

# Masorti Judaism membership agreement

*Approved by the board of trustees, March 2019*

## A. Introduction

Membership of Masorti Judaism is open to communities rather than individuals. While our Articles of Association provide the legal requirements for being admitted to membership of the movement, the purpose of this policy is:

1. To set out clearly the categories of membership as defined in the Articles,
2. To define the criteria member communities are expected to fulfil,
3. To provide a framework to guide the Board when considering applications for membership or the possibility of having to remove or suspend a member community.

## B. Membership categories

Masorti Judaism's Articles of Association and membership dues policy define two categories of membership:

1. **Constituent members** are company members of Masorti Judaism who are entitled to vote at General Meetings. They are required to be formally constituted with a governing document, dues-paying membership and a leadership structure, to have charitable status, and to pay per capita dues as set out in our membership dues policy. New constituent members may be admitted by a two-thirds majority vote of the board of trustees.
2. **Associate members** – a community which is not a constituent member may be admitted by the board of trustees to associate membership of Masorti Judaism. Communities will only be admitted as associate members where they are unable to take up constituent member status (for example, groups who are constitutionally prevented from doing so, who do not have dues-paying membership or who do not have charitable status). Membership dues for associate communities will be set by the board of trustees.

## C. Membership criteria

Although each member community is a separate and independent legal entity with its own rules and procedures, it is desirable that there be a consistent approach from all member communities on certain issues. All Masorti communities are therefore expected to fulfil the following criteria:

1. Conforming with Masorti Judaism's basic standards of ethos and practice. This means operating in accordance with *halacha* (Jewish law) as understood by the

Masorti rabbinical team and conforming with Masorti Judaism's policy on equality, inclusion and diversity.

Before accepting a new community into membership or in the event of a dispute with any member community over this criterion, the board of trustees will take advice from an Ethos and Practice Advisory Group composed of the Senior Rabbi, the Av Bet Din and the Chief Executive (or their representatives) as to whether the community in question meets these standards.

2. Paying dues according to Masorti Judaism's membership dues policy.
3. Providing Masorti Judaism with their membership data (subject to data protection law).
4. Having adequate safeguarding and child protection policies.
5. Avoiding any actions which risk bringing Masorti Judaism into disrepute.

#### **D. Benefits of membership**

Masorti Judaism undertakes to provide community development, training and educational services, to facilitate networking for community leaders, and to communicate and consult regularly with our member communities. Details of services on offer will be provided on request by the Masorti Judaism professional team.

#### **E. Declaration**

We have read and agreed to conform with these membership guidelines.

Signed on behalf of _____ (name of community), a Constituent / Associate member (delete as appropriate)	
Name	
Role	
Signature	
Date	

Signed on behalf of Masorti Judaism	
Name	
Role	
Signature	
Date	