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NORTHERN IRELAND CIVIL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION AND RULES

1. NAME

The organisation shall be called the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association.

2. OBJECTS

The aim of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association shall be to assist in the maintenance of civil liberties, including freedom of speech, propaganda and assembly. The Association shall advance measures for the recovery and enlargement of such liberties and shall take steps as the Association deem necessary to that end.

3. The Association shall be non-party and non-denominational.

4. COUNCIL

The management of the Association shall be in the hands of an elected Council of fourteen persons.

The elective members of the Council shall be chosen annually at the Annual General Meeting.

Each member and affiliated organisation of the Association and the Council shall be entitled to make nominations, provided that in the case of nominations from members each nomination shall be signed by at least two members.

At least four weeks' notice shall be given of the date by which nominations are required.

The new Council shall assume office immediately after the Annual General Meeting.

The Council shall have power of co-option. At no time should the Executive Council consist of more than twenty members.

The Council shall meet at least once every month. The entire control of the policy and business of the Association shall, subject to General Meetings, be vested in the Council, including the receipt and expenditure of the Association's funds.

The attendance of six elected Members shall constitute a quorum of the Council.

The Council shall have power to set up Area Liaison Committees and branches of the Association and to determine their constitution.

The Council shall have power to appoint sub-committees with specially delegated authority.

5. CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

The Council shall elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman from their own number at the first meeting of the Council.

6. HONORARY TREASURER

An Honorary Treasurer shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

7. HONORARY SECRETARY

An Honorary Secretary shall be elected annually by the Council.

8. AUDITORS

Two Honorary Auditors shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

9. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Association shall be open to all persons who accept its Constitution.

10. AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

Affiliation to the Association shall be open to all organisations who accept its Constitution and whose affiliation is approved by the Council.

11. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR AFFILIATION

The Council shall have power to terminate the membership of any individual or the affiliation of any organisation whose continued membership or affiliation is not, in the opinion of the majority of the full Council, conducive to the best interests of the Association; provided that the member or organisation shall have the right to appear before the Council, and the right of appeal to a Standing Committee of five persons elected ad hoc by the Annual General Meeting. Members of the Council shall be ineligible for membership of the Standing Committee.

12. FEES AND REPRESENTATION

Members and Affiliated Organisations, whose membership or affiliation has been approved by the Council, will be accepted on payment of minimum annual subscriptions or fees in accordance with the following schedule and will have the right to cast the number of votes indicated in any postal ballot or at a General Meeting. Affiliated Organisations may appoint delegates to General Meetings not exceeding the number of votes to which they are entitled.

<u>A. MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTES</u>	<u>ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION</u>
individual	1	£1 Os. Od.
Joint (husband and wife)	2	£1 10s. Od.
Students or apprentices	1	10s. Od.

B. ORGANISATIONS WITH INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

Paid-up Membership of Organisation	<u>VOTES</u>	<u>ANNUAL AFFILIATION FEE</u>
Under 100	1	£1 Os. Od.
101 to 500	2	£2. Os. Od.
501 to 1,000	3	£3. Os. Od.
1,001 to 2,000	4	£4. Os. Od.
2,001 to 5,000	5	£5. Os. Od.

Over 5,000 pro rata (one vote and £1 affiliation fee) for every additional 1,000 members.

For small organisations or in other special circumstances these fees may be reduced at the discretion of the Council.

C. ORGANISATIONS WITHOUT INDIVIDUAL PAYING MEMBERSHIP

e.g. Trades Councils, Co-operative Education Committees, etc.  
Terms to be determined at the discretion of the Executive Council of the N.I.C.R.A.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held in the month of January or as near thereto as may be practicable. The Annual General Meeting shall receive an Annual Report on the work of the Association during the preceding year. The report shall be issued to the membership and affiliated organisations on the same day as motions and amendments for consideration at the Annual General Meeting are circulated.

Motion on matters which are the concern of the Association, and proposals for the amendment of the Constitution, may be submitted for discussion at the Annual General Meeting by the Council, by Affiliated Organisations and by members of the Association.

The Council shall give reasonable notice to members and affiliated organisations in October of each year of their right to submit motions or amendments of the Constitution by the date defined for consideration by the Annual General Meeting. The timetable to be followed shall be:

Motions and nominations for the Council to be received by the Secretary not later than ten weeks before the A.G.M. Amendments to be received by the Secretary not later than six weeks before the A.G.M. Final agenda, including the list of nominations, to be circulated to the members and affiliated organisations not later than four weeks before the A.G.M.

Motions on matters which are the concern of the Association and proposals for the amendment of the Constitution must be circulated to affiliated organisations and members of the Association. The Council, affiliated organisations and members of the Association may submit amendments to the motions and to proposals for the amendment of the constitution, which shall be submitted to an Annual General Meeting.

Proposals for the amendment of the Constitution shall first be submitted to an Annual General Meeting; if they are adopted by a two-thirds majority they become operative. If proposals for the amendment of the Constitution, when submitted to an Annual General Meeting receive support from less than a two-thirds majority they shall fail.

The audited accounts of the Association for the previous year shall be presented for adoption at the Annual General Meeting and a report of the Council on the work of the Association.

13. EMERGENCY MOTIONS

Emergency Motions may be moved by the Council, Affiliated Organisations and Members of the Association at the Annual General Meeting. An emergency motion shall be one which, in the opinion of the Council, deals with an important matter of urgency of which under these rules notice could not have been given.

14. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

A Special General Meeting may be called at any time by the Council and shall be called at any time upon the written request, indicating the matters to be discussed, of at least fifty members or of Affiliated Organisations having jointly equivalent voting power. At least four weeks' notice shall be given of any Special General Meeting.

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