

GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE (IRC)

Fall 2025 – Spring 2026

OVERVIEW

Since the Fall BOT Meeting, the International Relations Committee has continued to strengthen communication among Areas, assist emerging fellowships, support translation efforts, and expand outreach to compulsive gamblers worldwide.

The IRC has continued to experience increased international engagement across Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Southeast Asia, and East Asia. Activity has included new country development, meeting registrations, virtual fellowship growth, literature and translation inquiries, website corrections, governance-related questions, and ongoing mentorship of emerging fellowships.

During this reporting period, the IRC also held three Zoom meetings to coordinate ongoing efforts, share updates, and support communication among committee members.

The committee remains focused on GA's primary purpose — to carry its message to the compulsive gambler who still suffers.

The IRC would also like to express its sincere gratitude to all members who contribute their time and effort to help carry the message to the compulsive gambler who still suffers.

CONTACTS WITH AREAS AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY

Indonesia (Bali): The first GA meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2026. Preambles have been translated into Bahasa Indonesia. The New Group Starter Kit was sent. Registration and translation guidance are ongoing.

Turkey: A decision was made to integrate into the international GA fellowship. Language barriers are being addressed through translation tools, and guidance on registration and meeting format has been provided.

China: A small virtual fellowship is developing, with members active across multiple cities. Meetings are conducted online, and Step work is underway. Registration has been postponed to focus on recovery.

Philippines: A concern was raised regarding the use of the GA name by a group not affiliated with Area 38A. The matter has been referred to the Area Trustee.

South Korea (Osan Air Base): Information on virtual meetings was provided in response to an inquiry.

Austria: An inquiry was received from an individual seeking access to online GA meetings. English-speaking meetings were acceptable, and virtual meeting information was provided.

Portugal: An inquiry was received from a GA member in recovery seeking access to meetings. The individual reported nearly two years without gambling and requested participation despite limited English proficiency. Information on virtual meetings was provided.

Bangladesh (Dhaka): An individual reached out following recent gambling losses, expressing a strong desire to stop gambling and requested access to online meetings. Information on virtual meetings was provided.

Spain (Barcelona): An individual reached out for the first time seeking help for gambling addiction, noting limited Spanish language ability. Information on virtual meetings in English was provided.

Bahamas: A compulsive gambler seeking assistance was directed to the ISO website for local meetings and was also provided with additional Zoom meeting options in English.

Thailand (Jomtien / Pattaya): Inquiries were received regarding meeting access and local support. Challenges were noted, including limited contact information, lack of Thai-language literature or website content, and incomplete meeting location details.

United Arab Emirates (Dubai): An in-person meeting was registered and listed on the ISO website. The Starter Package was returned due to customs issues.

Russia (Rostov-on-Don): Meetings have been officially listed on the ISO website.

Peru: Meeting listings were reviewed and corrected, including clarification of virtual versus in-person meetings and formats.

Egypt: All inquiries were provided with links to virtual GA meetings.

Kenya: An individual seeking GA support was provided with virtual meeting information.

Cameroon: An individual expressed interest in raising awareness about the dangers of compulsive gambling and requested educational materials. The individual was also connected with a compulsive gambler from Cape Town and a GA member from France.

TRANSLATION PROGRESS

Ukraine, Turkey, Indonesia, India: Formal requests have been submitted to translate GA literature into these languages, pending BOT review.

Vietnamese language: An inquiry was received; however, no approved GA literature is currently available.

Chinese language: The translation process has been explained; no formal request has been submitted.

United Arab Emirates: It was clarified that ISO store materials are the only approved GA literature.

REPRESENTATION & AFFILIATION CONCERNS

Philippines: A concern was raised regarding the use of the GA name by a group not affiliated with Area 38A. The matter has been referred to the Area Trustee.

Czech Republic: A disagreement between GA groups regarding hybrid meetings was brought forward. Concerns included anonymity, meeting integrity, and national impact.

Brazil: An academic inquiry was received requesting assistance in distributing research materials to GA members and was forwarded to Area Trustees.

AREAS WITHOUT ELECTED TRUSTEES

There are currently seven Areas without elected trustees. The IRC proposes reaching out to each to better understand the reasons elections have not been held and to support full representation on the BOT.

FUTURE FOCUS AND PLANS

Continue to expand GA outreach in emerging regions, particularly Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

Support the development of virtual-first fellowships where in-person meetings are not yet established.

Address increasing demand for translation into additional languages.

Improve communication and coordination regarding literature inventory and planning.

Continue mentoring new groups and strengthening international connections.

Respectfully submitted,

Igor K.

Chairperson, International Relations Committee