

# CONSTITUTION OF EPHPHATHA OPEN DOOR INITIATIVE

## 1. Name

The name of the organisation shall be Ephphatha Open Door Initiative, hereinafter referred to as “the Initiative”.

## 2. Motto

“Opening Doors. Restoring Lives.”

## 3. Meaning of Ephphatha

The word “Ephphatha” means “Be opened” — representing our mission to open doors of opportunity, compassion, and dignity for the marginalized, the formerly incarcerated, and deprived children.

## 4. Mission Statement

At the Ephphatha Open Door Initiative, we open doors where the world has closed them.

Rooted in faith and driven by compassion, our mission is to restore dignity to formerly incarcerated individuals through reintegration support, and to empower vulnerable children through access to quality education and essential learning resources.

## 5. Vision

To build a world where every person — regardless of past or place of birth — can rise, learn, and live with dignity.

We envision communities where former prisoners are welcomed back with hope, and children learn in environments that nurture their potential.

## 6. Core Values

1. Dignity for All – Every person is worthy of respect and restoration.
2. Equity in Opportunity – We believe both adults and children deserve access to tools for growth.
3. Restoration Over Rejection – We champion healing and new beginnings.
4. Faith in Action – Our work is inspired by love, mercy, and justice.
5. Empowerment Through Education – Learning transforms lives.
6. Community & Compassion – Change happens through relationships.

## **7. Objectives**

The objectives of the Initiative shall be:

### **A. Reintegration Support**

- To assist formerly incarcerated individuals with mentorship, counselling, housing, and employment opportunities.
- To provide vocational training and skill development programs.
- To promote social and spiritual rehabilitation through community and faith-based engagement.
- To advocate for justice reform and the humane treatment of returning citizens.

### **B. Educational Empowerment**

- To provide school furniture, stationery, and learning materials to under-resourced schools.
- To create safe, dignified learning environments for deprived children.
- To support educational programs that build confidence, creativity, and literacy.
- To partner with communities, churches, and local authorities in improving access to quality education.

### **C. Community Development**

- To strengthen families and communities impacted by incarceration and poverty.
- To ensure collaboration among faith groups, civic bodies, and corporate partners.
- To raise awareness about the importance of social inclusion, education, and rehabilitation.

## **8. Membership**

### **A. Eligibility:**

Membership shall be open to all persons who support the aims and objectives of the Initiative and are committed to its values.

### **B. Categories of Membership:**

1. Founding Members
2. Ordinary Members
3. Associate Members (volunteers, partners)
4. Honorary Members (appointed in recognition of service)

### **C. Termination of Membership:**

Membership may be terminated by resignation, death, or decision of the Executive Board for conduct contrary to the organization's values.

## **9. Governance Structure**

### **A. The Executive Board**

The Initiative shall be governed by an Executive Board composed of not fewer than five (5) and not more than twelve (12) members.

### **B. Composition:**

- Chairperson
- Vice Chairperson
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Program Directors (Reintegration / Education)
- Faith & Community Liaison Officer
- Any additional officers deemed necessary by the Board

### **C. Tenure:**

Board members shall serve for a renewable term of three (3) years.

### **D. Responsibilities:**

- To provide strategic leadership and oversight.
- To approve policies, budgets, and projects.
- To ensure accountability and compliance with charitable laws.
- To appoint and supervise operational staff and volunteers.

## **10. Meetings**

### **A. Annual General Meeting (AGM):**

An AGM shall be held once every year to review progress, approve reports, and elect officers.

### **B. Executive Meetings:**

The Executive Board shall meet at least once every quarter. Emergency meetings may be convened by the Chairperson or at the request of one-third of the members.

### **C. Quorum:**

A quorum shall consist of one-third of the total Board members.

## **11. Finance**

- The Initiative shall operate a bank account in its name.
- All funds shall be used solely for furthering the organization's objectives.

- Signatories to the account shall include the Chairperson, Treasurer, and Secretary (two signatures required for withdrawals).
- Proper records of income and expenditure shall be maintained.
- Annual audited financial reports shall be presented at the AGM.

## **12. Sources of Funding**

Funds may be raised through:

- Donations and grants from individuals or institutions
- Fundraising events and campaigns
- Partnerships with churches, businesses, and NGOs
- Government or international development support (where applicable)

## **13. Property and Assets**

All assets of the Initiative shall be held in trust for the purposes of the organization and shall not be used for personal gain.

## **14. Amendments**

This Constitution may be amended at the AGM or a specially convened meeting with a two-thirds majority of members present and voting, provided that 14 days' notice has been given.

## **15. Dissolution**

In the event of dissolution, any remaining assets shall be donated to another registered charity with similar objectives, as determined by the Executive Board, subject to legal compliance.

## **16. Faith Declaration**

The Ephphatha Open Door Initiative is a faith-inspired but non-discriminatory organization. We welcome people of all backgrounds, guided by Christian principles of compassion, forgiveness, and justice.

## **17. Adoption**

This Constitution was adopted on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2025 by the founding members of the Ephphatha Open Door Initiative.

Signed:

Chairperson

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Secretary

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Treasurer

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