

## FW: Unauthorized Use of Lions Trademarks

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Thu 20/02/2020 10:40

To: Inanc Genc <inanc.genc@emu.edu.tr>

 2 attachments (2 MB)

Trademark Policies-Revised July 2019.pdf; Northern Cyprus letter.pdf;

From: David.Kingsbury@lionsclubs.org

Sent: 20 February 2020 12:08

To: fsendil@hotmail.com

Subject: Unauthorized Use of Lions Trademarks

Dear Lions in the undistricted area of Cyprus,

The Legal Division has received information regarding the "Northern Cyprus Lions Clubs Federation", which appears to impose authority over Lions clubs in the undistricted area.

Please be advised that this entity has not been licensed and is not authorized to use the Lions name and logo.

As you are no doubt aware, the obligations of a Lions club are established in the International Constitution and By-Laws. Specifically, the International By-Laws, Article XI, Section 4 provides

Each club, to remain in good standing, shall:

- (a) Collect from each member, except as otherwise provided herein, minimum annual dues to cover international and district (single, sub- and multiple) dues and such other expenses as are necessary for club administration.
- (b) Submit such regular reports to the association's office as may be called for by the International Board of Directors.
- (c) Abide by the constitution, by-laws, and the policy of the International Board of Directors.
- (d) Attempt to resolve all disputes arising at the club level according to the Club Dispute Resolution Procedure set out, from time to time, in the policy of the International Board of Directors.

As you will note, among the obligations of a Lions club is to collect international and district dues from its members. However, as Northern Cyprus is an undistricted area, it is not permissible to establish a structure that seeks to impose obligations on chartered Lions clubs within the undistricted area. Compliance with actions such as imposing review by a disciplinary committee, or establishing district governorates, are not recognized by Lions Clubs International as an obligation of chartered Lions clubs in the undistricted area.

Additionally, it is important to note that each chartered Lions club is autonomous, meaning that each chartered Lions club is an independent legal entity that must remain compliant with the policies and procedures of Lions Clubs International, including the International Constitution and By-Laws, as well as the respective club's constitution and by-laws.

Further, as provided in the Trademark Policy, the Legal Division manages all use and registrations of the Lions name and emblem, including "Lions" and "Lions Clubs." Therefore, any use of the Lions name and logo must be in compliance with the Trademark Policy, and where appropriate, permission must be sought by the Legal Division before any entity other than a chartered Lions club or district is permitted to use the Lions name and emblem. The Trademark Policy provides

Lions members, clubs and districts are automatically granted permission and license to use the association trademarks in the promotion and furtherance of the association's purposes and club or district operations, such as sponsored programs, projects, community service and other events, so long as such use is done in accordance with the policies adopted from time to time by the International Board of Directors and the trademarks are not used on any goods or services to be sold or items otherwise available from the Club Supplies and Distribution Division and official licensees.

As you will note, while Lions clubs and districts are permitted to use the Lions logo, such use is not authorized for an undistricted area. As such, the listed officers of this foundation must immediately cease all use of the Lions Trademarks, including the term "Lions Clubs" which is inconsistent with the policies and procedures established by the International Board of Directors.

Please be advised that continued unauthorized use of the Lions Trademarks may result in additional action, including but not limited loss of membership and/or cancellation of a Lions club's charter.

Please note that I have also copied the council Chairperson of MD 118, as it appears that the Multiple District Website [1] also acknowledges this unauthorized federation, and needs to take steps to remove this reference from the Multiple District 118 website.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.

Kindest regards,

David Kingsbury  
Senior Corporate Counsel // CIPP-E  
Legal Division Manager  
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[www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org) [2]

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Links:

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[1] <https://www.lionsturkiye.org/yonetim-cevreleri>

[2] <http://www.lionsclubs.org>