

THE CONSTITUTION OF WELLINGTON PALESTINE

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THIS CONSTITUTION is made on this day of *Tuesday 16th April 2019*.

1 NAME

The name of the organisation/ institution shall be “Wellington Palestine”

2 PRINCIPLES

The principles of the society are as follows:

- (a) Palestinians have the right to freedom, justice and equality.
- (b) Israel is occupying and colonising Palestinian land, discriminating against Palestinian citizens of Israel and denying Palestinian refugees the right to return to their homes. It is maintaining a regime of occupation, settler-colonialism and apartheid over the Palestinian people.
- (c) World governments fail to hold Israel to account. Companies and institutions help Israel to oppress Palestinians.
- (d) We support Palestinians calling for international grassroots campaigning in solidarity with their aim for equal rights.
- (e) All forms of racism and discrimination are the antithesis of justice, peace and freedom. Wellington Palestine events and social media will not tolerate any act or discourse which adopts or promotes, among others: racism, anti-Arab racism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, sexism, xenophobia, or homophobia

3 OBJECTS

The objects of the group are as follows:

- (a) To advocate in the Wellington region in support of the principles;
- (b) To educate and inform members of the public about issues relating to Palestine, including through public speaking, media work, forums, web-based outreach and networking in support of the principles;
- (c) To engage in campaigns and activities in support of the principles;
- (d) To promote political involvement and activism in support of the principles;
- (e) To raise funds and accept monies consistent with furthering the other purposes of Wellington Palestine.

4 MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the group shall be constituted as follows:

- (a) All those persons who were members of the group known as Wellington Palestine at the date of this constitution being agreed to will be members;
- (b) Any person who agrees with the objects of the group may, subject to the Coordinating Group approval, become a member of the group by application in writing and upon payment of the membership subscription.

6 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership can be terminated in the following way:

- (a) Any member may resign by giving written notice to the group.
- (b) Any person may make a complaint to the Coordinating Group that the conduct of a member of the group is or has been injurious to the character of the group. Every such complaint will be in writing and addressed to the group. The process for responding to a complaint will be as follows:
 - (i) If the Coordinating Group considers that there is sufficient substance in the complaint, it may invite the member to attend a meeting of the Coordinating Group and to offer a written and/or oral explanation of the member's conduct;
 - (ii) The Coordinating Group will give the member at least fourteen (14) days written notice of the meeting. The notice will:
 - sufficiently inform the member of the complaint so that the member can offer an explanation of the member's conduct; and
 - inform the member that if the Coordinating Group is not satisfied with the member's explanation the Coordinating Group may expel the member from the Society.
 - (iii) If in the meeting the Coordinating Group decides to expel the member from the Wellington Palestine the member will cease to be a member of the group.
 - (iv) A member expelled by the Coordinating Group may within fourteen (14) days give written notice of appeal to the secretary. The secretary will then call a Special General Meeting to take place within twenty-eight (28) days of receipt of the notice of appeal. If that meeting passes a resolution rescinding the expulsion, the member will be reinstated immediately.

7 MEETINGS

7.1 Frequency and quorums

- (a) A *General Meeting*, open to all members of Wellington Palestine, will normally be convened monthly (but at least four times each year) to discuss and agree campaigns and activities. A quorum for the General Meeting is six members.
- (b) The *Coordinating Group* (see below) will normally meet at least once per month to plan and coordinate the work plan agreed at General Meetings. A quorum for the Coordinating Group is three of the six members and meetings may be held online.
- (c) *Annual General Meeting*: Meets annually to elect the Coordinating Group, review activities during the previous year, make any constitutional changes required and review the Treasurer's financial statement. A quorum for the AGM is ten members.

7.2 Decisions

Decisions at all meetings of Wellington Palestine will, if possible, be reached by consensus. However, where a consensus decision cannot be reached and the decision cannot be deferred, the decision will, unless otherwise specified in this constitution, be made by a majority vote.

7.3 Facilitation

All meetings shall be convened by one of the two co-convenors: which one to be agreed in advance of the meeting.

8 THE COORDINATING GROUP

The group shall have a Coordinating Group that operates in the following way:

- (a) The Coordinating Group is responsible for operational decisions and day-to-day implementation of the groups objects. The Coordinating Group is accountable to the General Meetings at which decisions regarding the society's overarching direction are set;
- (b) The Coordinating Group of Wellington Palestine shall consist of two Co-Convenors, a Secretary, a Treasurer and two other members.
- (c) The Coordinating Group officers and members will be selected from membership at General Meetings and reviewed at Annual General Meetings;
- (d) The Coordinating Group may appoint a replacement in the event of the Co-Convenors, Secretary, or Treasurer resigning or being unable to carry out their duties. This replacement must be formally reviewed at a General Meeting;
- (e) Meetings of the Coordinating Group may be held in such a manner as the Coordinating Group Members think fit;
- (f) Persons will cease to be members of the Coordinating Group if:
 - (i) they resign by giving written notice to the Coordinating Group; or
 - (ii) they are removed by 75% majority vote of the group in a General Meeting.
- (g) If a person ceases to be a Member of the Coordinating Group, that person must within one month give to the Coordinating Group all group documents and property held by them (if any).

9 POWERS OF THE COORDINATING GROUP

The Coordinating Group of Wellington Palestine shall have the power to:

- (a) Administer and manage;
- (b) Carry out the objects of the group, and use money or other assets to do that;
- (c) Manage the group financial affairs;
- (d) Delegate responsibility and co-opt members where necessary;

- (e) To oversee Wellington Palestine membership as outlined in these rules;
- (f) Decide the times and dates for Meetings, and set the agenda for Meetings;
- (g) Decide the procedures for dealing with complaints;
- (h) Make regulations;
- (i) Employ people to advance the purposes group;
- (j) To contract with and remunerate any person or company for services to Wellington Palestine;
- (k) To advertise the aims and activities of Wellington Palestine in such a manner as it may think fit.

10 FINANCE

10.1 Financial Year

The financial year of Wellington Palestine shall end on the 30th day of June each year.

11.2 Bank Accounts

- (a) Wellington Palestine shall operate such bank accounts as it thinks fit, including accounts for specific purposes.
- (b) No Wellington Palestine member shall be liable for any loss other than loss attributable to his or her personal dishonesty or his or her wilful commission of an act;
- (c) All donations, legacies, income, and all other money paid to Wellington Palestine shall be paid into such bank accounts.

11.3 No expenditure without consent

No Member shall commit Wellington Palestine financially without the consent of the Coordinating Group. Power to approve expenditure may be delegated by the Coordinating Group;

11.4 No profit by members

Wellington Palestine shall not be conducted for the profit of its Members and no officer or other Member shall receive any of the assets, except that this shall not prevent the payment of expenses and remuneration to Members and employees;

12 SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

Documents should be signed on behalf of Wellington Palestine by whomever is authorised by the Coordinating Group.

13 AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES

The rules of Wellington Palestine may be amended in the following ways:

- (a) The group may alter or replace these Rules at a General Meeting by a resolution passed by a 75% majority of those Members present and voting;
- (b) Any proposed motion to amend or replace these Rules shall be given in writing to the group before the General Meeting at which the motion is to be considered, and accompanied by a written explanation of the reasons for the proposal;

14 WINDING UP

If the group is wound up:

- (a) The groups debts, costs and liabilities shall be paid;
- (b) The surplus Money and Other Assets shall be distributed to an organisation or organisations approved by the Society in General Meeting as having purposes similar to those of the group.