



OSMTH

Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem

**Non Governmental Organization in Special Consultative Status
with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
Member of the International Peace Bureau**

How OSMTH FUNCTIONS INTERNATIONALLY AS AN ORDER

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Guiding Principles

OSMTH follows three key guiding principles, which are as follows:

- The Order is international in its outlook.
- The Order is democratic in its functioning.
- The Order is inter-denominational/ecumenical Christian in its membership.

Official Name

The correct full name of the Order, as registered in Geneva, is: Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani / Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem; abbreviated to "OSMTH".

Official Symbols

The symbol of the Order is the red cross pattée on white background, echoing the cross of the medieval Knights Templar.

OSMTH Member Grand Priorities, at the national level, may also use the other traditional shapes of crosses associated with Templar heritage.

OSMTH strictly rejects those other organizations and individuals which use Templar symbols and heritage to promote extreme views and actions.

The OSMTH Roundel and the OSMTH Coat of Arms are copyright symbols, which may only be used by the Magisterium, Grand Magistral Council and/or Member Grand Priories of OSMTH in accordance with the Statutes, Rules & Regulations and the Member Grand Priory License Agreements of OSMTH.

Member Grand Priories (National Associations)

As an international organization, OSMTH is legally structured as an 'association of associations', composed of those national Member Grand Priories which have been recognized and admitted by the Grand Magistral Council.

Each Member Grand Priory is made up of local Priories or, for smaller groups, Commanderies or Preceptories. There is only one national Member Grand Priory for a country. Exception is made for just one supranational body, the Grand Priory of NATO, which groups together individual members of the Order who are Reserve Officers of NATO countries, and is therefore not bound geographically.

For those countries which do not yet have a recognized Member Grand Priory, the Deputy Grand Commander appoints an existing Grand Priory to act as "mentor", on the basis that such a "mentor" is willing and able to fulfill the role and has relevant historical, geographical, and/or cultural links with the country concerned. The role of the "mentor" Grand Priory is to assist the development of the national entity and bring it progressively to the status of a recognised Grand Priory.

The Member Grand Priories of OSMTH are self-governing entities, operating autonomously as national associations under the laws of their respective countries, and setting their own domestic policies and programmes. Grand Priors, as well as Priors and Commanders at the local level, are elected by their national memberships.

As at November 2019 there are 20 recognised national Member Grand Priories in OSMTH: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America; and 1 specifically supranational Member association, the NATO Grand Priory.

International Governing Council

OSMTH is governed by the Grand Magistral Council (GMC), which is chaired by the Grand Commander, and on which each Member Grand Priory is represented by its Grand Prior or his/her officially nominated Proxy. The "one country, one vote" system has been implemented to ensure that all Grand Priories have an equal vote, whatever the sizes of their individual memberships may be.

The Grand Magistral Council is the legislative body of OSMTH and decides on the statutes, regulations, policies and programmes for the international operations and management of the Order.

The GMC meets twice a year, in spring and autumn/fall, hosted by a Member Grand Priory in a pre-designated country. The Priors and Commanders of "mentored" entities are welcomed to attend, and may be invited to speak, but do not have a vote on the GMC. The meetings are also open for individual members of the Order from Member Grand Priorities to observe.

The decisions taken by the Grand Magistral Council on international matters are valid for the whole of the Order, unless three Grand Priorities submit a veto.

International Committees

The Grand Magistral Council is supported by a number of international Committees, which currently include the following:

- Awards & Devices Committee
- Communications & Press Committee
- Financial Advisory Committee
- History & Archives Committee
- Organization (Governance) Committee
- Security Committee
- Venues Committee

The individual Chairs and Members of the Committees are recruited from among the Member Grand Priorities, appointed by the Grand Commander, and ratified by the Grand Magistral Council.

International General Assembly

Every two years, OSMTH holds a Grand Chapter General (GCG), which offers the opportunity for a wider assembly of individual members from the Member Grand Priorities to gather together. The Grand Chapter General receives reports from the senior international Officeholders of the Order, and the GCG may put forward matters for consideration by the Grand Magistral Council.

International Officeholders

The Grand Magistral Council elects four senior Officeholders to lead and manage the international work of the Order.

The **Grand Master**, elected for a single term of eight years, is the ceremonial head of OSMTH. The Grand Master also leads the international diplomatic work of the Order.

The **Grand Commander**, elected for a term of three years renewable once, is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of OSMTH. The Grand Commander chairs the Grand Magistral Council and also the Magisterium (International Executive) of OSMTH.

The **Deputy Grand Commander**, elected for a term of three years renewable once, deputizes for the Grand Commander, as and when necessary, and leads on the OSMTH "mentorship" programme.

The **Chancellor General**, elected for a term of three years renewable once, is the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of OSMTH.

The Grand Magistral Council appoints two honorary Special Officeholders.

The **Religious Protector** is a senior church leader.

The **Royal Patron** maintains relations between the Order and various Royal and Noble Houses.

The Grand Commander appoints, for ratification by the Grand Magistral Council, other key international officeholders, including the OSMTH Delegates to the United Nations ECOSOC, and the Secretary General, the Treasurer General and the Chaplain General of OSMTH.

International Executive

The international administration of the Order, and the day-to-day management of international programmes of activity agreed by the Grand Magistral Council, are undertaken by the Magisterium (International Executive) of OSMTH. The Magisterium is chaired by the Grand Commander and also comprises the:

- Deputy Grand Commander
- Chancellor General
- Secretary General
- Treasurer General
- Advocate General (legal officer)

The Grand Master is an advisory member of the Magisterium.

Finances

The international administration and advocacy work of the Order is financed by the annual oblations (membership dues) of the Members Grand Priories and by the sale of publications.

Annual international budgets are approved by the Grand Magistral Council, and the Treasurer General provides annual financial reports to the GMC. The Grand Magistral Officeholders of OSMTH carry out their duties on an unpaid voluntary basis. The most senior Officeholders receive a limited contribution towards their travel expenses.

The charitable activities of the Order are carried on at national level through the Member Grand Priories, partly financed by the annual oblations of their individual members, and partly financed by additional personal donations from individual members, according to their financial means and their areas of interest. A number of Member Grand Priories also have associated charitable foundations, which carry out cultural and educational activities and/or provide humanitarian aid.

Individual Membership

Every individual member of the Order within OSMTH belongs to a Member Grand Priory or to one of its 'mentored' entities, as described above. An individual cannot be simply a "member of OSMTH".

Individual men and women, who meet the criteria for full membership of, and who are accepted by, the Member Grand Priory for their nation, join a local Priory, Commandery or Preceptory. If they distinguish themselves by their service and merit, then individual members may be promoted by the national Member Grand Priory to higher grades.

The Order has adopted forms of behavior and ceremonies based on the chivalric tradition, but grades and titles used within OSMTH do not carry any legal status or social precedence outside of the Order.

Grand Priories may also welcome men and women of good will, who wish to support the goals of the Order but who cannot become full individual members (for example, because of personal circumstances, or because they belong to another faith) as companions or associates. Such companions or associates may attend the Order's meetings and events, and support its work, but they cannot vote or hold office in the Order.

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