



UNIMA Emergency Aid Charter

The UNIMA Emergency Aid Charter is an agreement between the Cooperation Commission and the Board of UNIMA which acts on behalf of the Assembly of UNIMA's members. They agree to attempt to assist any UNIMA member in crisis in the form of food, water, health, and hygiene products, local transportation, relief programmes, or housing, so long as an appeal to UNIMA International has been made. The definition of crisis in this regard includes natural disaster, conflict, food or water shortage, and disease affecting a society on a large scale. The charter and its activities are not intended to replace social services, but to provide additional help to fellow members and colleagues in the puppetry arts.

This charter and its activities include any existing or upcoming campaign or programme created in the name of UNIMA with the intentions to achieve the goal mentioned above. This includes fundraising, funds distribution, communications with victims, and the coordination of resources. The Cooperation Commission undertakes the coordination of these activities so as to improve opportunities and results of UNIMA's national centres, commissions, or groups of members who have volunteered to send aid. The Board undertakes the duties of supervising, advising, and assisting the Commission so all possible options and best practices have been considered and shall be achieved in the soonest way possible.

The Emergency Aid Charter may seek alignment or be aligned with other commissions and their activities with UNIMA, so long as its funds remain in the purview of the Cooperation Commission.

All applications for aid will be considered regardless of membership status. The Cooperation Commission is responsible for endorsing a recipient and retains the right to refuse any application. The Commission is accountable to the Assembly of UNIMA vis-a-vis the Board for its decisions.

Unless requested by the Commission, applicants' names will remain anonymous and confidential. Permission to share an applicant's identity will be sought should the Commission have reasons including, but not limited to, confirming the applicant's contributions to the puppetry arts, confirming their current situation, providing updates to donors, or enrolling and assigning volunteers to the applicant.

Neither recipients nor the volunteers or staff of this charter shall use the term 'UNIMA Emergency Aid' for the advertising of commercial work, political endorsement, self-promotion, and so on. Any recipient who does may be disqualified from future aid. Likewise, an agent of the charter disqualifies themselves from participating if found using 'UNIMA Emergency Aid' or its campaigns for other, non-related agenda.

The charter gives no donor any unique privileges. Financial donations to 'UNIMA Emergency Aid', its variants, and its campaigns are managed as impartially as possible by the Commission and the Board.

Support in kind that cannot be managed by the Commission, such as rent-free accommodation, student placements, or work opportunities, remain outside this charter. Nevertheless the Board and the Commission aspire to assist with the matching of resources and protecting the rights of disenfranchised members.

This charter is based on the ideal of solidarity among puppeteers of the world, regardless of nationality, personal faiths, professional status, or any other diversities. All participating national centres and members of UNIMA of this charter, whether as a volunteer, donor, staff, or recipient, shall aim to uphold this ideal.

The Board:

Karen Smith, President

Dimitri Jageneau, General Secretary

Lucile Bodson, Treasurer

Annette Dabs, Vice-President

Tito Loreface, Vice-President

The Cooperation Commission:

Salma Mohseni Ardehali, President