

CONSTITUTION

of

THE WOMEN'S LEGAL STATUS COMMITTEE

(as adopted at the Special General Meeting held on 7th April 1979 and amended at the Extraordinary General Meeting of 15th March 1980)

ARTICLE I

Name, Definitions, Objects and Policy

1.1. Name

This organisation shall be called the Women's Legal Status Committee (WLSC).

The administrative offices of the Committee will be situated in the Transvaal.

The area of operation of the Committee in which contributions will be collected and in which business will be carried on shall be the Republic of South Africa.

1.2. Definitions

"The Committee" means the Women's Legal Status Committee (WLSC).

"Executive Committee" means the Executive Committee of the WLSC constituted in terms of Article IV.

"Financial Year" means the period from 1st April to 31st March.

1.3. Objects and Policy

The objects of the Committee are to work towards the elimination of the legal disabilities and towards the upgrading of the legal status of all South African women.

To achieve these objects the Committee shall study legislation affecting women, making representations and lobby, and undertake all other activities to promote these ends.

ARTICLE II

Membership

11.1. Membership shall be open to all women, organisations or branches of organisations who subscribe to the above objects.

- 11.2. Applications for membership shall be approved by the Executive Committee, who may also terminate membership for reasons approved by the Committee.

ARTICLE III

Organisation

- 111.1. The authority of the Committee shall be vested in the Committee in plenary assembly, which shall establish policy, set membership fees and levies and receive the Annual Report and Financial Statement. The Committee may delegate its administrative powers to the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IV

Administration

IV.1. Plenary Meetings

Plenary Meetings of the Committee shall be held not less than once per calendar year.

- IV.1.1. Paid-up members and representatives of paid-up organisations or branches of organisations shall have the right to attend plenary meetings.
- IV.1.2. Each paid-up member and each paid-up organisation or branch of organisation, through its representative, shall have the right to exercise one vote.
- IV.1.3. The notice convening a plenary meeting and agenda, which shall have been drawn up by the Executive Committee, shall be circulated four weeks before the date of the meeting.

IV.2. Motions for Resolution

Motions for resolution may be submitted by any paid-up member or paid-up organisation or branch of organisation. Such motions for resolution must be submitted by a date set by the Executive Committee, for scrutiny by the Executive Committee, before inclusion in the agenda.

- IV.2.1. The Executive Committee shall have power to consider urgency motions for resolution which may arise between plenary meetings and, in matters of special urgency, to take a postal vote of the membership if

It deems such action advisable. Such postal vote must receive not less than a two-thirds majority of possible votes to be adopted.

- IV.2.2. Motions for resolution discussed at a plenary meeting must receive not less than a two-thirds majority of the votes of those present and voting to be adopted.

IV.3. Election of Office Bearers

The election of office-bearers shall take place annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Committee.

- IV.3.1. Paid-up members and representatives of paid-up organisations or branches of organisations shall have the right to nominate and to vote.
- IV.3.2. The due date for nominations shall be set by the Executive Committee.
- IV.3.3. Election shall be by simple majority of those present and voting.
- IV.3.4. The following members shall be elected annually:

A Chairman and Vice Chairman (or two joint Chairmen)
 An Honorary Secretary
 An Honorary Treasurer
 Nine Members

The above elected officers shall form the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have power to co-opt.

IV.4. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall execute the policy of and carry out the administration work of the Committee.

- IV.4.1. The Executive Committee shall have the power to:
- a) create special committees for purposes which it deems necessary;
 - b) make interim or special appointments between plenary meetings, such appointments to be subject to confirmation at the next plenary meeting.

- IV.4.2. The Executive Committee shall hold not fewer than ten meetings per year. Five members shall form a quorum.
- The agendas for such meetings shall be in the hands of its members as soon before the meeting as is practicable.
- Each member of the Executive Committee shall have one vote.

IV.5. Financial Year

The financial year of the Committee shall be from 1st April to 31st March.

The funds of the Committee shall be kept in a banking account in the name of the Committee and shall be operated by any two of the signatories authorised from time to time by the Executive Committee.

The audited accounts of the Committee shall be presented at the Annual General Meeting, when an auditor for the ensuing year shall be appointed.

ARTICLE V

Amendments

V.1. This Constitution may be amended by the Committee at an Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for the purpose.

Notice of any proposed amendment must be in the hands of members two months before the date of the proposed Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting.

Such amendment must receive a two-thirds majority of the vote of those present and voting to be adopted.

ARTICLE VI

Extraordinary Meetings of the Committee

VI.1. Extraordinary Meetings of the Committee may be called at the request of the Executive Committee or at the written request of not less than twenty paid-up members or representatives of paid-up organisations or branches of organisations.

VI.2. The agenda for such Extraordinary Meeting must be circulated three weeks before the date set for such meeting.

ARTICLE VII

Dissolution

VII.1. The Committee may be dissolved if at least two-thirds of the members present and voting at a General Meeting of members convened for the purpose of considering such matter are in favour of dissolution.

Not less than twenty-one days' notice shall be given of such meeting and the notice convening the meeting shall clearly state that the question of dissolution of the Committee and disposal of its assets will be considered.

VII.2. If upon dissolution of the Committee there remain any assets whatsoever after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, such assets shall not be paid to or distributed among its members but shall be donated to such other organisation or organisations having similar objects as the Committee may then decide. Such organisations must be authorised in terms of the Fund Raising Act 1978 to collect contributions in South Africa.

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