

THE ASSOCIATION OF PHOTOGRAPHERS LIMITED

# AOP

## **MEMBERS CHARTER**

THE ASSOCIATION OF PHOTOGRAPHERS LIMITED  
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# **The Association of Photographers**

## **Members Charter**

The AOP is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, which form the legal basis on which it is run by its Board of Directors.

The Members' Charter dictates what members can expect from the Association and in turn, what is expected from the members, themselves.

Members of the AOP are bound by the Memorandum and Articles and the Members' Charter.

### **The Association's Purpose and Aims**

The AOP is a not-for-profit company that exists to promote, protect, educate and lobby on behalf of its members, who are professional photographers. Objectives, for which the Association is established, are set out in the Memorandum of Association:

- \* To defend vigorously and lobby for the best interests of the membership
- \* To promote the worth, credibility and standing of all photographers and the wider photographic profession
- \* To enable members to understand and safeguard their rights as authors
- \* To encourage the highest standards in creative, technical and commercial practices at all times
- \* To form active links between photographers and those in related creative fields worldwide, and to recognise and respect each other's aims and needs.

### **The Association's Mission Statement**

The Association of Photographers Limited (AOP) is a not-for-profit professional trade association, founded in 1968. Its aims are to promote and protect the worth and standing of its members and to vigorously defend and lobby for the interests and rights of all photographers in the photographic profession.

With around 1,800 members, the AOP represents professional photographers, assistants, agents and students. Members have a wide client base, including individual clients in the corporate sector, design groups, publishing houses, music publishers and advertising agencies. Their work is published worldwide in magazines, newspapers, books and advertising campaigns and many sell their images as Fine Art through galleries, both traditional and online.

### **Participation/Consultation**

The AOP is committed to ensuring that the interests and needs of its members and stakeholders, regardless of their geographic location, are understood and reflected throughout the organisation and the wider creative industry.

Members can provide valuable experience and have input to the projects, activities and events run by the Association, by participating in a Working Group. Most

Working Groups meet regularly to discuss areas, topics and specific issues that the staff running the activities, projects or events, require feedback or help with.

Members' input to Working Groups is vital, ensuring that activities are appropriate and representative of the membership and provides the staff with direct experience and knowledge. Working Groups can provide a mechanism through which members can participate in the planning and progression of activities and projects run by the Association, in accordance with the priorities set out in the Association's Strategic Plan.

There are a number of Working Groups at any one time. Working Groups may be long-term or operate only for the duration of a particular project or piece of work. A staff member, supported by a Board member, will lead and manage each Working Group and it is within the remit of the Association's President to ensure the effective functioning of all the Working Groups.

More details about the current Working Groups can be found on the Web Site in the Members' section, under [Working Group](#). If you are interested in participating in a Working Group, or have any ideas/suggestions for projects please contact the relevant staff member.

#### General Communication

We will communicate to the members and stakeholders of the Association through Image magazine, the AOP Newsletter, the AOP website, the AOP forum, by e-mail & letter and at the Association's Annual General Meeting.

As and when vacancies arise on a particular Working Group or on the Association's Board of Directors, these will be advertised on the AOP website, in the e-Newsletter and brought to the attention of the membership through targeted communication.

#### Accountability

If, as a member, you feel that we are not performing our duties, suggestions or complaints can be made by letter or e-mail and should be addressed in the first instance to the Membership Secretary ([membership@aophoto.co.uk](mailto:membership@aophoto.co.uk)). If you remain dissatisfied you should ask for the matter to be referred to the Executive Director (MD).

In the event you continue to be dissatisfied with our response, you should ask for the matter to be referred to the Board of Directors who will investigate the matter further.

We will investigate the complaint thoroughly at each stage of the procedure and will endeavour to respond to you within 7 days of receiving the complaint. If for some reason a response is not possible within 7 days we will inform you without delay.

#### Members' Responsibilities

Members agree:

- \* To be bound by the AOP's Memorandum and Articles, copies of which can be downloaded from the Member's Area of the AOP website [www.the-aop.org](http://www.the-aop.org).

- \* To treat their employees, fellow members and AOP staff with respect.
- \* To constantly strive to uphold and enhance the reputation of the AOP by demonstrating exemplary standards in their professional conduct.
- \* To support AOP activities and lend their names, whenever possible, to campaigning issues.
- \* To conduct their professional operations within the law.