



The International Priory
of
Knights Hospitaller Templar

Constitutional Charter and Rules



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Constitutional Charter & Rules of The International Priory of Knights Hospitaller Templar

(The Historical version of how the Hospitallers came about)

1. Preamble.

The Knights Hospitaller were Knights of the Order of Saint John the Hospitaller who were also known by such names as Knights of Rhodes, Knights of Malta, Cavaliers of Malta, and Order of St John of Jerusalem. The Hospitallers grew out of a eusociality for the care of sick pilgrims in a hospital at Jerusalem following the First Crusade in 1100 AD.

The Growth of the Knights Hospitaller

Many knights and ladies joined the organization, which soon proved to be very useful in defending the Holy Land. The Hospitaller orders built many castles in Syria, the remains of which still impress the beholder. They established numerous branches in Europe and, by presents and legacies, acquired vast wealth. These orders of religious knights, much like the Vatican today, ended up having their own states, the Hospitallers the island of Rhodes then later Malta. The Knights Templar order was disbanded in the fourteenth century, but the Hospitaller continued to fight valiantly against the Turks long after the close of the crusading movement but can be said to have come to an end following their ejection from Malta by Napoleon

History of the Knights Hospitaller

The History of the Knights Hospitaller can be dated back 600AD when Abbot Probus was commissioned by Pope Gregory the Great to build a hospital in Jerusalem to treat and care for Christian pilgrims to the Holy Land. In 1005 Jerusalem was taken by the Turcoman's, who came from the kingdom of ancient Persia. 3000 Christians were massacred and the remaining Christians were treated so badly that throughout Christendom people were stirred to fight in crusades. The hospital was destroyed during the battle for Jerusalem. In 1023, merchants from Italy were given permission by the Caliph Ali az-Zahir of Egypt to rebuild the hospital in Jerusalem. The new hospital was built and served by the monks of the Benedictine Order during the First Crusade. The monastic Hospitaller order was founded following the First Crusade by the Blessed Gerard; Gerard acquired territory and revenues for his order throughout the Kingdom of Jerusalem and in Europe. His successor was Raymond du Puy de Provence who established a new Hospital near to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.

Duties of the Knights Hospitaller

The group initially cared for the pilgrims who had reached Jerusalem following a long and arduous journey. However, the order was soon extended into providing an armed escort to pilgrims. The escort soon grew into a substantial force. The Order of Saint John the Hospitaller included both knights and monks. The members of the Knights of the Order of Saint John the Hospitaller were both monks and knights. These men of the new order took the monastic vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience and they added a fourth vow, which bound them to protect pilgrims and fight the infidels.

Knights Hospitaller - The Island of Rhodes

The Knights Hospitaller were recognised by wearing a black surcoat with a white cross. After the fall of the Kingdom of Jerusalem in 1187 and when Acre was captured in 1291 the order of the Knights Hospitallers sought refuge in the Kingdom of Cyprus. The leader of the Knights Hospitaller, Fulkes de Villaret, devises a plan to capture the Island of Rhodes to use as the base for the order. On August 15, 1309 after two years of campaigning, the island of Rhodes surrendered to the Knights Hospitallers. In 1312 the Knights Templar order was and much of their property and many of their members joined the Knights Hospitallers.

The Knights Hospitaller - the Knights of Malta

In 1522 Suleiman's forces drove the Knights Hospitallers from Rhodes and they sought refuge in Sicily. The Knights Hospitallers were established on Malta in 1530 by the order of Pope Clement VIII and King Charles I of Spain. They took the name the Knights of Malta and fought pirates instead of the infidels. The French Revolutionary Government seized the assets of the Knights Hospitaller Order in France in 1792. Their stronghold of Malta was captured by Napoleon in 1798. The Emperor of Russia gave the Knights shelter in St. Petersburg. In 1834, the revived Order established a new headquarters in Rome.

(www.middle-ages.org.uk/knights-hospitaller.htm)

The True Story of the Knights Hospitaller Templar

Before the Templars were known as the Templars they were known by many other names. The Order was set up to protect the Bloodline Families and their Knowledge, which has been passed down by word of mouth to those Family Members and selected Initiates, for thousands of years. The Order has had to outwardly appear Christian, but has always truly been Gnostic. This worked fine for the Templar Knights, up until the Order was infiltrated and the truth was discovered and they were burnt at the stake for heresy. However, some Gnostic Templars did survive, although forced to go into hiding, and continue their work in secret. Some alternative Templar Orders were founded as purely Christian Orders, but these were not true Templars. Our Order has never been Christian and has never been under Papal authority or control.



2. Name of the Order.

2.1 The Official and Formal name of the Outer Order shall be “The International Priory of Knights Hospitaller Templar” (*Hereafter known as “The International Priory of Knights Hospitaller Templar”, “The IPoKHT” or simply “The Outer Order”*). The Official and Formal name of the Inner Order shall be “Ordo Infinitus Orbis Knights Hospitaller Templar” (*Hereafter known as “Ordo Infinitus Orbis Knights Hospitaller Templar”, “OIO-KHT” or simply “The Inner Order”*).

3. Foundation of the Order.

3.1 The Outer Order, being, “The International Priory of Knights Hospitaller Templar”, was founded as a Chivalric Order of likeminded individuals demonstrating the core principles of: Chivalry, Honour, Integrity, Courtesy, Compassion, Wisdom and Charity. It is desired that all members commit to following these core principles for which the Order stands. The Inner Order, being, “Ordo Infinitus Orbis Knights Hospitaller Templar”, was founded as a Mystery School and still operates as such.

4. Protection of the Order.

4.1 The legitimacy of the International Priory of Knights Hospitaller Templar stems from both the Apostolic Succession, as well as the Family Lineages, of the founder Bishop Tia L Douglass.

4.2 The Temporal & Spiritual protection of the Order are confirmed and granted by Bishop Tia L Douglass as the Presiding Bishop of the Church of St Mary and St John, and its Canon Laws.

5. Religion and Spirituality of the Order.

5.1 The Full Members of the International Priory of Knights Hospitaller Templar and OIO-KHT, are expected to be members of the Church of St Mary and St John, and to live in accordance with the teachings of the CSsM&J.

5.2 People who do not belong to the Church of St Mary and St John, or who do not live in conformity with its teachings may be associated with the Outer Order as Honorary Members or Companions.



6. Cross, Arms and Seal of the Order.

6.1 The Cross of the Order is a white eight pointed Templar cross on a black background.

6.2 The Arms of the Order are as follows: 'OIO' Sigil, superimposing a white, eight pointed Templar Cross, fimbriated in black, interwoven by the Grand Collar of the Order, over the black Mantle lined in white and emblazoned with black fleur de lys, fringed, corded and tasselled, and surmounted by the Crown of the Order.

6.3 The Seal of the Order shall be comprised of, the Arms of the Order, circumscribed with these words: "Nobility - Eusociality - Chivalry"

7. Garb of the Order.

7.1 The Garb of the Order shall be a Black Cloak emblazoned with a White Eight Pointed Templar Cross on the left side, over the Heart.

8. Objectives of the Order.

8.1 The Objectives of the Order are:

8.1a Spirituality, Meditation, Charity and Chivalry. *(To fund the setup of Spiritual Centres, Teaching Meditation & Spiritual Matters)*

8.1b To maintain the true story of the Knights Hospitaller Templar and preserve Ancestral Heritage.

8.1c To encourage the Noble ideals of Chivalry and to promote "Nobility through deeds of Charity & Honour".

8.1d To support the Poor, the Sick, the Unjustly Accused, to stand against Oppression and to protect Freedom & Liberty.

9. Language of the Order.

9.1 English shall be the Official & Administrative Language of the Order.

9.2 In respect of disputes on interpretation of Texts, the English version shall prevail.



10. Seat of the Order.

10.1 The Official Seat of the Order shall be The Grand Priory, currently at, The Temple of Theola, Åtvidaberg, Sweden.

10.2 The Official, Administrative & Magisterial Seats shall be wherever decreed by the Grand Prior-Prioress.

10.3 The Grand Prior-Prioress may decide to separate the Official, Administrative and Magisterial Seats of the Order.

10.4 The Grand Prior-Prioress may move the Official, Administrative & Magisterial seats at any time.

11. Structure of the Order.

11.1 The whole Order is Governed by the Grand Prior-Prioress from the Grand Priory in Sweden, and by a local Chapter House in each Country-Province headed by a Fisher King-Fisher Queen, and by the Grand Council.

11.2 The Outer Order IPoKHT is structured as:

- 11.2a The Grand Prior-Prioress
- Commander (*Hon.*)
- Seneschals (*Hon.*)
- Knight-Lady Knight (*Hon.*)
- Companion
- Junior Companion

11.3 The Inner Order OIO-KHT is structured as:

- 11.3a The Grand Prior-Prioress - 'Divine King-Queen' *addressed as* - "Your Divine Royal Highness"
- Fisher King-Fisher Queen - 'Spiritual King-Queen' *addressed as* - "Your Royal Highness"
- Fisher Prince-Fisher Princess - 'Spiritual Prince-Princess' *addressed as* - "Your Highness"
- Grand Commander - 'Spiritual Duke-Duchess' *addressed as* - "Your Grace"
- Commander - 'Spiritual Marquis-Marchioness' *addressed as* - "My Lord-My Lady"
- Grand Seneschals - 'Spiritual Count-Countess' *addressed as* - "My Lord-My Lady"
- Seneschals - 'Spiritual Baron-Baroness' *addressed as* - "My Lord-My Lady"
- Knight-Lady Knight - 'Spiritual Knight-Lady Knight' *addressed as* - "Sir Knight-Lady Knight"
- Squire-Lady - 'Knight in Waiting-Lady in Waiting' *addressed as* - "Brother (Frater)-Sister (Soror)"

11.4 All authority resides with the Grand Prior-Prioress, but may be delegated to the Grand Council and a Fisher King-Fisher Queen in each Country-Province, who then may delegate administrative roles to others.



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12. Progression in the Order.

12.1 Progression within the Outer Order of IPoKHT is based upon Merit.

12.2 Progression within the Inner Order of OIO-KHT is based upon the Great Work.

12.2a Aspirants wishing to join OIO-KHT must first spend three months getting to know us and us them, this is a pre-probationary period. After this period, the Aspirant will need to sign the Oath of the Celestite, and pay their joining fee. They will then begin their probationary period of twelve months.

12.2b Each level within the OIO-KHT is attained after a minimum of one year (*per level*), and by completing a set syllabus and exams, upon successful completion of each exam, the Aspirant will be granted Initiation to the next level, there is a small fee for this. (*see section 14 below*)

12.2c Aspirants who live within easy access of either, the Grand Priory or one of the Chapter Houses will be expected to attend as many Ceremonies and Events as possible.

13 Financial Administration of the Order.

13.1 The everyday financial administration of the Order shall be carried out by the duly appointed Treasurer, in full conformity with the laws of the United Kingdom.

13.2 Large financial decisions regarding, land, property, investments etc. shall require the authorisation of the Grand Prior-Prioress.

13.3 Each year at the General Conference, an Auditor shall be selected to examine the Accounts of the Order to ascertain their correctness, and shall report back to the Grand Council and the Grand Prior-Prioress.

13.4 All profits are for the use and disbursement, of and for, the Order and its aims. Under **NO CIRCUMSTANCES** shall any profits be given, granted or loaned to members.

13.5 The Financial means required to fulfil the mission of the Order are provided by, the fees listed below, and by, Grants, Legacies, all types of Public & Private Donations, Events, Meetings and Activities as well as Commercial Business and any other legal means agreed and authorised by the Grand Prior-Prioress and the Grand Council.

13.6 Ordo Infinitus Orbis and The International Priory of Knights Hospitaller Templar, are entitled to Acquire, Administer and Dispose of Temporal Goods for its own ends.

13.7 All Funds, Fees, Subscriptions, Donations, Grants, Goods and Materials, Gifted, Paid or Transferred to the Order, become and remain the Property of the Order and are therefore **NON REFUNDABLE** under any circumstances.



14 Subscriptions and Fees of the Order.

14.1 Membership of the Outer Order has no obligatory subscription, however a small joining fee is required to cover admin costs. Also voluntary subscriptions-donations would be gratefully received.

14.2 Membership of the Inner Order has a one off joining fee of £75.00 and an obligatory annual subscription of £25.00. *(this is included within the joining fee for the first year)*

14.2a Initiation fees are currently set at £25.00 per Initiation.

14.2b There is also a small charge made for Ceremonies, currently set at £5.00 per person, to cover costs.

15 Membership of the Order.

15.1 Membership of the Outer Order is open to anyone over the age of 18 years, *(younger for junior companions, with parental or guardian consent)* regardless of gender, sexual orientation, nationality, colour, race or creed, education or professional qualifications *(or lack thereof)*, as long as they believe in and adhere to the principles of; Chivalry, Honour, Integrity, Courtesy, Compassion, Wisdom and Charity.

15.2 Membership of the Outer Order, and the Titles and Ranks within it, do not confer any Rank, Title or Social Privilege outside of the Order.

15.3 Membership of the Inner Order is for those over the age of 18 years and by Invitation only.

15.4 Candidates wishing to apply for membership of the Outer Order shall download the application form from our website, complete it and return it to the address shown, selection shall always remain the preserve of the Grand Prior-Prioress or their designated Commanders, who retain the right to refuse membership without assigning a reason for doing so.



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16 Exclusions and Restrictions to Membership of the Order.

16.1 Anyone who has been expelled from, or previously refused membership of the International Priory of Knights Hospitaller Templar, Ordo Infinitus Orbis Knights Hospitaller Templar, or the Church of St Mary and St John, shall not be eligible for membership.

16.2 The following articles are the Constitutional Proscriptions with respect to the unacceptability of any candidate, and in the case of an existing member, the reasons for expulsion.

- 16.2a** A Member has not paid their subscription fees or other financial obligations due by them to the Order, and has therefore acted contrary to the “Constitutional Charter and Rules” and "Honour Code" of the Order. *(OIO-KHT Only)*
- 16.2b** A Member acts contrary to the “Constitution Charter and Rules” or any part thereof.
- 16.2c** A Member has, by their actions or inactions, promoted or is likely to promote hatred, violence or prejudice against others or is affiliated with any organisation which promotes, has promoted or is likely to promote hatred, violence or prejudice against others.
- 16.2d** A Member has by their actions or inactions caused or are likely to cause the Order, or any Member thereof to be considered or called into disrepute.
- 16.2e** A Member has been Convicted of a Civil or Criminal Offence, by a competent and recognised Court of Law, excluding those who have fully paid their debt to society. *(except those crimes of a sexual or violent nature)*
- 16.2f** If a Member has been declared of an unsound mind by a competent authority recognised as such by the Order.
- 16.2g** If a Member is convicted by a competent Court of Law in any lawful jurisdiction recognised as such by the Order for acts of Immorality or Indecency.
- 16.2h** If any Member is involved in any act of Paedophilia or Bestiality whether passive or otherwise, or is connected in any way with the production, distribution or subscription to acts, matters, publications or groups connected with Paedophilia, Bestiality or other acts of whatever nature considered to be contrary to the accepted meanings of Chivalry, Honour, Integrity, Courtesy, Compassion, Wisdom and Charity.
- 16.2i** If a Member is convicted by a competent Court of Law in any lawful jurisdiction recognised as such by the Order for an act of, or complicity in any act of Terrorism.



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- 16.2j** If a Member should become a member of, or in any way involved with, or otherwise affiliated to any organisation involved with Terrorism, and or the Unlawful Manufacture, Use of, Import or Export of Weapons of War.
- 16.2k** Full Membership of OIO-KHT, automatically precludes an individual from being a member of any other Templar Order, Masonic Lodge or Thelemic Order and application and subsequent acceptance to the OIO-KHT assumes a candidates' sole allegiance to this Order and no other. Should an applicant already be a member of another Templar Order, Masonic Lodge or Thelemic Order, it is expected that the candidate resign their position before accepting membership of the OIO-KHT unless prior exemption has been granted by the Grand Prior-Prioress. Any member found to belong to any other Order, without express permission of the Grand Prior-Prioress, will be found to be in conflict with the Oath they have sworn to the OIO-KHT and will be summarily dismissed.

17 Termination of Membership.

17.1 Any Member of the Outer Order may resign at any time by giving one month's clear written notice to the Grand Prior-Prioress.

17.2 Any Member of the Inner Order may leave, giving one month's clear written notice to the Grand Prior-Prioress, but will be held as an Oath Breaker.

17.3 Any Member of either the Outer or Inner Orders who Leaves or is Expelled will lose any and all rights to the Titles, Post-nominal Letters and privileges granted by the Order.

18 Liability of the Order.

18.1 The Grand Prior-Prioress shall manage the affairs of the Order. Financial or Legal liability incurred in the rightful exercise of their office shall not, however, be their personal liability, but shall be the liability and responsibility of the Order as a whole.

18.2 All Members or Other Persons who attend any of the Orders Events, do so at their own risk, and neither the Order nor its Officers and Members, can accept any liability or responsibility for any Damages, Injuries or losses incurred or sustained at the Orders Grand Priory, Chapter Houses or other Venues, while at the Orders Events or Activities.



19 Personal Commitment to the Order.

19.1 As a Templar Order and abiding our core principles of, Chivalry, Honour, Integrity, Courtesy, Compassion, Wisdom and Charity, for Templar Members, the Order is more than an association and is a way of life, all though freely chosen it is no less binding on their Honour and Oath, and as such all members are expected to participate in whatever way they can in all the Orders activities.

19.2 Full OIO-KHT Members are obligated to participate in all the Orders Events, Meetings and Activities, local too them. And to contribute towards the costs of Events, Meetings and Activities as best their personal means allow.

20 Government of the Order.

20.1 The Government of the Order is constituted as follows:

20.1a The Grand Prior-Prioress - Supreme Head of the Order

20.1b The Fisher King-Fisher Queen - Head of Each Chapter House

20.1c The Grand Council - Elected from Full Members of the Order

21 The Grand Prior-Prioress.

21.1 The Grand Prior-Prioress is the Supreme Head of the Order and shall be elected to this position by an absolute majority of the eligible voters present or represented at a Special Conference called for this purpose.

21.2 When electing a new Grand Prior-Prioress the Grand Council shall appoint an Arbiter to act upon an undecided vote should the vote after two ballots be equal between the candidates.

21.3 The Grand Prior-Prioress must be a Full Member of Ordo Infinitus Orbis and be of the Rank of Grand Commander or above as well as a Priest or higher within the Church of St Mary and St John to be eligible for nomination as a candidate for election.

21.4 The Office of Grand Prior-Prioress is a life position, except in extreme circumstances, which may allow a Grand Prior-Prioress to resign.

21.5 In the event of incapacity of the Grand Prior-Prioress, the Nominated Fisher King-Fisher Queen, or the Head of the Grand Council shall take Temporary Command of the Order until such time as the Grand Prior-Prioress is capable of return or a new Grand Prior-Prioress is elected.



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21.6 The Grand Prior-Prioress is the Legal Representative of Ordo Infinitus Orbis and The International Priory of Knights Hospitaller Templar.

21.7 In the event of any disputes between Members and the Grand Council, the Grand Priors-Prioresses decision shall be final.

21.8 The Grand Prior-Prioress is the Sole Authority regarding the Admission into the Order and for the Promotion of those within. No one shall be Admitted nor Raised within the Order against the wishes of the Grand Prior-Prioress.

21.9 The Grand Prior-Prioress reserves the right to alter, review or amend this Constitutional Charter & Rules, at any time, with the aid of the Grand Council.

22 The Grand Council.

22.1 The Grand Council shall consist of duly elected Full Members of OIO-KHT, of the rank of Grand Seneschal or above.

22.2 The Grand Council will assist the Grand Prior-Prioress in the administration of the Order, and will act as the Judicial Panel in any disciplinary matters arising within the Order.

22.3 The Grand Council may undertake any other roles or work within the Order as designated by the Grand Prior-Prioress.

23 Dissolution of the Order.

23.1 The Order shall exist in perpetuity and shall never terminate, except by a special resolution of an extra special General Conference convened for this sole purpose, in such an event, all assets shall be transferred to the Temple Church. *(This being the Church of St Mary and St John)*