CONSTITUTION FOR THE TRAUMA AND VIOLENCE DIVISION OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

1. NAME

The name of the division is The Trauma and Violence Division (TVD) of the Psychological Society of South Africa (PsySSA).

2. STATUS

2.1. TVD is a division of PsySSA and has been established in terms of Article 13 of the PsySSA constitution.

2.2. In the event of any contradictions between this constitution and the constitution of PsySSA, the provisions of PsySSA constitution shall enjoy precedence.

3. OBJECTIVES

In addition to the objectives of PsySSA and the functions of divisions as expressed in Articles 2 and 13 respectively of the PsySSA constitution, the mission of the TVD is to promote the minimisation of violence in society and psychological harm due to exposure to potentially traumatic events. The TVD addresses this mission through the advancement and appropriate dissemination of scientific research that informs good preventative and ameliorative practice and the implementation of specific initiatives that addresses particular needs related to the prevention of violence or treatment of traumatic stress and related phenomena. The goals derived from this mission are to be achieved in cooperation with other PsySSA structures, other professional organisations, the general public, and governmental organisations.

4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1. Categories and rules

TVD makes provision for seven categories of membership, in accordance with the provisions of PsySSA (Article 5). Clause 7 of this constitution contains specific voting arrangements. The rules for membership in the various categories are as follows:

4.1.1. Full members

Full members shall have at least a Master's degree in psychology and shall include fellows and honorary members.

4.1.2. Honorary members

Honorary membership is a distinction bestowed at the recommendation of the Council of PsySSA, ratified by the AGM, at the request of TVD or in consultation with the division. Honorary life members have all the rights and privileges of full members. Full members who, having retired, apply to the treasurer for exemption from the payment of dues maybe granted honorary status on terms determined by council.

4.1.3. Associate members

Associate members shall be persons with an Honours or Bachelor's degree with a major in Psychology.

4.1.4. Student members

Student members must be registered students in psychology at a recognised university at the undergraduate, Honours or Master's level, and registered interns.

4.1.5. Affiliated membership

Affiliate members shall be persons with an interest in or working in the field of psychology or related areas.

4.1.6. Fellows

Fellows shall be full members who have made an outstanding contribution to psychology and are proposed to the Society for this honour by TVD or council. Herein, all references to full members shall include fellows.

4.1.7. Foreign Affiliates

Persons living abroad who are members of an acknowledged foreign psychological association and/or who can provide proof of qualifications in the field of psychology as required by council.

4.2. The above classes of membership shall hereafter be collectively described "the members".

4.3. Membership fees

The division's executive committee in conjunction with the executive of PsySSA shall decide upon membership fees.
Persons shall be enrolled in the highest class of membership for which they are eligible.

5. MANAGEMENT

5.1. Structure

The executive consists of the following office bearers:

- A chairperson
- A vice-chairperson
- Three additional members
- A secretary
- A treasurer

With the exception of the chairperson and vice-chairperson, an individual may hold more than one portfolio. The offices of the secretary and treasurer may be combined.

5.2. Election of the Executive

Office bearers are selected annually during the annual general meeting by way of voting by call. Only full members in good standing may be elected to the positions. When a member is nominated in his/her absence, the nominator must provide evidence that the nominee consents to stand for the position.

Chairpersons of regional branches of the division shall be ex officio members of the executive.

The executive may co-opt further members.

5.3. Quorum

Four members shall form a quorum at executive meetings.

5.4. Terms of office

The term of office of all office bearers is two years. Office bearers shall not hold office in the same position for more than two consecutive terms.

5.5. Representation on the Council of PsySSA

The chairperson or his/her alternate shall represent TVD on the Council of PsySSA. The executive shall appoint the alternate when necessary.

5.6. The division shall submit an audited income and expenditure statement to council for purposes of financial control.

6. REGIONAL BRANCHES

Regional branches may be formed in the various regions of PsySSA to promote the mission of the division.

7. GENERAL MEETINGS, VOTING RIGHTS AND PROCEDURES

7.1. A general meeting of TVD shall be held at least once a year, preferably during the annual congress of PsySSA.
7.2. The chairperson of TVD shall call for an extraordinary general meeting if he/she considers it necessary, or on written request by no less than 25% of full members.
7.3. Members shall be informed in writing of general and extraordinary general meetings, and of the agenda of such a meeting, at least 30 days in advance of such a meeting.
7.4. The members present at any meeting of TVD shall be deemed to be quorum of the members, except where otherwise stipulated.
7.5. During a general meeting the majority vote shall be final. Voting may take place by ballot or by show of hands as the chairperson may determine.
7.6. Full, and honorary life members and fellows of the division shall have the right to vote by postal ballot and at general meetings.
7.7. The chairperson shall have a casting vote at a general meeting.
7.8. Amendments to the Constitution shall be ratified by postal ballot. A general meeting can refer any other matter for vote by postal ballot.

8. DISCIPLINARY AND OTHER MEASURES

TVD can recommend to the council of PsySSA that disciplinary or other measures be taken against members who act contrary to the objectives of TVD or PsySSA. No such recommendation will be made to the council unless at least two thirds of the members of the division's executive vote in favour of such action. The member has the right to appear personally or be represented at a meeting of the executive before a decision about such a recommendation to the council is finally taken.

9. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

9.1. Proposals regarding amendments to the constitution shall be submitted to the executive and shall be put to a general meeting of TVD. These proposals can be made by members or the executive.
9.2. Written notice of motion for such a proposed change shall be sent to members not less than 30 days prior to the general meeting.
9.3. Amendments shall be accepted by a 2/3 majority of members with voting rights at a general meeting, after which it shall be confirmed through postal ballot. Full members, honorary members and fellows shall then have the vote.

9.4. In the event of amendments to the constitution of PsySSA, the constitution of TVD must be reviewed and changed if necessary.

10. DISSOLUTION

10.1. TVD may be dissolved by the council of PsySSA in terms of Article 13.6.3 of its constitution.

10.2. TVD may be dissolved by a resolution taken at a general meeting in accordance with the procedure laid down for amendments to the constitution. Such a decision must be ratified by referring the matter to all full members, honorary members and fellows by means of a postal vote. A majority of the postal votes shall be decisive.

10.3. If TVD resolves to dissolve, the assets and liabilities of TVD shall be disposed of by the PsySSA.