



**THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE
GADANGME EUROPE**

PREAMBLE

We the people of GaDangme origin of the Republic of Ghana, now domiciled in Europe and having realized the ultimate need to;

1. Promote unity, peace and prosperity.
2. Harness our collective resources and forge a common front.
3. Perpetuate and propagate our diverse and rich indigenous traditions, cultures and languages, in the spirit of friendship, brotherhood and solidarity and in SOLEMN DECLARATION and AFFIRMATION of our hope and trust in the formation of GADANGME EUROPE – an umbrella organization which shall promote educational development and social well-being for the betterment of GaDangme land and our motherland Ghana.

Do hereby, without malice or prejudice, ordain and promulgate this constitution.

ARTICLE I. NAME AND DESCRIPTION.

1. The name of the organisation shall be GaDangme Europe or otherwise abbreviated “GDEu”.
2. The GaDangme Europe shall be non-religious, non-political, non-governmental and non-profit charity organization of like-minded people and shall be open to all GaDangme Groups in Europe whose aims and objectives are in line with those of GaDangme Europe.
3. The jurisdiction of GaDangme Europe shall be the United Kingdom.

4. The seat of the GaDangme Europe shall be in the United Kingdom.

5. For the purpose of this constitution, the term GADANGME EUROPE means an umbrella organization of GADANGME ORGANISATIONS in Europe.

ARTICLE II. SLOGAN

The slogan of the organisation shall be:

“GaDangme! woji gonti!”

“GaDangme! woji ngo-oo !”

“Ekomefeemo, no mli hewale yoo!”

“Kake pem, no min hewam gnee!”

ARTICLE III. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.

GaDangme Europe shall consist of GaDangme Organizations and shall, as its cardinal aims, be oriented towards;

1. Facilitation and advancement of education and social well-being as bases for alleviation and relief of poverty and need in rural and urban GaDangme communities in Ghana.

2. Identifying and creating small strategic groupings across Europe for purposes of raising funds to support community initiatives in the areas of community sanitation, promote educational and employment skills among the youth as a means to help strengthen future prospects of GaDangme people.

In furtherance to the realization of these aims and objectives the GDEu shall use the following means;

1. Create an environment in which every person of GaDangme origin domiciled in Europe shall contribute voluntarily towards making the most of our very rich but finite resources for the benefit and betterment of all GaDangme people.
2. Build sound and cordial relationships among bona fide GaDangme organizations and institutions in the Diaspora and Ghana, develop effective networks and to co-ordinate group actions that will lead to providing links to the GaDangme Council and other leading GaDangme organizations and institutions in Ghana.
3. Develop a culture of learning to protect GaDangme interest, raise awareness of strategic GaDangme issues, empower and develop GaDangme talents through education and training for purposes of meeting tomorrow's challenges.
4. Promote cultural, educational, health and socio-economic well being through creativity, innovation, partnership and accessibility.
5. Motivate GaDangme people in Europe into action by encouraging participation, consultation and involvement of various GaDangme organizations in activities aimed at raising funds to support GaDangme Europe goals.
6. Create genuine and effective communication link and partnership through which our views on matters of GaDangme interest may be addressed to the GaDangme Council, Traditional Councils in GaDangme land and other leading GaDangme organizations and institutions in Ghana for consideration.
7. Create mechanism capable of raising awareness towards developmental issues of strategic interest to GaDangme people.

8. Sponsor specific socio-economic projects in the GaDangme Traditional Areas through the sub-committees of the GaDangme Europe.

9. Foster, promote, project the good name, reputation and interests at all times of member organizations and people of GaDangme origin in Europe and Ghana.

10. Serve as the unified voice of the entire member organizations.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP.

SECTION 1. ELIGIBILITY.

Membership of GaDangme Europe shall be open to GaDangme Organizations in Europe under the following general conditions;

a. The Membership Review and Disciplinary Committee shall review each application and make recommendations to the Representative Council for approval.

b. Approval of the membership of an applicant organization into GaDangme Europe shall be determined by simple majority vote at properly convened general meeting of the Representative Council.

c. All GaDangme Organizations in Europe are eligible to apply to be members of GaDangme Europe. On approval of the application by the Representative Council the Organization becomes member Organization of GaDangme Europe.

SECTION 2. FOUNDING MEMBERS.

All member organizations that are original signatories to the Amsterdam Acclamation Charter of the GaDangme Europe

shall constitute and be referred to as founding members of GaDangme Europe.

SECTION 3. APPLICATION FEE.

Any GaDangme Organization on approval of the application in strict accordance with the stipulations of Article IV Section 1 shall pay a one-time non-refundable membership fee determined by the Representative Council.

ARTICLE V. STRUCTURE.

The GADANGME EUROPE shall comprise of:

A. Advisory Board

B. Board of Trustees.

C. Executive Committee.

D. The Representative Council (otherwise called The General Assembly).

E. Other Offices as the Representative Council may determine (e.g. Heads of Standing Committees).

A. ADVISORY BOARD.

1. Membership of the Advisory Board (hereinafter called the AB) shall be constituted by people of GaDangme origin who have outstanding or prominent social standing, identify with and are sympathetic to the cause and aspirations of the GaDangme people as defined in the Preamble of this constitution. The AB shall consist of a minimum of five (5) and a maximum of seven (7) members. They may or may not be resident in Europe. Whereas religion or nationality shall have no

bearing on the composition of the AB, it is recommended that, for purposes of gender consideration, at least one third (1/3) female representation shall be considered in the composition of the AB. Membership of the AB shall be by nomination or recommendations by member organizations and friends of the GDEu and shall be subject to approval by the Representative Council.

2. The AB shall elect its own Chairperson and Secretary.

3. The AB shall consider matters referred to it from the RC and offer appropriate advice. The AB shall also give unsolicited advice on policy issues and direction of the GDEu whenever deemed fit or warranted.

4. The AB shall assist within the framework of the lobbying machinery of the GDEu for various activities and projects including fundraising.

B. BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

The Board of Trustees is the governing board and final management authority of the GaDangme Europe. The board holds the organization's financial and physical assets and activities or operation in trust for future generations. Its membership, appointments, terms of office, responsibilities, powers and other businesses are governed by stipulations as below in this constitution and as further provided in Article I of the by-laws;

SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP.

1. The board shall consist of seven (7) members. At least four (4) of these, in majority, shall be resident in the United Kingdom,

2. The board shall have the President, General Secretary and Treasurer from the Executive Committee as its principal officers and four (4) others as members.

SECTION 2. HOW APPOINTED.

Other than the offices of the President, General Secretary and Treasurer that shall come from the Executive Committee as elected by the Representative Council in accordance with the provisions of Article III of the by-laws, other members of the board shall be nominated or recommended based upon their worth of experiences and competences that will help fulfill the mission and purposes of GaDangme Europe. The Representative Council shall approve all appointments to the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 3. TERMS OF OFFICE.

Each Trustee shall, in accordance with the provisions of Article III, Section 3 of the by-laws, hold office until the expiration of his or her term for a period of two (2) years in the first instance and subject to extension for additional period varying from one (1) year to two (2) years at most, or until their earlier resignation, removal from office or death.

SECTION 4. RESPONSIBILITIES AND POWERS.

Overall management control, responsibilities and powers shall be exercised by or under the direction and authority of the Board of Trustees. The responsibilities and powers of the principal members of the Board of Trustees shall be as provided in Article II of the by-laws.

SECTION 5. REMOVAL.

Any Trustee may be removed by a majority vote of the full membership of the board.

SECTION 6. DELEGATION AND EXPENSES.

(a) Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board of Trustees under any provision of this constitution may be delegated by the board to the Chair or any committee of the organization.

(b) Trustees may not be compensated for their roles as Trustees. They may be allowed expenses, by resolutions of the board, for holding or attending meetings, if necessary. No Trustee shall be employed or otherwise receive compensation or salary from the organization for their duties as Trustees.

C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee of the GaDangme Europe shall be constituted as follows and further be guided as provided in Article II of the by-laws;

1. Nominees shall come from the Representative Council and Executive Committees of member organizations and proposed by member organizations through their representatives who will file names of their nominees latest thirty (30) days before the set date for the elections.
2. The Representative Council shall be the voting body for election of members of the Executive Committee.
3. Consist of the under listed positions and not more than two (2) of these positions shall be held by members from the same member organization.

4. Only persons of GaDangme origin shall be eligible to hold executive positions within the GaDangme Europe.

SECTION 1. COMPOSITION

- a. President.
- b. Vice President.
- c. General Secretary.
- d. Vice General Secretary.
- e. Financial Secretary.
- f. Treasurer.
- g. Public Relations Officer.

SECTION 2. FUNCTIONS.

- a. The Executive Committee shall manage the affairs of the GDEu and be directly under the control of the Trustees Board.
- b. The Executive Committee shall consult with the Representative Council to select a venue for and convene meetings (general, annual and emergency meetings) provided for in Article VII of the by-laws.
- c. The Executive Committee shall play overall supervisory and monitoring roles with respect to all planned activities and projects of the GDEu.
- d. The Executive Committee shall submit detail annual budget proposal and plan of activities to the Representative Council for consideration and to the Trustees Board for approval.

e. The Executive Committee shall prepare and send annual financial report in writing to all member organizations.

f. The Executive Committee shall ensure setting up of standing committees in accordance with Article VIII of this constitution and deal with other things considered within its competence and authority.

SECTION 3. HOW ELECTED.

The officers of the GaDangme Europe shall be elected in accordance with the provisions of Article III of the by-laws. (See also Annex B of the Annexure of this constitution for criteria).

Members of the Representative Council who are elected to serve on the Executive Committee shall have their seats automatically vacated and be replaced by others appointed by their member organization.

D. REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL.

The Representative Council shall be an organ of the GaDangme Europe and the body in which every member of the constituent body is represented.

SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP.

The Representative Council shall comprise of two (2) representatives from each member organization of the GDEu. Members of the Representative Council shall be called ***Representatives**. (See also Annex A of the Annexure of this constitution for criteria).

SECTION 2. FUNCTIONS.

The RC shall exercise deliberative, supervisory, financial and elective functions relating to any matter within the scope of this

constitution and these shall include but not limited to the following:

a. Formulation of policies and approval of programmes, projects and all appointments of GaDangme Europe.

b. Review and approval of the annual plan and budget of the GDEu.

c. Set up Standing Committees and appoint members and chairpersons in accordance with provisions of Article VIII of this constitution.

d. Consider reports by specialized and standing committees and make recommendations in the form of resolutions.

e. Accept nominations and elect officers as provided for by this constitution.

f. Approve special levies recommended by the Executive Committee.

g. Amend the constitution as and when necessary and in strict accordance with the provisions of Article X of this constitution.

SECTION 3. POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

a. The Representative Council shall be the Legislative body of the GaDangme Europe.

b. The Representative Council through the Executive Committee shall be the recognized and official link between the GDEu and respective member organizations and external agencies/organizations that seek to transact business with the GDEu.

c. The collective actions of the Representative Council shall be binding on member Organizations of the GDEu .

d. Any proven gross negligence and reckless abuse of the power of authority conferred on any Representative shall be sufficient grounds for expulsion from the Representative Council after due consultations with the affected organization for purposes of his or her immediate replacement.

e. The Representative Council shall reach its decisions on matters before it from committees in strict accordance with provisions of Article VII of the by-laws and these shall supersede decisions of all committees.

f. The Representatives by assuming their roles and responsibilities out of the trust and respect that their positions confer on them, must be seen to conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with the honour of the position conferred on them and in ways that would not bring the good name of GDEu into disrepute.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS OF THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL.

There shall be two kinds of meetings of the Representative Council namely General and Emergency Meetings in accordance with provisions in Article VII of the by-laws.

ARTICLE VII. FINANCES.

SECTION 1. SOURCES OF FUNDS.

The GaDangme Europe shall derive its income from the following sources;

(a) Membership application/registration fees.

(b) Annual membership dues.

(c) ***Mandatory levies** on members and voluntary donations from members as well as well-wishers and friends of GaDangme Europe.

(c) Appeals for funds, fund raising activities and other means deemed legally appropriate and sanctioned by the Representative Council.

(d) Apply for grants and other financial assistance from agencies, government and international organizations.

The Representative Council shall determine the membership fees and dues to be paid by all members. With the exception of administrative and other miscellaneous expenses that may be allowed subject to approval by the Chair and in accordance with stipulations agreed upon by the Representative Council, all monies of the organization shall be channeled towards the aims and objectives of the organization. No officer holder shall be compensated for their roles in the activities of the organization.

SECTION 2. CONTROL, ACCOUNTABILITY AND FINANCIAL RECORDS.

(a) The GDEu shall keep and operate bank accounts. The main bank account shall be opened in the UK and a sub-account in any other European country.

(b) The GaDangme Europe shall use prudent professional management to get the best return from its financial dealings and any investments.

(c) Withdrawals from the Organization's bank accounts shall be only with the signature of the President or in his/her absence the Vice President and any one of the following two (2) signatories namely the Financial Secretary or the Treasurer.

(d) The fiscal year for the GaDangme Europe shall be from 1st April to 31st March of a calendar year.

(e) The Audit and Compliance Committee shall be responsible for auditing of the books of the GaDangme Europe at least twice a year. The books shall then be made available to a qualified Accountant, appointed by the GaDangme Europe, who will prepare annual accounts in strict accordance with stipulated requirements of the Charity Commission and submit this to the Executive Committee. After approval by the Board of Trustees, copies shall be made available to all member organizations and Independent members within two (2) months.

ARTICLE VIII. COMMITTEES.

SECTION 1. MODE OF OPERATION.

The Representative Council, in consultation with the Board of Trustees, shall set up *standing and *ad-hoc committees. Such committees shall derive their mandate from the RC and their mode of operation shall be as follows:

(a) Each standing committee shall have at least two (2) members from the Representative Council and three (3) members from the general membership of the GaDangme Europe. Not more than two of the members shall be members of the same member Organization.

(b) The Representative Council shall appoint a Chairman and a Vice Chairman for each of the standing committee.

(c) All Chairmen of standing committees shall have a duty to consult with the Executive Committee on matters relating to the duties and functions of the committee.

(d) Each standing committee shall appoint its own Secretary.

(e) Excepting special authorities given by the Board of Trustees, all decisions and recommendations of each standing committee shall be subject to the approval of the Representative Council in consultation with the Board of Trustees.

(f) All standing committees shall conduct their activities in close collaboration or conjunction with the General Secretary.

(g) The General Secretary shall be responsible for the timely implementation of and proper accountability for all approved decisions and recommendations of all the standing committees.

SECTION 2. STANDING COMMITTEES.

The following committees shall be the initial Standing Committees:

(a) Membership Review and Disciplinary Committee.

(b) Education Committee

(c) Health Committee

(b) Public Relations Committee.

(e) Constitution Review Committee.

(f) Audit and Compliance Committee.

(g) Etc.

SECTION 3. FUNCTIONS.

The function of the standing committees shall be as provided in Article X of the by-laws and such additional business as may be referred to it by the President. Except where special authority is given by the board, such committees shall not take action until a report has been made to the Executive Committee and approved by the Board of Trustees. Each committee whether standing or ad hoc, shall meet either in place and time or through electronic means (e.g. e-mailing or telephone conference) as may be determined by members of the committee.

ARTICLE IX. WITHDRAWAL AND DISSOLUTION.

SECTION 1. WITHDRAWAL.

Members are free to withdraw their membership of the GaDangme Europe under the following conditions;

(a) Give Six (6) months notice in writing to the Representative Council stating clearly reasons for the withdrawal.

(b) No refunds or benefits for past contributions shall be paid to such a member.

(c) Any member withdrawing its membership is liable for all obligations due to the GDEu during period of membership in the GDEu.

SECTION 2. DISSOLUTION OF THE GDEu.

Only by unanimous consent of the Representative Council and formally endorsed by the Board of Trustees shall the GDEu be dissolved. In this regard, a minimum of six (6) months written notice shall be sent to all member Organizations and Independent members.

SECTION 3. ASSET DISTRIBUTION.

In the event of dissolution or winding up of the GaDangme Europe, assets remaining after the disbursement of all liabilities, shall under no circumstance be distributed among the members of the GDEu but shall be transferred to a recognized Charity Organization whose aims and objectives are similar to those of the GaDangme Europe.

ARTICLE X. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND ADDENDA.

SECTION 1. TIME.

Any article or part thereof of this Constitution shall be amended by enactment when it is deemed necessary by at least two-thirds (2/3) majority votes of the members of the Representatives Council in good standing present at a general meeting.

In the event of numerous objections to the proposal for amendment(s) by member Organizations or Independent members, the matter shall be referred to the Constitutional Committee for examination and recommendations shall be sent to the Representative Council through the General Secretary.

SECTION 2. PROCEDURE FOR AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION.

1. Any member Organization or body of good standing may request in writing, for amendment of the constitution, to the General Secretary and copy of the request sent to the President. The request, indicating it is seconded by another member organization or body of good standing, must clearly state, with reasons, the specific section or sections of the Constitution to be amended (See format below).
2. The General Secretary must communicate such a request to all member Organizations and in a form of notice and together

with the meeting agenda at least two (2) months before the general meeting of the Representative Council. The Representative Council shall at the general meeting and in die consultation with the Board of Trustees consider the merits of all duly proposed amendments and act upon them accordingly.

A. PROPOSED ENACTMENT/AMENDMENT (FORMAT).

To (state in concise form reason or purpose of proposal)

Proposed by:

Seconded by:

IT IS ENACTED that (indicate document to be amended) Article, Section..... be and hereby is amended by striking out and substituting therefore the following (here indicate new text)

B. PROPOSED RESOLUTION (FORMAT).

To (state in concise form reason or purpose of proposal)

Propose by:

Seconded by:

IT IS RESOLVED that (and then give the resolution)

A statement of the background purpose and justification shall accompany the proposed resolution.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

Any amendment of the Constitution shall become effective and part of this Constitution as from the date of ratified by the Representative Council and signed by the President of the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE XI. RATIFICATION AND ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION.

This Constitution when accepted by the Representative Council, shall be retrospectively deemed to have been ratified and adopted by the Founding Members of the GaDangme Europe by the Amsterdam Acclamation of Eighth day of the month of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and eight (8th March 2008).

ARTICLE XII. SIGNATORIES OF FOUNDING MEMBERS.

1. GADANGME NIKASEMO KPEE, UK.
Nii Nortei Omaboe _____

2. BISHOP T GA CLUB, UK.
Ben Nii Ayi Cofie & Titus Evans _____

3. GADANGME HAMBURG.
Sarah Coleman & Teddy Adjanor _____

4. DANGME ASSOCIATION, HAMBURG.
Florence Lamptey & Festus Aniteye _____

5. GADANGME BERLIN.
Alice Petroid _____

6. GADANGME BELGIUM.
Solomon Awah & Henry Obedekah _____

7. GADANGME ASSOCIATION,
COPENHAGEN.
George Tetteh Ankamafio _____

8. GADANGME ASSOCIATION,
SWITZERLAND.

Jefferies Quaye & Alex Adjei

9. GADANGME ASSOCIATION,
STOCKHOLM SWEDEN.

Daniel Lamptey

10. GADANGME FOUNDATION,
HOLLAND.

Sylvanus Derah & Joe Lamptey

11. GADANGME ASSOCIATION,
FRANCE.

Robert Laryea & Nii Lante Cleland

12. NYEMIMEI AKPEE,
AMSTERDAM.

Nancy o. Sekyere & George Larrey

13. BOKEMEI FOUNDATION,
NETHERLANDS.

S. A. Abbey & M. J. Kloostumma

Place: Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Date: 8th March, 2008.