

NORKA Coordination Council

About the NORKA Coordination Council

NORKA ROOTS is the Government of Kerala's agency dedicated to the welfare of Non-Resident Keralites (NRKs).

To strengthen engagement with the global Malayali community, NORKA ROOTS is establishing **NORKA Coordination Councils** in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Scandinavia, Italy, Eastern Europe, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, China, the United Kingdom, North Africa, and the Rest of Africa.

This page provides an overview of the purpose of the NORKA Coordination Council, its objectives, structure, and functioning. It also explains the process for the selection of Council members. The information is intended for Malayali associations and community members who wish to participate in this initiative and contribute to the welfare and development of the global Malayali community.

1. Why the Council exists

Wherever Keralites live in large numbers, their real strength lies in working together. Many associations already serve the community well, but each works largely on its own. The Coordination Council brings the recognised associations of the corresponding country onto one platform alongside NORKA ROOTS, so the community can be reached, supported and represented as one — while every association keeps its own name, activities and independence.

The Government of Kerala has already created the Loka Kerala Sabha, the apex assembly of the global Malayali diaspora — but the Sabha meets only once in two years. The Coordination Council fills that gap. It is a structured, continuous and interactive body through which NORKA ROOTS and the diaspora stay engaged with one another throughout the year, not once a sitting — a standing mechanism of coordination rather than a periodic event.

The objectives of the Council are to:

- Provide a single, dependable point of coordination between NORKA ROOTS and the associations on the ground.
- Bring quick, organised help in times of distress — accidents, bereavement, hospitalisation, repatriation and legal difficulty.
- Keep students and workers safe and well informed — warning against fraud and explaining changes in visa, work and residence rules.
- Open a channel for Kerala's development — investment, skills, professional expertise and support for those who return home.
- Carry the diaspora's voice to the Government of Kerala
- Strengthen the associations themselves, sharing information and acting together rather than in isolation.

2. How the Council works

Who is on the Council

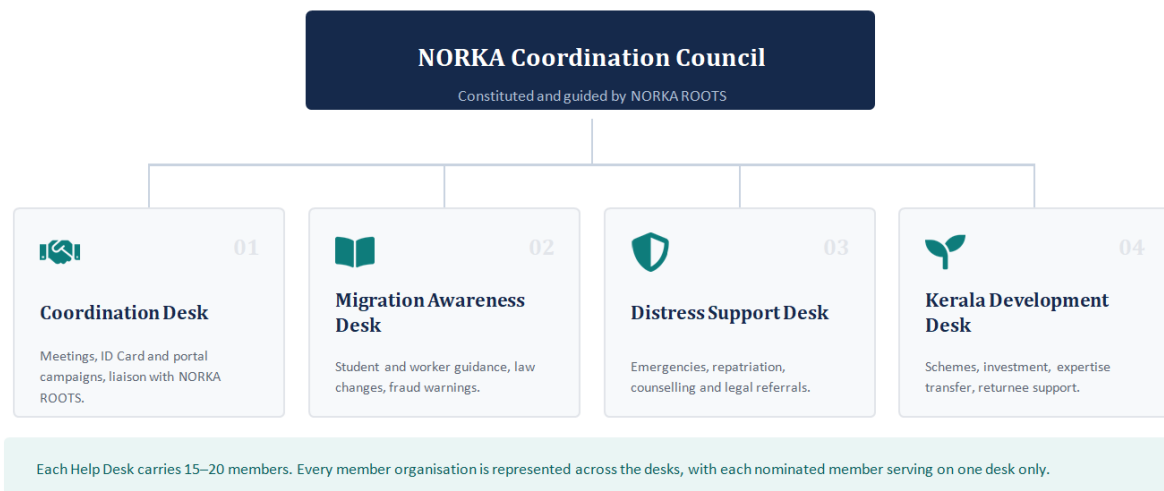
The Council draws its members from three sources:

- **Recognised Malayali Associations**, each of which may nominate up to two representatives;
- **Loka Kerala Sabha Members** functioning in the country; and
- **Eminent Individuals** — social workers, professionals, academics, media persons and other keen volunteers.

Membership is entirely honorary and voluntary. There is no membership fee, no funds are handled, and no financial obligation falls on any association or member.

The four Help Desks

The Council works through four thematic Help Desks. Each member serves on one desk, according to interest and expertise, and each desk has a convenor.



Each Council shall ordinarily have four Help Desks, of 15–20 members each, namely (i) Coordination Desk, (ii) Migration Awareness Desk, (iii) Distress Support Desk and (iv) Kerala Development Desk. Every organisation represented in the Council shall also have presence across the Help Desks, subject to a maximum of two nominations in total per organisation across all four desks, with each nominated member assigned to one desk only. The detailed functions of each Help Desk are as follows:

(i) Coordination Desk

1. Organise Coordination Council meetings on a regular basis.
2. Coordinate the NORKA ID Card registration campaign.
3. Drive promotion of the Loka Keralam Online Portal.
4. Maintain continuous liaison with NORKA ROOTS headquarters.
5. Prepare and submit the Council's annual activity report to NORKA ROOTS.
6. Ensure coordination across the other three Help Desks and timely execution of common decisions.

(ii) Migration Awareness Desk

1. Organise awareness programmes on student migration.
2. Coordinate activities of the NORKA Student Connect Cell.
3. Prepare guidance for students and workers as short videos or notes.

4. Flag changes in destination-country migration and labour laws to the Government of Kerala.
5. Warn against fraudulent recruitment agencies and job scams.
6. Run orientation programmes on local language, culture and legal systems.

(iii) Distress Support Desk

1. Review help requests and complaints received from the NORKA Global Contact Centre and NORKA ROOTS.
2. Maintain an emergency contact number, e-mail ID and social media pages for assistance requests.
3. Coordinate urgent interventions, including repatriation, with NORKA ROOTS and the concerned Indian Mission.
4. Facilitate counselling services for those in need of mental health support.
5. Connect cases requiring legal aid to local lawyers or voluntary organisations.

(iv) Kerala Development Desk

1. Bring the Government of Kerala's diaspora-focused schemes to the local community.
2. Guide interested NRKs on Government services, including investment opportunities.
3. Help NRKs submit development-relevant project proposals to the Government.
4. Build and coordinate a network of diaspora professionals.
5. Identify and connect NRK professionals willing to transfer expertise and technology to Kerala.
6. Share information on rehabilitation schemes available to returning migrants.

Membership of the Coordination Council and of every Thematic Help Desk is purely honorary and voluntary in nature. No remuneration, honorarium, salary, sitting fee, travel allowance or any other payment whatsoever shall be payable by NORKA ROOTS or the Government of Kerala to any member for service on a Council or Help Desk.

3. How it functions

The Council is not an occasional event but a continuous channel — the community stays in contact with it, and it with NORKA ROOTS, throughout the year.

- **Continuous contact** — an online issue tracker and grievance portal stays open at all times. Associations and community members can raise problems, requests and complaints whenever they arise, and Council members have access to them.
- **Meetings every two months** — the Council and its desks meet online once every two months, and at short notice in an emergency. Each meeting is built around the matters logged on the tracker and portal, so it acts on the community's real issues rather than a fixed routine.
- **A standing link to NORKA ROOTS** — the Coordination Desk keeps continuous liaison with NORKA ROOTS headquarters, so help and information flow both ways between meetings, and the community's concerns reach the Government of Kerala and the Loka Kerala Sabha.
- **A two-year term** — members serve two years, renewable once. The Council is a broad body whose work is carried by the four desks, so taking part does not depend on holding a desk role.

4. Criteria and Selection

Who may be nominated

- **Recognized associations** — up to two representatives each.
- **Loka Kerala Sabha members** functioning in the country.
- **Eminent individuals** — by nomination of NORKA ROOTS or by their own application.

What a "recognised association" means (all three)

- registered with NORKA ROOTS;
- legally incorporated in the host country; and
- genuine standing — at least a year old, with active members, office-bearers and regular meetings.

How members are selected

Nominations are expected to be more than the seats available. To keep the choice fair and open, selection follows a set method rather than anyone's discretion, and these rules are published before nominations open:

- **Seats are shared across regions** in proportion to the community, so nominees are considered alongside others from their own region.
- **A small selection panel** — NORKA ROOTS with one or two neutral senior community figures — makes the choice against the criteria below, rather than any single person.
- **One working seat per association**, even where it nominates two, so that places are spread across more associations.
- **A reserve list** — those not selected are held in order of merit, to fill any vacancy and to be considered first at the next term.

The criteria applied

- Geographic spread across the country, including smaller towns and rural areas.
- Years of residence abroad (pravasi life).
- Previous social and community contribution.
- Area of interest and relevant expertise, matched to a Help Desk.
- Balanced representation of women, youth and different professions.
- Willingness and availability to serve.
- Integrity — one person holds one seat, and any conflict of interest must be declared.

How to take part

- **Nominations will be open from 30 July 2026 to 9 August 2026** through the NORKA ROOTS Portal at <https://grievance.norkaroots.kerala.gov.in/nomination>
- The final list is published; the constitution of the Council and its Help Desks vests with NORKA ROOTS.

We warmly invite the associations and committed individuals of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Scandinavia, Italy, Eastern Europe, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, China, the United Kingdom, North Africa, and the Rest of Africa to come forward and serve.
