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DRAFT CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The name of this organisation shall be the "WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION."

2. HEAD OFFICE

The Head Office of this organisation shall be Cape Town or at such other place as the National Conference may determine from time to time.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTS

The aims and objects of this Organisation shall be:-

- (a) the removal of legal disabilities;
- (b) equal pay for equal work;
- (c) equal opportunities for employment;
- (d) work for better living conditions including adequate homes, compulsory free and equal education, free nursery schools, sufficient and adequate hospitalisation, maternity services, and confinement allowance to be paid to all wage and salaried earners.
- (e) to co-operate with other organisations which have similar aims and objects in South Africa as well as the world over.

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4. MEMBERSHIP

- (a) Membership is open to all women who subscribe to these aims;
- (b) ~~members should sign application forms, accompanied by one month's contribution; every member shall notify the branch secretary of her postal address and change thereof;~~
- (c) ~~a subscription of not less than 6d. per month shall be payable by each member;~~
- (d) Trade Unions and other organisations may affiliate on payment of not less than fl. 1. 0. per annum.

5. ADMINISTRATION

The Management of the Women's Democratic Federation (hereinafter referred to as the W.D.F.) between national conferences, shall be vested in a National Executive Committee (hereinafter referred to as the N.E.C.)

The N.E.C. shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, General Secretary and 7 other members to be elected at the annual national conference. The N.E.C. shall meet not less than once every 3 months. The quorum for N.E.C. meetings shall be a majority of the members of the committee including officials.

The N.E.C. shall have power to establish branches in any area, define the areas of jurisdiction of branches and do all other things as in the opinion of the N.E.C. are in the interests of the W.D.F. and its membership.

6. OFFICERS

The duties of officers shall be:-

President: The President shall preside at all meetings at which she is present, sign all minutes read and confirmed in her presence, endorse all accounts for payment, sign all cheques on the banking account and generally exercise supervision over the affairs of the organisation. She shall have a deliberative vote only.



Vice-President: The Vice-President shall perform all the duties of the President in the absence of the latter.

General Secretary: The General Secretary shall keep such books of account as may be prescribed by the N.E.C., issue notices of meetings, conduct Head Office correspondence, place before the committee all letters received and copies of those despatched, keep a register of members and attend all meetings of the N.E.C.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be in charge of all monies and shall present quarterly statements of finances to the N.E.C.

7. ESTABLISHMENT AND CONTROL OF BRANCHES.

A branch of the W.D.F. may be established in any area. At the inaugural meeting of the branch, a Branch Executive Committee shall be elected.

Members General Meetings shall be held at least once every 3 months.

Annual Members' General meetings shall be held in the month of July of each year unless otherwise decided by national conference.

8. BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BRANCH OFFICERS.

The management of the affairs of the branch shall be vested in the Branch Executive Committee consisting of a Chairlady, Vice-Chairlady, Treasurer and Secretary, and as many other committee members as the Members' General Meeting may decide.

The provisions of Section 6 shall mutatis mutandis apply to members of the Branch Executive Committee.

The Branch Executive Committee shall meet at least once every month, and special meetings may be called whenever the Chairlady considers it necessary. Copies of B.E.C. minutes shall be submitted to the General Secretary.

9. FINANCE

The funds of the organisation shall be applied to the payment of expenses and such other purposes as may be decided upon by the N.E.C. All funds of the organisation shall be deposited by the General Secretary at a bank to be decided upon by the N.E.C. All payments should be made by cheque after being approved of by the N.E.C. with the exception of amounts less than £1. when payment may be made from petty cash. Petty cash shall be provided by cheque. All cheques are to be signed by the President, General Secretary and Treasurer.

A member on resignation shall have no claims on the funds of this organisation.

Each branch shall forward 50% of its monthly income from subscriptions to the General Secretary for the Head Office funds.

Statements of income and expenditure shall be prepared monthly by each branch secretary and submitted to the B.E.C. and a copy to the N.E.C.

Balance Sheets and Statements of Income and Expenditure shall be prepared by the General Secretary and each branch secretary in respect of each year ended 30th June.

The organisation may hold immovable property in its name or in the name of trustees appointed by the N.E.C.

10. NATIONAL CONFERENCES.

The annual national conference shall be held during July or August of each year, on a date and at such place as may be decided by the N.E.C.

The General Secretary shall notify each branch secretary of the conference two months before the date thereof. The Branch Secretary shall forthwith call a Members' General Meeting to elect delegates to the Conference and submit resolutions for consideration to the national conference. Each branch shall elect one delegate for every 150 or part of 150 members of the branch, but not exceeding 4 delegates.

All resolutions from branches must reach Head Office four (4) weeks prior to the date of the conference. The General Secretary shall circulate all resolutions received to branches. Resolutions to reach branches three weeks prior to the date of the conference.

Special Conferences may be called if and when this is considered necessary by the N.E.C. or on requisition signed by 15% of the membership, and the provisions relating to the election of delegates to the National Conference shall also apply to the election of delegates to special conferences; provided that the General Secretary may give branch secretaries such shorter notice as the N.E.C. may decide. Any notice sent inadvertently late or improperly shall not invalidate any proceedings.

Members of the N.E.C. shall attend all conferences and exercise votes at Conference.

The President and in her absence the Vice-President shall preside at all conferences.

A Conference is the supreme authority of the organisation and may decide on all matters submitted to it for consideration.

11. AMENDMENTS

Any of the provisions of this Constitution may be repealed, amended or added to in any manner by a resolution of the N.E.C., provided that at least two months' notice shall first have been given to branches.

12. DISSOLUTION

In the event of the W.D.F. being dissolved, the balance of its funds shall be used for such purposes as may be decided by a majority of the N.E.C. members; provided it is for a cause that has similar aims as the W.D.F.

The organisation may sue or be sued in its own name and the liability of members shall be limited to the amount of subscriptions paid for the last year by that member.

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TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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