
JERSEY RIGHTS ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION and RULES

(Last amended: 13th September 1994)

1. Name

The name of the Association shall be the Jersey Rights Association (hereinafter called "the Association").

2. Aims & Objectives

- 2.1 To seek out, collate, and draw public attention to the existence in Jersey of any significant social injustices, or denial of human rights in general, including any exploitation in housing, employment, electoral enfranchisement, taxation or other field as may be agreed by the membership in General Meeting.
- 2.2 To give guidance and assistance to any Island resident or group of Island residents, who appear to be suffering from any such injustices or exploitation.
- 2.3 To recognize that, in the matter of the residential rights of the Island's permanent residents, a moderate level of discrimination, based on birthright and period of residence, is not unreasonable BUT to seek to ensure that any such discrimination is always kept to the minimum level that can be justified, in all the prevailing circumstances, at any particular time.
- 2.4 To conduct political lobbying intended to persuade the States of Jersey to enact legislation that would have the effect of abolishing or reducing any of the social injustices, exploitation or discrimination aforementioned.
- 2.5 To research & publish information that advises and educates all residents of Jersey as to their rights and obligations under the laws of the Island.
- 2.6 To support the election, to the States of Jersey Legislative Assembly, of one or more candidates, sympathetic to the Aims of the Association, though avoiding any specific "party-political" alignment in the giving of such support.
- 2.7 To persuade each Committee of the States of Jersey to publish and distribute, free of charge, a clearly identified (and easily understood) leaflet, outlining its current policy for the foreseeable future, on each subject for which it is responsible; and to review such published policies not less frequently than once every three years.
- 2.8 To promote and publicise the Aims and Objectives of the Association and to increase the membership of the Association.
- 2.9 To raise funds to carry out the Aims and Objectives of the Association.

3. The Committee

- 3.1 The Association will be led by, and the day-to-day affairs of the Association will be managed by, a Committee made up of a Chairman, a Deputy Chairman, an Honorary Treasurer, an Honorary Secretary ("the Executive Officers") and up to TEN ordinary members.
- 3.2 The Executive Officers and the ordinary members of the Committee, all being paid-up members of the Association in good-standing, will be elected by a majority of those present at each Annual General Meeting. Each candidate for Executive Officer or Committee Member must be proposed and seconded by other paid-up members and must signify their willingness to be elected. Contested elections will be by secret written ballot.

- 3.3 The Chairman of the Association may not hold that office for more than THREE consecutive years.
- 3.4 The Honorary Secretary shall keep an adequate, permanent written record of the attendance at every meeting and of matters resolved thereat and of any other business discussed; the whole to be read out, amended if necessary, and confirmed at each subsequent similar meeting and signed by the chairman.
- 3.5 The Honorary Treasurer shall keep full and proper records of the Association's finances, shall issue receipts for fees, subscriptions and donations received and shall prepare annual accounts up to the 30th June each year (being the Association's financial year end) and shall have these records and accounts audited once each year by an auditor appointed by the Association in General Meeting. The Honorary Treasurer shall also be responsible for the operation of the Association's bank account(s) and shall ensure that cheques and other financial documents are signed by at least TWO Executive Officers of the Association and that all expenditure is authorised by the Committee.
- 3.6 The Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional members to the Committee and to form sub-committees and shall have the discretion to remove from the Committee or any sub-committee any Committee Member who fails to attend THREE consecutive committee or sub-committee meetings without good cause duly notified.
- 3.7 The Committee may, from amongst their own number, appoint an Assistant Honorary Secretary, a Press Officer, a Membership Secretary (who shall maintain a list of current members), a Newsletter Editor, a Chief Executive Officer or any other official deemed expedient to the smooth running of the Association.
- 3.8 The guidance and assistance, referred to in paragraph 2.2 above, shall be offered only after the Committee has considered the merits of a case and given its approval thereto and the information to be researched and published, in accordance with paragraph 2.5 above, shall be at the Committee's discretion.
- 3.9 In the case of an event, considered by the Chairman (or, in his absence, any Executive Officer) to be of an urgent or emergency nature, he or she shall be empowered, having first consulted with not less than THREE other Committee Members (either in person or by telephone), to make an impromptu decision thereon and to act in accordance with that decision. Any such decision shall then be put before the next Committee meeting for ratification or amendment or otherwise, as the case may be.
- 3.10 The Committee shall be empowered to apply the funds of the Association as it sees fit in pursuit of the Association's stated Aims and Objectives and this shall include the employment of administrative officers or professional advisers or speakers and the payment of a wage or fee and/or expenses to any such persons.
- 3.11 A resignation from the Committee shall be submitted in writing to the Honorary Secretary or Chairman and shall not become effective until accepted by the Committee.
- 3.12 Immediately upon termination of their period of office, every officer of the Association shall hand the records and documents of the Association in his or her possession to his or her successor.

4. Membership

- 4.1 Membership shall be open to any person who:
 - has reached the age of SIXTEEN years.
 - has resided in Jersey for at least TWELVE months.
 - is generally sympathetic to the Aims & Objectives of the Association.
 - has completed and submitted the Association's application form and been accepted to membership by the Committee.
 - has paid the appropriate joining fee and/or annual subscription for the current year.

- 4.2 The Committee shall have the right to refuse membership to, or withdraw membership from, any person who demonstrates a clear lack of sympathy towards the Aims and Objectives of the Association or acts in contravention of the rules contained in this Constitution or in a manner considered to have brought or be likely to bring the Association into disrepute or ridicule or who is more than THREE months in arrears in paying the current annual subscription.
- 4.3 The Committee shall, in deserving cases, have the right to award, to any person, honorary or life membership.
- 4.4 Membership shall be personal and shall cease on death.
- 4.5 Every member shall have ONE vote and the right to exercise such vote, either in person or by written proxy, on any motion proposed at any General Meeting.
- 4.6 Every ordinary member shall be obligated to pay a joining fee on joining the Association and an annual subscription every year thereafter whilst remaining a member. The annual subscription shall be payable within ONE month of the Annual General Meeting. The joining fee (if any) and the annual subscription rate (or rates) shall be decided by the Membership at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee shall be empowered to reduce the fee or subscription in cases of hardship or where it relates to only part of a year.
- 4.7 All members shall receive a copy of this Constitution and any material revision thereof and shall be entitled to inspect the books and records of the Association on giving SEVEN days notice to the appropriate Officer(s).
- 4.8 Members shall at all times respect and observe the integrity of information and knowledge of a private or confidential nature, gained by them as a result of membership.
- 4.9 Prospective members shall be allowed to attend ONE committee meeting in any TWELVE months prior to applying for membership. They must withdraw from the committee room during discussion of confidential or personal matters.

5. Meetings

- 5.1 All meetings of the Association shall be held in Jersey.
- 5.2 A quorum, at any meeting of the Association, shall be FIVE members. If, after THIRTY minutes, a quorum is not present at any properly convened meeting, the meeting shall be postponed for SEVEN days, during which a further notice shall be issued and those present at any such reconvened meeting shall be a quorum.
- 5.3 In the absence of the duly elected Chairman or Deputy Chairman at any meeting, the members present shall appoint a chairman for that meeting. All Committee decisions shall generally be by a simple majority of those present unless the Committee shall decide otherwise in specific cases. The decision of any motion at a General Meeting shall be by simple majority of those present, except where this Constitution states otherwise or where the Committee, at its absolute discretion, decides to permit voting by mail. The Chairman will have discretionary control over the agenda of any General or Committee meeting and the chairman of any meeting will have an additional, casting vote where voting is tied.
- 5.4.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held once in each calendar year during the month of August, September, October or November.
- 5.4.2 At least THIRTY days preliminary notification of each Annual General Meeting shall be given to all paid-up members.
- 5.4.3 Motions for debate at an Annual General Meeting must have been received in writing by the Honorary Secretary not less than TWENTY-ONE days prior to the said meeting and must be signed by both the Proposer and the Seconder.

- 5.4.4 At least FOURTEEN days before each Annual General Meeting, the agenda shall be sent to all paid-up members, by the Honorary Secretary. Only matters itemised on the agenda may be put to the vote. However, upon receipt of the agenda any member may notify the Honorary Secretary of any proposition that the member wishes to have discussed at the meeting and, time permitting, it shall be added to the agenda for discussion purposes only, provided that such notification is received by the Honorary Secretary SEVEN days prior to the meeting.
- 5.5 A Special General Meeting shall be convened, within TWENTY-EIGHT days, by the Honorary Secretary on receiving a requisition, signed by at least FIVE members of the Committee or FIFTEEN ordinary members of the Association and stating in writing the purpose of the requisite Meeting. The Honorary Secretary shall give all paid-up members SEVEN days notice in writing of any such Special General Meeting, specifying the purpose of the meeting.
- 5.6 Committee meetings shall be convened by the Chairman (or by any FOUR Committee Members acting together) on giving not less than SEVEN days notice to the other Committee Members. Members shall be entitled to attend and participate at committee meetings but shall not vote. The Committee may, in exceptional circumstances, exclude non-committee members from a committee meeting.
- 5.7 No motion may be considered at any General Meeting unless written notice thereof was included on the agenda or given with the notice convening the meeting.
- 5.8 The non-receipt of a notice of a meeting by an individual member shall not invalidate the proceedings of that meeting, so long as the Committee is satisfied that the occurrence was neither deliberate nor general.

6. General

- 6.1 No member shall purport to express the views of the Association without the prior consent of the Committee.
- 6.2 With the prior knowledge and consent of the Committee, the Association may be formally represented by any member of the Committee.
- 6.3 Affiliation of the Association to any other body or the affiliation of any other body to the Association shall first be approved by a TWO-THIRDS majority of the membership present at a General Meeting.
- 6.4 Funds in the form of donations from members or non-members may be accepted at the Committee's discretion and used to further the Aims and Objectives of the Association.
- 6.5 Amendments to the Constitution may only be considered at an Annual or Special General Meeting and the Constitution shall only be amended where any such amendment is approved by TWO-THIRDS of the members present in person or by proxy.
- 6.6 Any decision of the Committee affecting a particular individual may be appealed by that person to the full membership at a General Meeting. The aggrieved party shall give notice in writing to the Honorary Secretary who shall, within TWENTY-EIGHT days, convene a General Meeting for the purpose on condition that such notice shall have been countersigned by FIVE paid-up members who affirm that they support the said appeal.
- 6.7 Removal from office of the Committee en-bloc (or of any individual member of the Committee) by the membership as a whole between Annual General Meetings, shall only be achieved by a resolution to that effect, if proposed at a properly constituted Special General Meeting and approved, after debate, by a TWO-THIRDS majority of members present.
- 6.8 Where doubt arises in the interpretation of this Constitution, the decision of the Committee shall prevail in the first instance, though it shall always be subject to an appeal to the full membership in General Meeting.
- 6.9 This Constitution was approved by the inaugural meeting of the Association held in Jersey on the FOURTEENTH day of AUGUST 1990 and subsequently amended on the TWENTY-SIXTH day of AUGUST 1992, on the SEVENTEENTH day of AUGUST 1993 and on the THIRTEENTH day of SEPTEMBER 1994.