

Summary of the Clauses

1. Unity of the Muslim Community

1. The believers from Quraysh (*Muhājirūn*) and Yathrib (*Anṣār*) form one community (*ummah*) to the exclusion of all others.
2. They will support each other in facing enemies.
3. They will not abandon a member in hardship.

2. Justice and Law

4. Wrongdoers will be opposed collectively, even if they are a close relative.
5. A believer is not to kill another believer in retaliation for a non-believer.
6. Disputes and disagreements are to be referred to Allah and His Messenger (Prophet Muhammad ﷺ) for final judgment.

3. Jewish Tribes and Other Groups

7. The Jews of Banu ‘Awf are one community with the believers; the Jews have their religion and the Muslims have their religion.
8. Similar agreements are stated for the other Jewish tribes of Medina: Banu al-Najjar, Banu al-Harith, Banu Sa‘ida, Banu Jusham, Banu Aws, Banu Tha‘laba, etc.
9. Jews are responsible for their expenses, Muslims for theirs, but they will help one another against whoever fights the people of this charter.
10. No party will aid the enemies of the other.

4. Collective Security

11. The city of Medina is a sanctuary (*haram*) for all signatories.
12. If an attack comes on Medina, all will fight together to repel it.
13. Loyalty requires mutual advice and sincere conduct, not treachery.
14. The oppressed must be helped.

5. Conduct and Obligations

15. No one is to give protection to the Quraysh of Mecca or their allies.

16. No believer shall kill another believer for an unbeliever, nor support an unbeliever against a believer.
17. The Jews and Muslims will bear the cost of war so long as they are fighting together.
18. Each group is responsible for its own internal affairs and traditions.

6. Leadership and Authority

19. Disputes that could cause bloodshed or conflict must be referred to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, who will arbitrate justly.
20. Allah is the protector of the good and pious among this community.

Key Principles

- **One political community (ummah)** that included Muslims and Jews.
- **Freedom of religion:** “The Jews have their religion, the Muslims have their religion.”
- **Mutual defense:** All must protect Medina together.
- **Justice:** No tribal vendetta; all disputes resolved by Muhammad ﷺ.
- **Shared responsibility:** Each group pays its own war expenses.

👉 This makes the *Constitution of Madinah* a pioneering document of **pluralistic governance**, centuries before similar charters in Europe.

The Constitution of Madinah – modern English version

(Ṣaḥīfat al-Madīnah, 622 CE)

Preamble

This is a charter granted by Muhammad, the Messenger of God, between the believers and Muslims of Quraysh and Yathrib, and those who follow them, join them, and strive with them.

I. The Muslim Community

1. The believers and Muslims from Quraysh and Yathrib, and those who join them, form one united community (*ummah*), distinct from all other people.
2. Each group within the community will bear responsibility for its members and contribute fairly to communal obligations.
3. The believers will not abandon one another in hardship and will protect one another against injustice.

II. Justice and Responsibility

4. Wrongdoers, oppressors, or those who spread corruption shall be opposed collectively, even if they are relatives.
5. A believer shall not kill another believer in retaliation for a non-believer, nor shall they aid a non-believer against a believer.
6. Disputes or conflicts that may cause division shall be referred to God and to Muhammad, the Messenger of God, for final judgment.

III. Relations with the Jews

7. The Jews of the tribe of Banu ‘Awf are one community with the believers. The Jews have their religion, and the Muslims have theirs.
8. The same applies to the other Jewish tribes of Medina: Banu al-Najjar, Banu al-Harith, Banu Sa‘ida, Banu Jusham, Banu Aws, Banu Tha‘laba, and others.
9. The Jews shall bear their own expenses, and the Muslims theirs, but both shall assist each other if attacked.
10. No party shall support or shelter the enemies of the other.
11. Jews and Muslims alike must act with sincerity, loyalty, and without treachery.

IV. Security of Medina

12. Medina shall be a sanctuary for all signatories of this charter.
13. If Medina is attacked, all signatories shall defend it together.
14. No one shall harbor criminals or wrongdoers.
15. The oppressed shall be supported and protected.

V. Conduct and Loyalty

16. No signatory shall make peace with, or protect, the Quraysh of Mecca or their allies.
17. No believer shall kill another believer, nor shall they support an outsider against a believer.
18. Each group shall maintain its own traditions and internal matters