On Public Associations

Unofficial translation

The Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 31 May, 1996 No. 3.

Unofficial translation

Footnote. Throughout the text, the words "of legislative acts" "by legislative acts" and " legislative acts" as replaced, respectively, by the words "of laws," "by laws" and "laws" in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 11.06.2026 № 306-VIII (shall enter into force from 01.07.2026).

The right to freedom of associations shall be the one of the most important and constitutional rights of a person and citizen, the implementation of which shall meet the interests of society and shall be under the protection of the state.

Chapter 1. General provisions

Article 1. Subject of regulation of this Law

The subject of regulation of this Law shall be the social relations, arising in connection with the implementation of the right to freedom of associations by the citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as with creation, activity, reorganization and liquidation of public associations.

Article 2. Concept of a public association

Public associations in the Republic of Kazakhstan shall be political parties, trade unions, ethnocultural public associations and other associations of citizens created on a voluntary basis to achieve common goals that shall not contradict the legislation. Public associations shall be non-profit organizations.

Footnote. Article 2 as amended by the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 11.06.2026 № 306-VIII (shall enter into force from 01.07.2026).

Article 3. The legislation on public associations

The legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan on public associations shall be based on the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan and shall consist of this Law and other Laws that do not contradict them.

This Law shall apply to all public associations created at the initiative of citizens, with the exception of religious associations, local self-government bodies and public initiative, the procedure for the creation and activities of which shall be determined by other Laws.

This Law shall apply to the activity of the established and existing structural subdivisions (branches and representative offices) of foreign and international public associations in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan, with the exception of religious associations.

If an international treaty, ratified by the Republic of Kazakhstan established the rules other than those, provided by this Law, the rules of an international treaty shall be applied.

Features related to the creation, activity, reorganization and liquidation of political parties, trade unions, self-regulatory organizations based on voluntary membership (participation), and other individual types of public associations may be regulated by other Laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The activities of these public associations, not regulated by other Laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan, shall be regulated by this Law.

Footnote. Article 3 as amended by the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 09.02.2009 № 126 (the order of enforcement See Article 2); dated 29.04.2009 № 154-IV (the order of enforcement See Article 2); dated 24.05.2018 № 156-VI (shall be enforced upon expiry of ten calendar days after the day of its first official publication); dated 11.06.2026 № 306-VIII (shall enter into force from 01.07.2026).

Article 4. The state and public associations

The state shall secure the compliance of rights and legitimate interests of public associations.

Illegal interference of the state in the affairs of public associations and public associations in the affairs of the state shall not be allowed, as well as the assignment of the functions of state bodies to public associations.

Public associations may cooperate and interact with state bodies, concluding agreements with them, and may perform certain works for them, provided by the legislation, under the agreements with the state bodies.

The labor legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan on social protection apply to employees of the offices of public associations.

Issues affecting the interests of public associations, in cases provided for by Laws, may be resolved by state bodies in agreement with public associations.

Footnote. Article 4 as amended by the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 15.05.2007 № 253; dated 29.04.2009 № 154-IV (the order of enforcement See Article 2); dated 20.04.2023 № 226-VII (shall be enforced from 01.07.2023); dated 11.06.2026 № 306-VIII (shall enter into force from 01.07.2026).

Article 5. Principles of activity of public associations

Public associations shall be created and shall operate in order to exercise and protect political, economic, social and cultural rights and freedoms, to develop citizens' activity and initiative; to satisfy professional and amateur interests; to develop scientific, technical and artistic creativity, to protect human life and health, environmental protection; to participate in charity; to conduct cultural and educational, sports and recreational activities; to preserve historical and cultural monuments; patriotic, legal and humanistic education; to expand and strengthen international cooperation; to conduct other activities not prohibited by the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The establishment and activity of public associations that pursues extremist's goals, as well as the creation of paramilitary units, not provided by the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan shall be prohibited.

The establishment of public associations by the type of paramilitary units, having military structure, uniform, special decorations, anthems, flags, pennants, special conditions of internal discipline and governing, arms including the imitative arms, in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan shall be prohibited.

The activities of political parties and trade unions of other states, political parties on a religious basis, as well as the financing of political parties and trade unions by foreign legal entities, foreign citizens and stateless persons, legal entities with foreign participation, foreign states and international organizations are not allowed.

The creation and activities of public associations that infringe on the health of citizens and the morality of society, as well as the activities of unregistered public associations, shall not be allowed.

Footnote. Article 5 as amended by the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 23.02.2005 № 33; dated 29.04.2010 № 272-IV (the order of enforcement See Article 2); dated 16.11.2015 № 403-V (shall be enforced upon expiry of ten calendar days after the day of its first official publication); dated 11.06.2026 № 306-VIII (shall enter into force from 01.07.2026).

Article 6. Principles of establishment and activity of public associations

Public associations shall be equal before the law. Public associations shall carry out activities within the framework of the Constitution and other Laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Public associations shall be established and shall act on the basis of voluntariness, equality of their members (participants), self-governing, legality, statements and publicity of the activity.

Participation or non-participation of a citizen in the activity of a public association may not serve as the basis for restriction of his/her rights and freedoms. The requirement in a public association to specify membership (participation) in official documents shall not be allowed.

Article 7. Status of public associations

Republican, regional and local public associations may be established and may operate in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Republican public associations shall include the associations that have their structural subdivisions (branches and representative offices) in the territory of in more than half of the regions, cities of republican significance, and the capital.

Local public associations shall include associations operating within one region, city of republican significance, and the capital.

Local public associations shall include associations operating within the capital, one region and a city of republican significance.

In order to confirm the status, republican and regional public associations, before the expiration of one year from the date of registration, shall be obliged to submit the copies of documents, certifying the record registration passed by structural subdivisions (branches and representative offices) to the body, registered this association, in the territorial bodies of justice.

Footnote. Article 7 as amended by the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 21.12.2023 № 49-VIII (shall be enforced upon expiry of ten calendar days after the day of its first official publication); dated 11.06.2026 № 306-VIII (shall enter into force from 01.07.2026).

Article 7-1. Ethnocultural associations

1. An ethnocultural association shall be a non-profit organization created in the organizational and legal form of a public association, public foundation, association of legal entities in the form of an association (union) in order to satisfy the interests of citizens in the field of preserving and developing the traditions, languages and culture of ethnic groups of Kazakhstan.

2. The name of an ethnocultural association should contain the words "ethnocultural association," the use of which shall be allowed only in the name of an ethnocultural association.

The full and abbreviated name of the ethnocultural association and its symbols should not fully or substantially duplicate the name and symbols of state bodies, political parties and public associations registered in the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as political parties and public associations liquidated in connection with violation of the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

3. Ethnocultural associations shall participate in the implementation of state policy to strengthen the principles of national unity and solidarity, interethnic and interfaith harmony.

4. Ethnocultural associations in order to achieve their goals shall interact with friendship houses created in the form of a communal state institution.

Footnote. Chapter 1 as added by the Article 7-1 in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 11.06.2026 № 306-VIII (shall enter into force from 01.07.2026).

Article 8. Unions (alliances) of public associations

Public associations, established and registered in the established manner, notwithstanding the type, shall have the right to organize unions (alliances) of public associations on the basis of memorandums and charters, approved by unions (alliances), establishing a new legal entity , as well as to be the participant of international unions (alliances).

The procedure for the activities and state registration of unions (associations) of public associations, including international ones, shall be determined in accordance with the Laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Article 9. Activity of international and foreign non-commercial associations in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan

The structural subdivisions (branches and representative offices) of international and foreign non-commercial associations may be established and operate in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The structural subdivisions (branches and representative offices) of international and foreign non-commercial associations shall be governed by the charters of the latter, unless they contradict the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Chapter 2. Establishment, reorganization, liquidation of public associations

Article 10. Establishment of public associations

A public association shall be created on the initiative of a group of citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan of at least three people.

The right of citizens to establish public associations shall be exercised both directly through the association of individuals and through legal entities - public associations, except for political parties.

The founders of a public association shall be the individuals and (or) legal entities - public associations, except for political parties, convening a constituent congress (conference, meeting), where a charter shall be adopted and governing bodies shall be formed. The founders of a public association - individuals and (or) legal entities shall have equal rights and bear equal responsibilities.

A trade union may be a founder of a trade union.

The legal capacity of a public association as a legal entity shall arise from the moment of its registration in the procedure prescribed by the Laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Footnote. Article 10 as amended by the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 12.01.2012 № 537-IV (shall be enforced upon expiry of 10 calendar days after its first official publication); as amended by the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 27.06.2014 № 212-V (shall be enforced upon expiry of ten calendar days after the day of its first official publication); dated 21.12.2023 № 49-VIII (shall be enforced upon expiry of ten calendar days after the day of its first official publication); dated 11.06.2026 № 306-VIII (shall enter into force from 01.07.2026).

Article 11. Membership (participation) in a public association

Members (participants) of public associations may be citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan and (or) legal entities - public associations, with the exception of political parties. The statutes of public associations, in addition to political parties, may provide for the membership (participation) of foreign citizens and stateless persons in them.

Trade unions may be the members (participants) of trade unions.

Members (participants) of youth public associations under political parties may be the citizens attained sixteen years of age. The age of members of other youth and children associations shall be determined by their charters (statutes).

Conditions and procedure of acquisition and loss of membership shall be specified by the charters of public associations.

Chairmen and judges of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan and other courts, chairmen and members of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Supreme Audit Chamber of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Commissioner for Human Rights in the Republic of Kazakhstan, employees and employees of special state, law enforcement agencies, military personnel shall not be entitled to be a member of a political party, professional union, to support or condemn any political party or socio-political movement.

Individuals specified in part five of this Article, with the exception of employees of special state and law enforcement agencies, military personnel, shall be obliged to leave political parties, trade unions within ten days from the date of appointment, election, entry into the service.

In the case of admission to military service or entry into the service of law enforcement and special state bodies, membership in a political party, or trade unions shall be terminated automatically.

Footnote. Article 11 as amended by the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated12.01.2012 № 537-IV (shall be enforced upon expiry of 10 calendar days after its first official publication); dated 27.06.2014 № 212-V (shall be enforced upon expiry of ten calendar days after the day of its first official publication); dated 05.11.2022 № 157-VII (shall come into effect ten calendar days after the day of its first official publication); dated 11.06.2026 № 306-VIII (shall enter into force from 01.07.2026).

Article 12. Charter of a public association

The charter of a public association shall provide:

1) name, subject and goals of activity of a public association;

2) membership (participation), condition and the procedure of acquisition and loss of membership, rights and obligations of members (participants) of a public association;

3) organizational structure of a public association, legal statute of structural subdivisions (branches and representative offices) and the territory, within which they carry out their activity;

4) procedure of formation, competence and terms of powers of the governing bodies, location of continuous governing body of a public association;

5) sources of formation of monetary funds and other property of a public association, rights of a public association and its structural subdivisions (branches and representative offices) concerning administration of property;

6) procedure for introduction of alterations and additions to the charter of a public association;

7) procedure of reorganization and liquidation of a public association, the future of the property of a public association in case of liquidation.

The charter may provide other provisions as well, related to the operation of a public association, not contradicting the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Adoption of the charter, introduction of alterations and additions to it shall relate to the exclusive competency of the supreme body of a public association – the assembly (conference , meeting).

Article 13. State registration and re-registration of a public association

State registration of republican, regional public associations, structural subdivisions (branches and representative offices) of foreign and international non-commercial non-governmental associations shall be carried out by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

State registration of local public associations, branches and representative offices shall be carried out by the territorial bodies of justice.

State registration and re-registration of public associations shall be made in the manner and within the terms, provided by the legislation on the state registration of legal entities.

In order to register a public association within the period of two months after the date of its establishment, an application shall be submitted to registering body. The application shall be attached with the charter, the protocol of the constituent assembly (conference, meeting), adopted the charter, information about initiators of the establishment of association and the documents, confirming the location of a public association, as well as the payment of registration fee for legal entities.

The period, established for the submission of an application on registration of a public association, missed for a good case, shall be restored by the body, carrying out the registration .

In the cases, provided by the legislation, a public association shall be subject to re-registration.

State registration fee shall be collected for registration and re-registration of public associations in the manner, specified by the Tax Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Footnote. Article 13 was amended by the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 23 March, 2000 № 39; dated 24 December, 2001 № 276 (shall be enforced from 01.01.2002).

Article 14. Record registration of branches and representative offices of public associations

Structural subdivisions (branches and representative offices) of public associations shall be subject to record registration.

Record registration of branches and representative offices of foreign and international non-commercial non-governmental associations shall be carried out by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Record registration of structural subdivisions (branches and representative offices) of public associations shall be carried out in territorial bodies of justice.

Procedure and terms of record registrations shall be governed by the legislation on registration of legal entities.

Article 15. Suspension of the term of state registration

The term of state registration shall be interrupted in cases of examination of constituent documents, verification of lists of members of political parties, as well as on the grounds specified in the Laws on state registration of legal entities.

Article 16. Denial of state registration

Refusal to register a public association, its structural subdivision (branch and representative office) is made in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan on state registration of legal entities and record registration of branches and representative offices.

Denial of registration may be appealed in the manner prescribed by the laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Footnote. Article 16 as amended in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 29/06/2020 № 351-VI (shall be enforced from 01.07.2021).

Article 17. Reorganization and liquidation of a public association

Reorganization of a public association (merger, affiliation, division, segregation, reformation) shall be made under the decision of the body of the public association in the manner, provided by its charter and the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Liquidation of a public association shall be made on the grounds and in the manner, provided by the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Article 18. Symbols of a public association

Public associations may have own symbols (flag, anthem, emblem, pennants, badges), not contradicting the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Full and short name of a public association and its symbols shall not duplicate in full or in sufficient part the symbols of the Republic of Kazakhstan and other states, government bodies , public associationsб registered in the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as public associations, liquidated in connection with the violation of the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Description and design of symbols of a public association shall be set forth in the charter.

Footnote. Article 18 – as amended by the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 08 July, 2005 № 67 (the order of enforcement See Article 2).

Chapter 3. Rights and obligation of a public association. Property of a public association

Article 19. Rights and obligation of a public association

Public associations shall obtain the rights assume the obligations through their governing bodies, acting within powers, provided by the charter and the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

In order to implement the charter goals, public associations in the manner, established by the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan shall have the right:

- to spread information about their activity;
- to represent and to protect the rights and legitimate interests of their members in courts and other government bodies, other public associations;
- to establish mass media;
- organize and conduct peaceful assemblies;
- to carry out publishing activities;
- to enter into international non-commercial non-governmental associations;
- to carry out other powers, not contradicting the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

A public association shall be obliged:

- to comply with the Laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as with the regulations, provided by the charter;
- to provide the opportunity for its members to familiarize with the documents and decisions, affected their rights and interests;
- to inform its members about receipt and expenditure of monetary funds;
- to inform the registering body about changes of location of permanent governing body and data about the directors in the volume of information, included into the National register of business identification numbers.

Footnote. Article 19 as amended by the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 24.12.2012 № 60-V (shall be enforced upon expiry of ten calendar days after its first official publication); dated May 25, 2020 № 334-VI (shall be enforced ten calendar days after the day of its first official publication).

Article 20. Entrepreneurial activity of public associations

Public associations may carry out entrepreneurial activity to the extent that it serves for achievement of the charter goals. Entrepreneurial activity shall be carried out by public associations in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Revenues from entrepreneurial activity of public associations shall be subject to taxation in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Revenues from entrepreneurial activity of public activity shall not be redistributed between the members (participants) of public associations and shall be used for the achievement of charter goals. Use of own funds for charity purposes by public associations shall be allowed.

Article 21. Property of public associations

The property of a public association shall be the objects, required for material provision of the activity, provided by the charter, with the exception of the objects, prohibited by the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The property of a public association shall be formed from entrance and membership fees, if their payment is provided for by the charter, voluntary contributions and donations, proceeds from lectures, exhibitions, sports and other events in accordance with the charter, income from production and other economic activities and other revenues not prohibited by the Laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Members (participants) of public associations shall not have the rights to the property transferred by them to these associations, including membership fees, unless otherwise provided by the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan on self-regulation. They shall not be liable for the obligations of public associations in which they participate as members (participants), and these associations shall not be liable for the obligations of their members (participants), unless otherwise provided by the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan on self-regulation.

The property of public associations shall be protected by the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Footnote. Article 21 as amended by the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 09.04.2016 № 496-V (shall be enforced upon expiry of ten calendar days after the day of its first official publication); dated 21.12.2023 № 49-VIII (shall be enforced upon expiry of ten calendar days after the day of its first official publication); dated 11.06.2026 № 306-VIII (shall enter into force from 01.07.2026).

Chapter 4. Responsibility for violation of the legislation on public associations

Article 22. Responsibility for violation of the legislation on public associations

Violation of the legislation on public associations shall entail the responsibility in the manner, established by the Laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Responsibility for the violation of the legislation on public associations shall bear the legal entities and individuals, guilty of that, as well as the officials of government bodies, and the persons that are the members of governing bodies of public associations.

Footnote. Article 22 as amended by the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 15 May, 2007 № 253.

Article 23. Suspension of the activity of a public association

The activities of a public association may be suspended for a period of three to six months by a court decision on the basis of submissions from the prosecutor's office, internal affairs, appeals from local executive bodies of the capital, regions, cities of republican significance or statements by citizens in cases of violation of the Constitution and legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan or repeated actions by a public association that go beyond the goals and objectives defined by its charter.

In case of suspension of the activity of a public association, it is prohibited to use all mass media, conduct agitation and propaganda, organize and hold peaceful meetings and other mass events, and take part in elections. The right of a public association to use bank deposits

is also suspended, with the exception of settlements under labor contracts, compensation for losses caused as a result of its activities, and payment of fines.

If, within the established period of suspension of activities, a public association eliminates the violations that served as the basis for the suspension of its activities, then after the end of the specified period, the public association resumes its activities. In case of failure to eliminate violations by a public association or in case of repeated violation of the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the prosecutor's office, internal affairs bodies, as well as local executive bodies of the capital, regions, cities of republican significance, citizens shall have the right to apply to the court for its liquidation.

Footnote. Article 23 as amended by the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 23 February, 2005 № 33; dated 04.05.2020 № 321-VI (shall be enforced upon the expiration of ten calendar days after the day of its first official publication); dated May 25, 2020 № 334-VI (shall be enforced ten calendar days after the day of its first official publication); dated 11.06.2026 № 306-VIII (shall enter into force from 01.07.2026).

Chapter 5. Final provisions

Article 24. International relations of public associations

Public associations of the Republic of Kazakhstan may maintain international relations, conclude the relevant agreements, enter into international non-commercial non-governmental associations in the capacity of collective members, with the exception of religious associations in accordance with their charters.

Public associations of the Republic of Kazakhstan may establish their structural subdivisions (branches and representative offices) in foreign states on the basis of generally recognized principles and regulations of international law, international treaties and the legislations of the relevant states.

The President
of the Republic of Kazakhstan

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