



## South African Coalition for Transitional Justice

Reg no: 297-873 NPO | [www.sactj.org.za](http://www.sactj.org.za)

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### Membership Framework and Guidelines

#### Preamble

SACTJ is a coalition of civil society organisations (CSOs) and individuals committed to ensuring that truth, justice, reparations and accountability are respected, advanced and implemented in South Africa.

The Coalition was formed in response to the unfinished and incomplete work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), particularly the failure of the state to fully implement the TRC's recommendations in relation to victims and survivors of apartheid-era gross human rights violations.

#### Introduction

Membership forms part of the broader collaborative framework of SACTJ that is grounded in a relationship of mutual respect, cooperation and shared responsibility among its members. SACTJ members share responsibility for advancing the Coalition's work that supports the constitutional mandate to heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights.

#### Purpose and Scope of Work

The primary purpose of SACTJ is to advance transitional and transformative justice in South Africa. The Coalition focuses on advocacy, research, mobilisation and strategic engagement around issues including, but not limited to:

- Accountability, including the re-opening of inquests and prosecutions
- Reparations and restitution for victims and survivors
- Addressing corporate complicity and impunity
- Community rehabilitation
- Enforced disappearances
- Anti-torture advocacy and implementation of international human rights standards
- Socio-economic rights of victims and survivors
- Promoting reconciliation

The work of the Coalition is guided by an agreed strategic framework and collective advocacy agenda, implemented through the committees.

#### Types of Membership

SACTJ has two categories of membership:

##### 1. Organisational Member

CSOs whose mandates align with the objectives and scope of the work of SACTJ. Organisational members are encouraged to participate fully in committee work, general meetings and coalition decision-making processes.

## **2. Individual Members**

Individuals who bring relevant expertise, experience, skills and/or influence to the work of the Coalition. Individual members are encouraged to participate fully in committee work, general meetings and coalition decision-making processes.

## **Roles and Responsibilities of Members**

Organisational members have equal status, with no single entity holding more power than another. Decisions are made by majority vote, with each organisational member having one vote and individual members collectively holding one vote. Each member organisation designates two representatives who are responsible for staying informed about and actively participating in the coalition's work, ensuring collaborative engagement from all members.

## **Joining the Coalition**

Organisations and individuals wishing to join SACTJ must complete the google membership application form. All new member applications are presented for approval by the SACTJ board or/at general meetings, after which the Executive Director informs the applicant of their status and acceptance on committee structures.

## **The Board**

The board plays an oversight role, comprising of a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and up to three additional members, from either organisational or individual members. Excluding the Executive Director serving in an ex officio capacity, new Board Members shall be elected every three (3) years at an Annual General Meeting. Members are elected from both types of members and for specific portfolios and will serve for a three (3)-year term.

## **Termination of Affiliation**

A member may voluntarily resign by submitting a formal letter stating their reasons. Alternatively, an organisation can be suspended or expelled for reasons including sustained lack of participation, a change in its mandate that conflicts with the coalition's purpose, missing three consecutive meetings without apology, misappropriation of coalition assets, or any misconduct damaging the coalition's integrity or reputation. Individual members may also be suspended or expelled at the coalition's discretion.

## **Funding and Fundraising**

The ED, Administrative Coordinator and Finance and Fundraising Committee are responsible for securing funds for SACTJ's operations, with the assistance and support of the board.

If a member organisation intends to apply for funding and explicitly uses its coalition membership to support the application, it must first obtain agreement and approval from the coalition members, sharing a summary of the application and funder details. However,

merely mentioning the coalition as a network in an application does not require such prior approval.

### **Confidentiality of Information**

All information shared in the coalition is assumed to be open. It is the responsibility of members to inform the coalition if information they share is confidential.

### **Ownership of Information**

All Coalition materials and activities must remain the property of the coalition, and if used by any single member of the coalition, they must be recognised as such. Any product/document that is produced by the Coalition in its joint activities shall carry the logo of the SACTJ.

### **Membership fee**

Organisational members pay a once off joining fee according to a sliding scale based on income and may donate funds voluntarily in subsequent years. Individual members do not pay fees but may donate to SACTJ.

### **Members' participation**

An organisational or individual member serving on the Board may serve on one additional committee but not as the chairperson. Organisational or individual members may participate in the work of no more than two committees. Any request to serve on three committees will be considered on a case-by-case basis, subject to Board approval.

### **Dispute resolution procedure**

In case of a disagreement/dispute within the SACTJ, member organisations will try their best to resolve the matter through discussion / negotiation. However, where this is unsuccessful, an Ad Hoc committee made up of SACTJ members from three organisations shall be formed and tasked to resolve the matter. If the matter cannot be resolved through the Ad Hoc SACTJ committee, then the matter should be referred for formal mediation. If the dispute is unable to be resolved through mediation, an arbitration procedure will be initiated to settle the dispute.