

PC 16/2/1/11



Phone: (021)615-616 (Mornings only)

CIVIL RIGHTS LEAGUE

P.O. Box 394 • CLAREMONT • 7735

CONSTITUTION

1.0 NAME

The organisation shall be called the Civil Rights League.

2.0 OBJECTS

2.1 The aim of the League shall be to work for the maintenance and extension of civil rights by such steps as it deems necessary.

2.2 The League shall be guided in its actions by the declaration of policy appended to this constitution (Appendix), as amended from time to time.

2.3 The league shall be non-party and non-denominational.

3.0 BRANCHES

The League shall have the power to establish branches which shall subscribe to and work for the objects of the League.

The Committee shall make such financial and organisational arrangements for such branches as it deems most suitable.

4.0 ADMINISTRATION

4.1 Committee

4.1.1 The League shall be managed by a committee of not more than twenty persons, whose nomination accompanied by their consent shall have been received by the secretary fourteen days before the annual general meeting, elected at the annual general meeting, and also such additional persons, not exceeding five, as may be co-opted from time to time.

4.1.2 Each member and branch of the League shall be entitled to make nominations for the Committee, provided the nominee signifies willingness to accept such nomination.

4.1.3 Members shall vote for the Committee in accordance with the provisions of section 6.

4.1.4 The Committee shall have the power to co-opt members and to fill any vacancies on the Committee.

4.1.5 The Committee shall meet at least once every quarter.

4.1.6 The attendance of six members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.



4.1.7 Members of the Committee who are absent without notification or without apology from three meetings in succession shall be deemed to have resigned.

4.2 Officials and Committees

The Committee shall annually elect from their own number a Chair and an Honorary Treasurer, and may elect one or more Vice-Chairs and such other officials as may from time to time be deemed necessary.

The Committee may elect a President, who shall be titular head of the League, and patrons. The Committee may remove any persons from an office or from the Committee.

4.3 Sub-committees

The Committee may elect from its number sub-committees to deal with and execute particular aspects of League policy when this is deemed necessary. The Chair shall be an ex officio member of any sub-committee. The Committee may delegate such powers and functions to a sub-committee as it deems necessary.

5.0 MEMBERSHIP

5.1 Membership

Membership of the League shall be open to all persons who accept its constitution and its principles.

5.2 Such persons shall, on payment of the current minimum annual subscription, as determined by the Committee, become members of the League.

5.3 At least ten members of the Committee shall have the power to suspend the membership of any person whose continued membership is not, in their opinion, conducive to the best interests of the League; provided that the member shall have the right to appear before the Committee, and the right of appeal at the annual general meeting to a sub-committee of five persons elected ad hoc by the annual general meeting. Members of the Committee shall be ineligible for membership of the sub-committee.

6.0 VOTING POWERS

Every member of the League shall have a vote at meetings of the League.

7.0 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.1 The annual general meeting of the League shall be held on 14 September each year, or as near to it as may be practicable.

7.2 At least two weeks' notice shall be given of the date of the annual general meeting.

7.3 The annual report and audited statement of accounts shall be presented for adoption at the annual general meeting.



7.4 Notices of motion, which shall be considered by the Committee before being placed on the agenda, must be received in writing by the Secretary not less than twenty-eight days before the date of the annual general meeting.

7.5 An emergency motion may be moved by the Committee, branches or members of the League at the annual general meeting.

7.6 An emergency motion shall be one which, in the opinion of the Chair, deals with an important matter of urgency of which, under these rules, notice could not have been given.

7.7 An auditor for the forthcoming year shall be appointed annually at the annual general meeting.

8.0 SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

8.1 A special general meeting may be called at any time by the Committee, and in addition shall be called by the Committee at any time at the written request, indicating the matters to be discussed, of at least twenty members, or branches having jointly equivalent voting power.

8.2 Notice shall be given to members of any special general meeting.

9.0 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

9.1 Those present, and with voting powers, at annual or special general meetings shall have power to amend the constitution in accordance with the provisions of this section.

9.2 Proposals for amendments, which shall be considered by the Committee before a meeting, must be received in writing by the Secretary not less than four weeks before that meeting, and shall be signed by at least ten members.

9.3 All proposals to alter the constitution that are to be placed on the agenda of a meeting must be circulated to all members at least two weeks before that meeting.

9.4 Amendments to the constitution must be passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and with voting powers at an annual or special general meeting.

10.0 DISSOLUTION

10.1 If at any time it becomes necessary to dissolve the Civil Rights League, the Committee shall call a special general meeting with not less than twenty-one days' notice for the purpose.

10.2 The notice of meeting shall clearly state the purpose of the meeting and give reasons for dissolution.

10.3 Dissolution shall take place only on a two-thirds majority vote of those attending the meeting.

10.4 All the assets of the League shall be disposed of by donation to the S.A. Institute of Race Relations or other body having aims similar to those of the League.

APPENDIX AIMS OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEAGUE

as agreed upon by a Conference of representatives from Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Bloemfontein, East London, Grahamstown, Johannesburg and Pietermaritzburg, 18/1/1949, and amended by resolution of the 1958 and 1984 Annual General Meetings in Cape Town.

The League will take action on the following programme :

- (1) Promote the extension of human and civil rights to all;
- (2) Press for a justiciable Bill of Rights in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, entrenching the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- (3) Resist the curtailment of the liberties of the individual.
- (4) Combat discrimination based on colour, race, creed or sex.
- (5) Educate public opinion and awaken the public conscience so that public support for its activity in these fields may be increased.

In addition, the Civil Rights League will work for an undivided South Africa in which all its people shall have South African citizenship and nationality; and

- (a) an effective voice in central and local government;
- (b) an acceptable standard of nourishment, clothing, shelter and medical services;
- (c) education and literacy through the provision of educational facilities on all levels;
- (d) occupational opportunity for the use and development of their talents;
- (e) the opportunity to live with their families within reach of their work and thus to maintain family life;
- (f) freedom of association;
- (g) freedom of speech and publication;
- (h) freedom from restrictions upon movement;
- (i) freedom from government by administrative regulations without effective safeguards or the right of appeal to the ordinary courts of the land.