

GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE (IRC)
REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FALL 2026 – CHICAGO

OVERVIEW

During this reporting period, the International Relations Committee continued to support GA members, groups, and developing fellowships throughout the world. The Committee responded to requests involving new group development, access to meetings and recovery support, literature and translation, Regional Service Office development, international literature shipments, language assistance, and questions involving the appropriate use of GA materials and identity.

The IRC has made an effort to meet by Zoom on a monthly basis. Due to the international composition of the Committee and significant differences in time zones, bringing all members together at the same time is not always possible. Nevertheless, regular communication among Committee members continues between meetings.

To strengthen international communication, the IRC has also expanded its membership by attracting members who are able to communicate in two or more languages, including English. This has increased the Committee's ability to communicate directly with GA members and groups in different countries and provide assistance across language barriers.

The IRC continued direct communication with international members and groups requiring ongoing assistance and helped connect compulsive gamblers with GA members and recovery resources in their regions.

CONTACTS WITH AREAS AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY

Hispanic America – VI Hispanic American GA Congress: On August 15–16, 2026, the VI Hispanic American Gamblers Anonymous Congress was held in Bogotá, Colombia, under the theme “United in Recovery, Strong in Unity, Life Is Now.” The Congress focused on Recovery, Unity, and Service and brought together GA members from Mexico, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Argentina, Colombia, Panama, Uruguay, the Dominican Republic, and the United States. A member of the International Relations Committee participated in the Congress.

The Congress included workshops, presentations, panels, and sharing sessions aimed at strengthening recovery, Unity among Areas and groups, and responsible service. Of particular significance, Panama and the Dominican Republic expressed their intention to move forward toward becoming Areas.

Qualified attendees were also invited to participate in the International Relations Committee and the Spanish-Language Literature Review Committee. The next Hispanic American Congress will be held in 2028, with the location and date to be determined before the end of 2026.

Saudi Arabia: An inquiry was received regarding access to GA literature in Arabic or English, particularly in digital format due to difficulties receiving physical literature. Information was provided regarding available approved digital GA literature, the availability of the main book in print only, and the process requiring BOT approval for translations. Virtual meeting options were also offered.

Kenya (Mombasa): An inquiry was received from a compulsive gambler in recovery seeking access to GA virtual meetings. The individual was contacted and provided with information on available virtual meetings.

Honduras: An inquiry was received from a family seeking GA support for a young compulsive gambler, as no local GA meetings were known to be available. The individual was contacted and provided with information and assistance regarding access to GA virtual meetings.

United Arab Emirates (Dubai): An inquiry was received from an individual seeking information about attending the weekly GA meeting in Dubai. The individual was contacted and provided with the available meeting information.

Turkey: The GA group confirmed receipt of its literature package from the ISO. Follow-up assistance was provided regarding newcomer materials, preparation of a newcomer packet, and the appropriate use of approved GA digital literature. The IRC also explained the process and requirements for translating GA literature, including the appropriate procedure for translation, review, approval, and subsequent printing.

Turkish-Language Support: A request was received through the New Jersey Hotline seeking assistance for a compulsive gambler who speaks only Turkish. The IRC assisted by providing contact information for a compulsive gambler in Turkey, allowing the individual to connect with a Turkish-speaking member for recovery support.

Uganda: An inquiry was received from an individual seeking GA support and meeting information. The individual was contacted and provided with available meeting information.

South Africa: An inquiry was received from an individual seeking information about GA meetings in South Africa. The individual was contacted and provided with available meeting information.

Croatia (Zagreb / Split): An inquiry was received from a member seeking access to Croatian-language GA meetings and information about meetings in Split. The individual was contacted and provided with information regarding three active GA groups in Split.

Georgia (Tbilisi): An active GA fellowship in Tbilisi requested guidance, approved literature, and assistance in conducting meetings in accordance with GA guidelines. The group submitted its registration information for listing on the official GA website. Guidance regarding approved digital literature was provided. A New Group Starter Kit was sent by the ISO but was returned and is being resent to the group. The IRC also assisted in connecting a compulsive gambler in Georgia with a local GA member for additional support.

Indonesia (Bali): The New Group Starter Kit previously sent by the ISO was successfully located and received by the group.

India (Goa): An inquiry was received seeking GA support for a compulsive gambler in Goa, where no local meetings were known to be available. Assistance was requested in connecting the individual with GA members, accessing virtual meetings, and obtaining GA literature.

India (Hyderabad): A request was received from the GA fellowship in Hyderabad for recovery tokens, newcomer literature, Hindi-language materials, and guidance regarding the establishment of an India RSO. The IRC provided information on GA-approved recovery materials, New Group Starter Kits, digital literature, and international virtual meetings. It was also confirmed that India has permission to translate and print approved GA literature in Hindi, with the exception of A Day at a Time, and guidance was provided regarding forming a translation committee and the translation approval process. Information from the Guidance Code regarding the establishment of an RSO was also provided.

India (Bengaluru): An inquiry was received from a family seeking GA support for a compulsive gambler and assistance for family members. As there are currently no registered GA meetings in Bengaluru, information was provided regarding registered meetings elsewhere in India, international virtual meetings, and the GA India Hotline. The family was also directed to inquire through the hotline regarding online meetings in India and available Gam-Anon support and resources.

Egypt: A recovering compulsive gambler requested assistance in establishing official Arabic-language GA meetings in Egypt due to the language barrier and the absence of local meetings. Informal meetings with other recovering compulsive gamblers had already begun. Guidance was provided regarding establishing and registering a GA group, including assistance with challenges related to securing a meeting venue. Communication and support remain ongoing.

Nigeria (Abuja): An inquiry was received from a recovering compulsive gambler seeking guidance and materials to establish a Gamblers Anonymous group in Abuja. Contact was established, and ongoing communication and guidance are being provided to support the development of the fellowship in Nigeria.

Nigeria – Recovery Support: An inquiry was received from a compulsive gambler seeking help to stop gambling and requesting connection with GA support in Africa. The individual was contacted and connected with a GA member from the region for recovery support.

Nigeria (Ogun State): An inquiry was received from a compulsive gambler seeking help to stop gambling and begin recovery. The individual was contacted and connected with a trusted servant in his region for local GA support and guidance.

Zimbabwe: An inquiry was received from a compulsive gambler seeking GA support. The individual was contacted and provided with assistance and available recovery support information.

Philippines: A request was received for guidance regarding the establishment of a Regional Service Office (RSO). Information was provided regarding the applicable provisions of the GA Guidance Code, including Article XI, which outlines the purpose, structure, responsibilities, and requirements for establishing an RSO.

Portugal: Follow-up assistance was provided regarding an international GA order that reached Portugal but had not been delivered. The local fellowship also expressed interest in producing its own recovery medallions. The individual was contacted and guidance was provided regarding the appropriate process and the permitted use of GA names, symbols, and designs before producing medallions locally.

Europe – Literature Inquiry: An inquiry was received regarding purchasing updated GA literature within Europe in order to reduce international shipping costs. Information was provided that official GA literature must be purchased through the ISO, along with guidance regarding approved GA literature available in digital format for personal use. It was also clarified that A Day at a Time has not been updated since its publication in 1994 and is copyrighted by the Hazelden Foundation.

Vietnamese-Language Support: An inquiry was received seeking a Vietnamese-speaking GA member or volunteer to assist a newcomer with limited English in accessing virtual meetings. Assistance was requested in locating Vietnamese-speaking GA members, meetings, or other language support to help the individual participate in recovery.

TRANSLATION PROGRESS

Israel: Following previously granted BOT approval to translate GA literature into Hebrew, the fellowship began moving forward with the translation project. Digital copies of the new Blue Book, Beyond 90 Days, Towards 90 Days, and other approved digital GA literature were provided for translation purposes. The fellowship also requested the full range of available printed GA literature for translation into Hebrew. Guidance was provided regarding the translation process and permitted use of digital literature, and the group was directed to order the needed books, pamphlets, brochures, key tags, and medallions through the ISO online store.

Bulgaria (Sofia): A request was received from GA Sofia seeking approval to translate, print, and use GA literature in Bulgarian. The IRC made several attempts to follow up with the group to clarify which literature had been translated and to obtain the translation materials, but no response has been received to date. Additional follow-up was sent requesting the information needed to move the request forward.

India: The fellowship in Hyderabad was informed that India has permission to translate and print approved GA literature in Hindi, with the exception of A Day at a Time. Guidance was provided regarding the formation of a translation committee, maintaining the integrity of the original GA literature, and the approval process prior to printing.

REPRESENTATION & AFFILIATION CONCERNS

Bulgaria: Concerns were raised regarding a GA member who established a private, paid recovery service using concepts and structure similar to Twelve-Step recovery programs. The matter was raised both individually and by the local GA group. The IRC clarified that the GA Unity Steps apply to GA groups and the Fellowship as a whole and do not govern independent commercial activities. Guidance emphasized that the primary concern would be any unauthorized claim of affiliation with GA or use of the GA name, logo, copyrighted literature, or other protected materials. Additional documentation was requested if any specific unauthorized use of GA materials is identified.

Respectfully submitted,

Igor K.

Chairperson, International Relations Committee