFFILIATIONS

C1 Bnei Akiva of Great Britain and Ireland shall not be directly affiliated to any political party, and shall be deemed as 'politically non-partisan'.

C2 Bnei Akiva of Great Britain and Ireland shall be affiliated to the World Movement of Bnei Akiva, based in Yerushalayim.

C3 Bnei Akiva shall be affiliated to the Mizrachi Federation of Great Britain.

C4 Bnei Akiva shall be affiliated to British Emunah.

C5 Bnei Akiva shall be affiliated to the Zionist Youth Council of Great Britain.

C6 Bnei Akiva shall work in close contact with the Bachad Fellowship (Brit Chalutzim Dati'im) – Friends of Bnei Akiva.

C7 Bnei Akiva recognises that it should do all that is possible to co-operate fully and work with other Zionist and Jewish Movements, provided that this shall not be to the detriment of Bnei Akiva, as decided by the Veida or Hanhalla.

C8 Bnei Akiva may affiliate to any other organisations or bodies as decided by the Veida or Hanhalla.

(D1) MEMBERSHIP

- D1** Members shall become affiliated to Bnei Akiva through payment of an annual subscription fee, to be known as Mas Chaver.
- D2** Upon payment of Mas Chaver, a member shall be known as a Chaver/a.
- D3** Bnei Akiva shall not tolerate discrimination by or against its members on any grounds.

(E) COMPOSITION

- E1** The composition of the membership of Bnei Akiva shall be the Shevet structure, as recommended by the World Movement.
- E2** Each Shevet shall include all members of a particular year group, based on the academic yearly cycle.
- E3** The whole membership shall be divided into sections to be known as Chevrayot, reflecting the Shevet of the member, as follows:

CHEVRAYA ALEPH	School Years 2-6
Shevet Atid	Year 2
Shevet Hachana Aleph	Year 3
Shevet Hachana Bet	Year 4
Shevet Zeraim	Year 5
Shevet Nitzanim	Year 6

CHEVRAYA BET	School Years 7-9
Shevet Ma'alot	Year 7
Shevet Ma'apilim	Year 8
Shevet Haroeh	Year 9

CHEVRAYA GIMMEL	School Years 10-13
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CHEVRAYA DALED	School Years 14+
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- E4** The names of the Sh'vatim of Chevrayot Aleph and Bet shall be permanent and standard for all Chaverim progressing through the Movement.
- E5** Upon entering Chevraya Gimmel, each year group around the world shall be given a unique Shevet name to be determined by the World Movement. This name shall remain with the Shevet henceforth.
- E6** Those Chaverim in Chevraya Daled shall collectively be known as Bogrim.

(F) VEIDA

- F1** The Veida of Bnei Akiva shall be the sum of its membership.
- F2** The Veida is the highest governing and decision-making body of Bnei Akiva, to which all other bodies are accountable.
- F3** The Veida shall meet at least once every calendar year.
- F4** A Veida shall only be deemed quorate if attended by twenty five per-cent of all Mas Chaver paying Bogrim and two-thirds of the members of the Hanhalla. If the Veida shall be found to be inquorate, the steering group shall call a further Veida and if this is found inquorate, direct the Hanhalla to take responsibility for the Veida's function.
- F5** A Veida may be called by the Hanhalla or a quorum of Bogrim as defined above.
- F6** For a Veida to be called, at least one week's notification must be given to Chaverim with voting rights.
- F7** The Veida shall be co-ordinated by a Steering Committee to be nominated by the Hanhalla (National Executive Committee), as defined in Section (G). The Steering Committee must be ratified by the Veida as the first procedural motion.
- F8** The Veida shall be governed by a set of Standing Orders, as detailed in Section (L).
- F9** The Veida shall perform the following activities:
- (a) Receive reports of the Hanhalla.
 - (b) Elect the Nivcharim for the forthcoming Movement year, defined as the time period from 1st September until 31st August.
 - (c) Consider motions, constitutional amendments, and all their respective amendments, as submitted by Chaverim of the Movement.
- F10** The electorate for the election of Nivcharim shall be Mas Chaver paying Bogrim only. Bogrim shall vote for their preferred Nivcharim, and shall place such votes in order of preference, the highest being the most favoured. If there should be a tie between candidates, the candidate with the most 'highest preferences' shall be elected.
- F11** Voting on motions and constitutional amendments at the plenary session shall be open to Mas Chaver paying members of the eldest two of the four Gimmel Shevatim, together with the Mas Chaver paying Bogrim.
- F12** Ordinary motions shall require a simple majority. Amendments to this constitution shall require a two-thirds majority.

- F13** A motion of no confidence in the Mazkirut and/or the Hanhalla shall require a two-thirds majority, and if successful, shall be followed by elections at the earliest possible time.
- F14** All votes and elections shall be adjudicated by the returning officers, who shall be the Shlichim present, as defined in Section (I). In the event of no Shlichim being present at Veida, the Veida will elect a returning officer who will be a Mas Chaver paying Boger of the movement.
- F15** Motions shall take effect for three years after the Veida, unless overturned by a future Veida.
- F16** The results of all motions shall be widely publicised.
- F17** If within a month of publication of the Veida motions, the Hanhalla receives an appeal from a quorum of the Bogrim as defined in Section F4, the motion shall be returned to the next Veida.
- F18** It is the responsibility of the proposer of any motion to work with the implementation of their motion with the Hanhalla. It is the duty of the Rosh Nivchar to report to Bogrim on this progress.
- F19** Whenever possible, Veida motions that are passed will take effect immediately after the conclusion of the Veida.
- F20** All constitutional amendments will take effect immediately after they are voted on.

(G) HANHALLA

- G1** The Hanhalla shall be the National Executive Committee of the Movement.
- G2** The Hanhalla shall consist of the following groups:
- (a) Mazkirut
 - (b) Shlichim
 - (c) Nivcharim
- G3**
- (a) All members of the Hanhalla have voting rights, except for the Shlichim who attend in an advisory capacity only.
 - (b) The body known as the Mazkirut shall have the number of votes that is the sum of the number of its members.
 - (c) The Nivcharim shall have the number of votes that is the sum of the Mazkirut members plus one.
 - (d) A vote within the Hanhalla can only be taken if there are at least half the members of the Mazkirut and half the number of Nivcharim present.
 - (e) If all are not present but G3(c) stands then the votes will be divided up by those present adhering to the above rules (see G3(a) and G3 (b).)

- (f) The votes of the Mazkirut within the Hanhalla shall be distributed evenly amongst all members of the Mazkirut.

G4 The Hanhalla shall be responsible to the Veida for the following activities:

- (a) Election of the Mazkirut for the forthcoming Movement year.
- (b) Election of senior positions of responsibility within the Movement.
- (c) Pursuing disciplinary matters, with the authority to expel Chaverim from the Movement, if felt necessary.
- (d) Determining and Developing Movement policy, as set out in the Policy Documents of Bnei Akiva.
- (e) Ensuring Bnei Akiva has run effectively in the previous year.

G5 The Hanhalla is the representative, decision making body of the Movement. As such it is the responsibility of all the members of the Hanhalla to consult widely with Chaverim from all Chevrayot, in order that informed decisions may be taken.

G6 The Hanhalla must act in a responsible manner with regards to confidential matters. Anyone found breaking this will be answerable to the Hanhalla who must take appropriate, and if necessary, serious action.

(H) MAZKIRUT

H1 The Mazkirut shall be the employed secretariat of the Movement, responsible for its administration and organisation.

H2 The Mazkirut shall be elected by the Hanhalla on behalf of the Movement.

H3 The Mazkirut shall be composed of salaried, sabbatical officers, responsible for the following portfolios:

- (a) Mazkir
- (b) Camps and Technical Direction
- (c) Education
- (d) Northern Fieldwork
- (e) Southern Fieldwork
- (f) Israel Work

H4 Applications from Chaverim for the above positions shall be submitted to the Hanhalla, who shall agree on and publicise their procedure for selection.

H5 In the event of one or more of the above portfolios not being filled by full-time sabbatical officers, it is the responsibility of the Hanhalla to fill the positions as they see fit.

H6 The Mazkirut shall have the right to appoint/employ office staff to assist in the administration of the Movement.

(I) SHLICHIM

- I1** The role of the Shlichim is to assist and advise the Mazkirut and Nivcharim, and act as educators to the Movement spreading Bnei Akiva ideology to all communities nationwide.
- I2** The Mazkirut of Bnei Akiva of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Mazkirut of the World Movement, together with the Jewish Agency, shall have the right to appoint Israeli Shlichim to Bnei Akiva of Great Britain and Ireland.
- I3** The above appointment is conditional upon an interview by representatives appointed by the Mazkirut of Bnei Akiva of Great Britain and Ireland.
- I4** The above appointment is conditional upon ratification by a vote of the Hanhalla following I3 taking place.
- I5** The Shlichim shall occupy the following portfolios:
- (a) Educational Rabbinical
 - (b) Educational Northern
- I6** There shall be at least one family Shaliach, who should be making regular trips to the Tnua nationwide.
- I7** Prior to the selection process, exact job descriptions and guidelines must be formulated by the existing Mazkirut and Shlichim.
- I8** The selection process must include both Bnei Akiva Olami, current Shlichim and appropriate members of the Mazkirut of Great Britain and Ireland.

(J) NIVCHARIM

- J1** The Nivcharim are the elected body of Bogrim whose aim is to monitor the movement and communicate between Chaverim and the Mazkirut.
- J2** The Nivcharim shall be Bogrim elected by the Veida (see F10), and the amount of Nivcharim shall equal the amount of Mazkirut positions.
- J3** One of the Nivcharim shall be appointed “Rosh Nivchar” by the Hanhalla. Their duties shall be:
- (a) Sit with the Mazkir every two weeks for an update;
 - (b) Arrange and chair meetings with the other Nivcharim, to monitor the activities of all sections of the Hanhalla, as appropriate;
 - (c) Set the agenda for Hanhalla meetings with the Mazkir.
- J4** The Nivcharim will be responsible to the Veida for monitoring the work of the Mazkirut on behalf of the whole movement.

(K) MAZKIRUT APPLICATION PROCESS

- K1** Applications should be sent out to all Bogrim. This should ask for the application form to be sent back to the Mazkir marked PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL.
- K2** The closing date for applications should be determined by the Mazkir, Rosh Nivchar and Ombudsman.
- K3** Interviews should be conducted by one member of the Mazkirut, one representative of the Nivcharim, one Shaliach and a past member of the Mazkirut, who has not been involved in Bnei Akiva for at least two years. The Mazkir should strive to sit in every interview and to transcribe in each.
- K4** If two or more candidates are standing for the same position, then the interviews should be conducted by the same interviewers. Questions should also be standardised. These measures will ensure both candidates receive an equal and fair chance to express themselves.
- K5** Minutes of the interviews should be sent to all members of the Hanhalla at least one week before the meeting. The meeting shall not take place until this has occurred. Candidates may not send any other additional information to Hanhalla members. If there are further rounds of applications, the minutes should be sent at least three days before the meeting.
- K6** It is the candidates' obligation to approach members of the Hanhalla, and it is also the obligation of the Hanhalla to read all the candidate's application forms and be open and receptive to the candidate.
- K7** Total confidentiality should be upheld by all members of the Hanhalla.
- K8** Application timetable:

Application forms sent out	October Week 1
Closing date	November Week 2
Interviews	November Week 4 – December Week 1
Minutes of interviews sent out	December Week 3
Hanhalla meeting	January Week 2

- K9** The above protocol will be sent to candidates with the application form as in K1.
- K10** The Hanhalla are responsible to ensure that the above protocol is adhered to. However, if for any reason this is not feasible the Hanhalla have the right to amend the protocol at their discretion.

Schedule A

Plenum Standing Orders

(L) MOTIONS

- L1** Motions should be submitted to the Steering Committee, the day prior to the commencement of the Veida.
- L2** The Steering Committee shall determine the order in which motions are presented to the plenum.
- L3** Each motion must have a proposer and seconder, both of whom having paid Mas Chaver for the current year.
- L4** The motion shall be introduced with a speech by the proposer, the maximum length of which shall be five minutes. The motion shall thereafter be open for discussion, in the form of speeches from the floor.
- L5** Once a motion has been introduced it may be withdrawn only at the discretion of the proposer and seconder of that motion.
- L6** The proposer shall sum up the debate in no more than three minutes immediately before the vote is taken.
- L7** No interruptions shall be permitted during the proposition and summing up of the motion, save a point of information correcting a factual point.
- L8** Chaverim wishing to speak shall do so only through the Chair. The Chairperson shall decide the right of priority of speakers.
- L9** Points of Order, which shall take preference over any other business, may be raised by any Chaver through the Chair. This includes procedural motions as described in Section (O).
- L10** Motions shall require a simple majority, except where otherwise stated in the Constitution. Constitutional amendments shall require a two-thirds majority. All votes require at least two-thirds of the participants of the Veida to be present in order for the motion to be passed.

(M) AMENDMENTS

- M1** An amendment to the motion currently before the plenum may be proposed by any Chaver during the debate. This shall be done through the Chairperson.
- M2** Discussion on amendments shall follow the same form as that for motions.
- M3** If an amendment is acceptable to the proposer of a motion, it shall be incorporated into that motion, and not discussed separately.
- M4** If an amendment is not acceptable to the proposer of a motion, and is subsequently carried by a simple majority, the mover of the amendment shall become the proposer of that amended motion.
- M5** An amended motion may be further amended at any time during the debate.

(N) THE CHAIRPERSON

- N1** The Chairperson shall be nominated by the Steering Committee and elected by the Veida.
- N2** The Steering Committee reserves the right to replace the current Chairman at any time.
- N3** There shall be order and silence when the Chairperson speaks.
- N4** The Chairperson shall only exercise a casting vote.
- N5** If the Chairperson should wish to participate in any debate, he/she shall relinquish the Chair to another Chairperson, as elected by the Steering Committee. This shall be done prior to the proposition of the motion. The Chairperson shall resume the Chair immediately prior to the proposition of the next motion.
- N6** The Chairperson reserves the right to impose a time limit in respect of any debate.
- N7** The Chairperson reserves the right to adjourn the session at his/her discretion.
- N8** The Chairperson together with the Steering Committee shall be responsible for counting the votes, overseen by the returning officers as defined in Section F14.

(O) PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

OI The following are procedural motions, which shall be raised as points of order by a proposer and seconder. They are to be dealt with as described below.

a) A vote of no confidence in the Chair

The Chairperson shall leave the Chair. This procedural motion shall be proposed, after which the Chairperson shall defend his/her position. A vote will immediately follow. Should the Chairperson be defeated, he/she shall not return to the chair for the duration of that Veida. He/she shall be replaced by a person elected by the Steering Committee. Should the Chairperson not be defeated, he/she shall return to the Chair.

b) A challenge to the Chairperson's ruling

The Chairperson shall leave the Chair. The procedural motion shall then be proposed and the Chairperson shall then reply. A vote on the procedural motion shall be taken immediately, and if the motion is carried, the Chairperson's decision shall be reversed.

c) That Section ... of these Standing Orders be suspended/resumed

One speaker shall speak in favour of, and one against, the procedural motion. A vote shall immediately follow.

d) That the current motion shall be referred to the incoming Mazkirut

One speaker shall speak in favour of, and one against, the procedural motion. A vote shall immediately follow.

e) That the current motion be voted on in parts

The proposer shall state the parts to be voted on separately, and explain the reasoning. One speech against shall be permitted. A vote shall immediately follow. The separate parts shall then be treated as separate motions.

f) That the plenum is not quorate

If notice is given at any time during plenum, the Chairperson shall immediately order a quorum count. Should the plenum be found to be inquorate, as defined in Section L10, the Chairperson shall adjourn the plenum.

g) That the Veida should move to vote

One speaker shall speak in favour of, and one against, the procedural motion. A vote shall immediately follow.

Schedule B

Conventions Standing Orders

(P) PROTOCOL

P1 The Mifkad (Movement assembly) as laid down in Section P2, shall conclude all official Movement activities. Mifkad shall include the Movement mottoes, greetings and anthem.

P2

Mifkad ya'avor ladom, amod dom
(Stand to attention)

הַמִּפְקָד יַעֲבֹר לְדוֹם - עֲמוּד דוֹם

Mifkad ya'avor lenoach, amod noach
(Stand easy)

הַמִּפְקָד יַעֲבֹר לְנֹחַ - עֲמוּד נֹחַ

Mi Anachnu?

Bnei Akiva
(Who are we?
Bnei Akiva)

מִי אֲנַחְנוּ?
בְּנֵי עֲקִיבָא

Meh Chayeynu?

Torah Va'Avodah
(What is our way of life?
Torah and Work)

מָה חַיֵּינוּ?
תּוֹרָה וְעִבּוּדָה

Ma Sismateynu?

Am Yisrael,
B'Eretz Yisrael,
al pi Torat Yisrael
(What is our motto?
The People of Israel in the Land of Israel,
according to the Torah of Israel)

מָה סִיסְמַתֵּנוּ?
עַם יִשְׂרָאֵל
בְּאֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל
עַל פִּי תוֹרַת יִשְׂרָאֵל

Nashir shir himnon tnuateynu, "Yad Achim"

(We will now sing the anthem of our
movement,
"Yad Achim")

נָשִׁיר שִׁיר הַמְנוֹן תְּנוּעָתֵנוּ, "יָד אַחִים"

Yad Achim lachem shelucha hano'ar

יָד אַחִים לָכֶם שְׁלוּחָה, הַנוֹעַר הַחֲבִיב,
עַל דְּגִלָּנוּ כּוֹלְכֶם חָנוּ מִסָּבִיב.
יְזַהֵר לָכֶם כּוֹכֵב תּוֹרָה,

he'chaviv
 Al digleinu kulachem chanu misaviv
 Yazhir lachem kochav Torah
 Dar'kechem sugah ba'Avodah
 B'leiv amitz b'ezrat Hashem aloh na'aleh
 Kadimah Bnei Akiva heidad b'ma'aleh!

Moledet zu eretz avot artzeinu hak'doshah
 Midei avir Ya'akov lanu morasha
 Rasheinu bi'imkei Toratah
 Kapeinu bir'gvei admatah
 B'leiv amitz b'ezrat Hashem aloh na'aleh
 Kadimah Bnei Akiva heidad b'ma'aleh!

דַּרְכֵיכֶם סוּגָה בְּעִבּוּדָה.
 בְּלֵב אֲמִיץ בְּעֶזְרַת ה', עֲלֵה נִעְלָה!
 קְדִימָה, בְּנֵי עֲקִיבָא, הִידָד בְּמַעְלָה!

מוֹלֶדֶת זוֹ אֶרֶץ אֲבוֹת, אֲרֻצְנוֹ הַקְּדוֹשָׁה,
 מִיַּד אֲבִיר יֶעֱקֹב לָנוּ מוֹרָשָׁה.
 רֵאשִׁינוּ בְּעִמְקֵי תוֹרָתָה,
 כְּפִינוּ בְּרִגְבֵי אֲדָמָתָה.
 בְּלֵב אֲמִיץ בְּעֶזְרַת ה', עֲלֵה נִעְלָה!
 קְדִימָה, בְּנֵי עֲקִיבָא, הִידָד בְּמַעְלָה!

A brotherly hand is stretched to you, beloved youth,
 Gather yourself around our flag.
 The star of Torah shall shine for you,
 Your path shall be one of labour.
 With a sturdy heart and with the help of Hashem we will go up,
 Forward Bnei Akiva, forward to the top!

This Homeland, the Holy Land of our fathers,
 We have inherited from the mighty hand of Jacob.
 Our minds are filled with Torah,
 Our hands are immersed in her soil.
 With a sturdy heart and with the help of Hashem, we will go up,
 Forward Bnei Akiva, forward to the top.

**Nashir shir himnon medinateynu
 artzeynu, "Hatikva"**
 (We will now sing the anthem of our homeland
 "Hatikvah")

נִשִּׁיר שִׁיר הַמְּנוֹן מְדִינַתְנוּ אֲרֻצְנוֹ, "הַתִּקְוָה"

Kol od balevav p'nima
 Nefesh yehudi homiya
 Ulfa'atei mizrach kadima
 Ayin l'Tziyon tzofiya,
 Od lo avda tikvateinu,
 Hatikvah bat shnot alpayim,
 Li'hiyot am chofshi b'artzeinu
 Eretz Tziyon Yerushalayim.

כָּל עוֹד בְּלֵבָב פְּנִימָה,
 נֶפֶשׁ יְהוּדֵי הוֹמִיָּה.
 וּלְפָאֵתֵי מִזְרַח קְדִימָה
 עֵין לְצִיּוֹן צוֹפִיָּה.
 עוֹד לֹא אֲבָדָה תְּקוּמָתָנוּ,
 הַתִּקְוָה בַּת שָׁנוֹת אֲלָפִים,
 לְהִיּוֹת עִם חֹפְשֵׁי בְּאֲרָצְנוּ,
 אֶרֶץ צִיּוֹן וִירוּשָׁלַיִם.

So long as still within our hearts
A Jewish spirit sings
So long as the eye looks eastward
Gazing toward Zion
Our Hope still exists
Our Hope of two millennia
To be a free people in our land
The land of Zion and Jerusalem

Hashem imachem
(May Hashem be with you)

ה' עִמָּכֶם

Yevarechecha Hashem
(Hashem will bless you)

יְבָרְכֶךָ ה'

Mifkad, P'turim
(Mifkad dismissed)

מִפְקָד, פְּטוּרִים

- P3** The official Movement colours shall be blue and white.
- P4** The movement shirt shall be the official uniform of Bnei Akiva and should be worn by all Rashei Sviva and Madrichim at their respective Svivot.
- P5** The Movement emblem shall be known as the Semel and shall be as follows:

