

Constitution of the Documentary Group of The Royal Photographic Society

1. Purpose

The Group shall be known as the Documentary Group of The Royal Photographic Society. Documentary photography as a practice spans a range of approaches, so makes precise definition difficult. Taken literally, all forms of photography can be described as documentary, in that they document someone, something or some place. As a working definition, the Documentary SIG uses the following:

Documentary photography communicates a clear narrative through visual literacy. It can be applied to the photographic documentation of social, cultural, historical and political events.

Documentary photographers' work always has an intent; whether that is to represent daily life, explore a specific subject, deepen our thinking, or influence our opinions.

The aims of the group are to:

- Foster and develop documentary photography;
- Actively encourage the participation of all members of the Group in a programme of meetings and workshops;
- Communicate with Group members through the RPS website, a quarterly e-journal, emails, and social media.
- Encourage members to communicate with one another and freely exchange information, ideas and views.
- Organise exhibitions to provide opportunities for members to show their work.
- Organise any other type of function or event identified as desirable by the membership.

The Group will operate under the current Regulations and Guidelines for Special Interest Groups of The Royal Photographic Society (MP004 & FP003). All references to "The Society" herein are to The Royal Photographic Society.

All publications advertising and publicity must clearly indicate that the Group is part of The Royal Photographic Society and as far as possible follow the current corporate branding.

2. Membership

All paid up and Honorary members of The Royal Photographic Society are eligible to become members on payment of the appropriate Group subscription. A non-member of The Society cannot be a member of the Group. The level of subscription shall be decided from time to time by the Annual General Meeting upon a recommendation from the Group's Committee. The Council of The Society shall be notified by 30th September each year of any change of subscription for the following financial year. The renewal date for the Group subscription shall be the same as the member's Society subscription renewal date.

3. Committee

A committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Group from members nominated in writing by not less than 2 other members. Such nominations and the written consent of the nominee must be received not later than 14 days before the date of the General Meeting.

The Committee shall be comprised of three officers: Chairman; Secretary; Treasurer and at least one other member. The length of service of the officers and committee members shall follow the current protocols in MP001 of The Society. All officers and committee members must be members of The Society: any officer or committee member who ceases to be a member of The Society is immediately disqualified from office and the Group Committee.



The Officers of The Society shall be ex-officio members of the Committee and entitled to attend Committee meetings and to receive all Committee documents, but not entitled to vote or to be counted towards a quorum.

The Committee may co-opt members of The Society, who need not be members of the Group, for specific purposes. Members so co-opted have no voting rights and do not count towards a quorum.

The Group Committee may invite non-members of The Society to attend Committee meetings for a specific purpose.

A quorum for committee meetings shall be at least two members of the Committee.

At the AGM the Group shall elect a representative from the Committee to The Society's Advisory Board. It is expected that this will be the Chairman unless exceptional reasons prevail.

In the event of a vacancy occurring, the Committee may co-opt a member of the Group to serve until the next General Meeting.

The Committee may appoint sub-committees as required. Sub-committees may co-opt members of The Society, who need not be members of the Group, for specific purposes. Members so co-opted have no voting rights.

4. General Meetings

The Group's Annual General Meeting shall be normally held within 3 months of the end of The Society's financial year, 31st December.

All officers and committee members shall retire annually at the AGM but may offer themselves for re-election. A member serving as Chairman may serve for up to a maximum of 6 consecutive years: in special circumstances the Group may apply to Council for an extension of this limit.

Written notice of an AGM shall be sent by email, where possible, at least 28 days before the meeting. Letters will be sent to the last known address of those without email, as well as being published on The Society website.

A quorum for an AGM shall be 15 or one third of the membership whichever is less. In the event of the AGM being inquorate it shall be adjourned and reconvened at another time when the attendance at the reconvened Meeting will be deemed to constitute a quorum. The Committee may permit post and/or proxy votes on resolutions specified in the notice of meeting.

An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened by the Group's Committee, as it considers necessary. An Extraordinary General Meeting must also be convened, within 90 days of receipt by the Secretary, of a requisition signed by at least 25 members or 50% of the Group membership whichever is fewer. Written notice of the EGM shall be sent at least 28 days before the Meeting to each Group member's last known address, as well as being published on The Society website, stating the purpose for which the Meeting is convened. No business other than that specified in the notice may be conducted at the EGM. A quorum shall be 25 members or 50% of the Group membership whichever is fewer. If the Meeting is inquorate it shall not be reconvened without the previous procedure being undergone again and the specified quorum achieved. The Committee may permit post and/or proxy votes on resolutions specified in the notice of meeting.

5. Finances

The funds of the Group shall be under the control of the committee and shall only be used in the furtherance of the stated objectives of the Group. The committee is not authorised to enter into any expenditure or commitments it has insufficient funds to cover.

The committee shall require the treasurer to maintain proper accounting records comprising as a minimum, a record of all cash and bank transactions, a regular bank reconciliation statement, an income and expenditure account and a balance sheet. All supporting vouchers and documentation are to be retained for a period of at least six years.

Apart from the treasurer, the committee may appoint additional bank/cheque signatories for different levels of expenditure in accordance with protocols of the Banking Arrangements as set out in the Society's Manual FP003.

The financial records shall be available for inspection at any time by the committee or by the Treasurer of The Society.

The financial year end shall coincide with that of The Society, namely 31 December.

The treasurer shall prepare in summary format (the template to be provided by the Director General of The Society) accounts for the financial year and lodge these with the society by the 31 January for inclusion in The Society group accounts.

The committee may appoint an independent examiner (who may not be the treasurer nor a member of the committee) to review the accounts to ensure that the figures supplied to The Society are in agreement with the



records and vouchers kept by the treasurer. Any material inconsistencies should be brought to the attention of the committee and The Society Treasurer. (Please note this is not a requirement of the Society.)

The accounts of the Group are to be laid before the members for approval, at the AGM of the Group.

Should the Group be disbanded at any time, then any remaining sums in the Group bank accounts or cash reserves are to be immediately transferred to The Society.

6. Winding Up

The Group may be wound up by an AGM or EGM of the Group provided all members of the Group are given adequate opportunity to vote by post or proxy on the winding up resolution. The Council of The Society must be advised of such a possibility at the earliest opportunity.

7. Revision of this Constitution

This Constitution and any amendments thereto are subject approval and ratification by the Council of The Royal Photographic Society. Amendments shall only be made by an AGM or EGM of the Group after notice of proposed revisions has been include with or sent prior to the notice of meeting.

