



Constitution of the LGBT Network

Charity Number: SC040190

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1. Title

1.1 The Organisation shall be called the **LGBT Network** hereafter to be referred to as "the Organisation".

2. Objects

2. The objects of the Organisation shall be to promote, preserve and protect the mental and physical health and social welfare of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community throughout Europe by –

2.1 Providing practical support, guidance and assistance to the LGBT community in relation to various matters, including (but not limited to) immigration, security, health and general wellbeing.

2.2 Developing and maintaining a network of contacts and partnerships with various service providers and groups through the UK for the benefit of the LGBT community.

2.3 Supporting and exercising direct action, when required, to protect vulnerable members of the LGBT community.

2.4 Liaising with MP's, MSP's, AM'S, Peers and other influential persons or groups to highlight LGBT related issues and cases and to promote positive policy change.

3. Membership

3.1 Membership of the Organisation shall be open to any person, regardless of race, age, gender, sexual orientation or ability, who completes a membership application form and pays the relevant subscription/joining fee as determined by the committee and any other instructions issued as a result of an AGM. Due to the nature of the organisation and issues that it deals with, there may be occasions that we cannot admit specific persons or groups into membership. The committee will not do this without good reason and careful examination.

3.2 There shall be 4 classes of membership available. These are:

Class of membership	
3.2.1	Full Member
3.2.2	Concessionary Membership (Under 18's, persons with disabilities or low income)
3.2.3	Affiliated Group Membership
3.2.4	Member in Partnership

3.3 Any member bringing the Organisation into disrepute or who acts in a way which the organisation feel may affect its work, its aims and its ability to carry out its objects may be subject to disciplinary proceedings and may be asked to resign from membership or may have their membership terminated. A member will only be expelled with the option to be heard before the committee and given the opportunity to explain their behaviour and defend their actions. The committee will make a decision and the decision will be communicated to the member in question within 7 days of the meeting concluding.

4. Officers

4.1 The Officers of the Organisation shall be as follows:

Chairperson	}	-	Executive Officers
Secretary			
Treasurer			

5. Election of officers

5.1 All Officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Organisation, from, and by, the Members of the Organisation.

5.2 All Officers are elected for a period of one year, but may be re-elected to the same office or another office the following year. The Director is a non-elected position and is filled by Mr Nick Henderson.

6. General Committee

6.1 The affairs of the Organisation shall be controlled by a General Committee comprising the Executive Officers of the Organisation elected from, and by, the Full Members of the Organisation. The General Committee shall meet at agreed intervals and not less than four times per year.

6.2 The duties of the General Committee shall be:

6.2.1 To control the affairs of the Organisation on behalf of the Members.

6.2.2 To keep accurate accounts of the finances of the Organisation through the Treasurer. These should be available for reasonable inspection by Members and should be audited

before every Annual General Meeting. The Organisation shall maintain a bank current account and the following Officers shall be authorised to sign Organisation cheques: two from the Chairperson; Treasurer and Secretary.

6.2.3 To co-opt additional members of the Committee as the Committee feels this is necessary. Co-opted members shall not be entitled to a vote on the Committee.

6.2.4 To make decisions on the basis of a simple majority vote. In the case of equal votes, the Chairperson shall be entitled to an additional casting vote.

7. General meetings

7.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than the end of June each year. 21 clear days' written notice shall be given to Members of the Annual General Meeting by emailing a notice to each members designated email address and posting the notice on the LGBT Network website, members must advise the Secretary in writing of any business to be moved at the Annual General Meeting at least 14 days before a meeting. The Secretary shall circulate or give notice of the agenda for the meeting to Members not less than 7 days before the meeting.

7.2 The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be to:

7.2.1 Confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and any General Meetings held since the last Annual General Meeting.

7.2.2 Receive the audited accounts for the year from the Treasurer.

7.2.3 Receive the annual report of the Committee from the Secretary.

7.2.4 Elect an auditor.

7.2.5 Elect the Officers of the Organisation i.e. Chairperson; Secretary; Treasurer and other General Committee Members.

7.2.6 Review subscription rates and agree them for the forthcoming year.

7.2.7 Transact such other business received in writing by the Secretary from Members 14 days prior to the meeting and included on the agenda.

NOTE: The agenda could provide for "Any Other Business", but Members should be encouraged to refer other items to the General Committee and give the required notice for important Annual General Meeting business.

7.3 Special General Meetings may be convened by the General Committee or on receipt by the Secretary of a request in writing from not less than 7 Full Members of the Organisation. At least 21 days' notice of the meeting shall be given.

7.4 Nomination of candidates for election of Officers shall be made in writing to the Secretary at least 14 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting date. Nominations can only be made by Full Members and must be seconded by another Full Member.

7.5 At all General Meetings, the chair will be taken by the Chairperson or, in their absence, by a deputy appointed by the Organisation or by Full Members attending the meeting.

7.6 Decisions made at a General Meeting shall be by a simple majority of votes from those Full Members attending the meeting. In the event of equal votes, the Chairperson shall be entitled to an additional casting vote.

7.7 A quorum for a General Meeting shall be 3 Full Members.

7.8 Each Full Member of the Organisation shall be entitled to one vote at General Meetings.

8. Alterations to the Constitutions

8.1 Any proposed alterations to the Organisation Constitution may only be considered at an Annual or Special General Meeting convened with the required written notice of the proposal. Any alteration or amendment must be proposed by a Full Member of the Organisation and seconded by another Full Member. Such alterations shall be passed if supported by not less than two-thirds of those Full Members present at the meeting, assuming that a quorum has been achieved.

9. Dissolution

9.1 If, at any General Meeting of the Organisation, a resolution be passed calling for the dissolution of the Organisation, the Secretary shall immediately convene a Special General Meeting of the Organisation to be held not less than one month thereafter to discuss and vote on the resolution.

9.2 If, at that Special General Meeting, the resolution is carried by at least two-thirds of the Full Members present at the meeting, the General Committee shall thereupon, or at such date as shall have been specified in the resolution, proceed to realise the assets of the Organisation and discharge all debts and liabilities of the Organisation.

9.3 After discharging all debts and liabilities of the Organisation, the remaining assets shall not be paid or distributed amongst the Full Members of the Organisation, but shall be given or transferred to some other voluntary organisation having objects similar to those of the Organisation.

9.4 None of the Group's assets may be distributed or otherwise applied (on being wound up or at any other time) except to further its charitable purposes.

Audit Clarification:

The term 'Audit' and 'Auditor' used in the constitution does not give rise to a full audit under the Companies Act 1985 or the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, but instead refers to an Independent Examination (external scrutiny) as highlighted in the Statement of Recommended Practice (OSCR). This arrangement will remain in force while the LGBT Network remains under the threshold for the trigger of a full audit under the respective legislation.

Certified as a true copy

Adopted: 7th January 2009