

# CONSTITUTION OF INDIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

## NAME

- 1 This Society shall be known as the "Indian Women's Association", hereinafter referred to as the "Society".

## PLACE OF BUSINESS

- 2 Its place of business shall be at

Sashikal Devi Associates  
31 Cantonment Road  
Singapore 089747

or such other address as may subsequently be decided upon by the Committee and approved by the Registrar of Societies. The Society shall carry out its activities only in places and premises which have the prior written approval from the relevant authorities, where necessary.

## OBJECTS

- 3.1 Its objects are :

- a. To form a body of Indian Women in Singapore in order to assist and support each other wherever possible in settling in Singapore.
- b. To arrange social functions and entertainment for Indian Women in Singapore to encourage and foster friendship and understanding.
- c. To promote and advance the education of Indian Women in understanding and appreciating culture and the arts.
- d. To do all such other lawful things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects.
- e. In furtherance of the above objects, the Society may accept subscriptions, donations, gifts and endowments and to make drives for funds by way of appeals to the public and promoting balls and other forms of entertainments subject to approval from the relevant authorities.

## **MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATION AND RIGHTS**

### 4.1 Ordinary Membership

Ordinary Membership is open to women of Indian Origin over eighteen years of age, who may be single, married or widowed.

4.2 Every Ordinary Member shall have the right to vote and to hold office in the Society on payment of the Full year Membership. Persons who join as Ordinary Members for less than half a year shall not be eligible to hold office and cannot make a motion nor vote at any General Meeting of the Society.

### 4.3 Associate Membership

Associate Membership on the recommendation of the Committee is open to all women of all origin who may wish to be members of this Society. Such Associate Members will have the same benefits and privileges as Ordinary Members, but shall not be eligible to hold office and cannot make a motion nor vote at any General Meeting of the Society.

### 4.4 Patron

The Committee shall invite distinguished persons to become Patrons of the Society. The first Patron shall be Mrs Veena Singh, wife of the Indian High Commissioner to Singapore. Patrons shall have no right to vote and hold office in the Society.

4.5 Ratio of Ordinary Members to Associate Members must be maintained to the minimum of 51-49 ratio.

## **APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

5.1 A person wishing to join the Society should submit her particulars to the Secretary on a prescribed form.

5.2 The Committee will decide on the application for membership

5.3 A copy of the Constitution shall be furnished to every approved member upon payment of the first annual subscription.

## **ENTRANCE FEES, SUBSCRIPTIONS AND OTHER DUES**

6.1 The entrance fees and subscriptions shall be determined by the General Meeting on recommendation from the Committee from time to time.

- 6.2 For retiree memberships, the entrance fee is waived and the annual subscription is reduced by half.
- 6.3 Annual subscriptions are payable in advance within the first month of the year. If a member falls into arrears with her subscription or other dues, she shall be informed immediately by the Treasurer. If she fails to settle her arrears within 4 weeks of their becoming due, the President may order that her name be posted on the Society's notice board and that she be denied the privileges of membership until she settles her account. If she falls into arrears for more than 3 months' , she will automatically cease to be a member and the Committee may take legal action against her provided that they are satisfied that she has received due notice of her debts.
- 6.4 Any additional fund required for special purposes may only be raised from members with the consent of the general meeting of the members.

### **SUPREME AUTHORITY AND GENERAL MEETINGS**

- 7.1 The supreme authority of the Society is vested in a General Meeting of the members presided over by the President.
- 7.2 An Annual General Meeting shall be held no later than March of each year.
- 7.3 At other times, an Extraordinary General Meeting must be called by the President on the request in writing of not less than 25% of the total voting membership or 30 voting members, whichever is the lesser, and may be called at anytime by order of the Committee. The notice in writing shall be given to the Secretary setting forth the business that is to be transacted. The Extraordinary General Meeting shall be convened within 2 months from receiving this request to convene the Extraordinary General Meeting.
- 7.4 If the Committee does not within 2 months after the date of the receipt of the written request proceed to convene an Extraordinary General Meeting, the members who requested for the Extraordinary General Meeting shall convene the Extraordinary General Meeting by giving 10 days' notice to voting members setting forth the business to be transacted.
- 7.5 At least 2 weeks' notice shall be given of an Annual General Meeting and at least 10 days' notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting. Notice of meeting stating the date, time and place of meeting together with the agenda shall be sent by the Secretary to all voting members.
- 7.6 Unless otherwise stated in this Constitution, voting by proxy shall not be allowed at all General Meetings.
- 7.7 The following points will be considered at the Annual General Meeting:
  - a. The previous financial year's accounts and annual report of the Committee.

- b. Where applicable, the election of office-bearers and Honorary Auditors for the following term.
- 7.8 Any member who wishes to place an item on the agenda of a General Meeting may do so provided she gives notice to the Secretary one week before the meeting is due to be held.
- 7.9 At least 25% of the total voting membership or 30 voting members, whichever is the lesser, present at a General Meeting shall form a quorum. Proxies shall not be constituted as part of the quorum.
- 7.10 In the event of there being no quorum at the commencement of a General Meeting, the meeting shall be adjourned for half an hour and should the number then present be insufficient to form a quorum, those present shall be considered a quorum, but they shall have no power to amend any of the existing Constitution.

### **MANAGEMENT AND COMMITTEE**

- 8.1 The administration of the Society shall be entrusted to a Committee consisting of the following to be elected at each Annual General Meeting:

- A President
- 2 Vice-Presidents
- A Secretary
- An Assistant Secretary
- A Treasurer
- 8 Ordinary Committee Members

Unless with the prior approval in writing of the Registrar or an Assistant Registrar of Societies, majority of the Committee Members shall be Singapore Citizens. In addition, the President, Secretary, Treasurer and their deputies shall be Singapore Citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents. Foreign Diplomats shall not serve as Committee Members.

- 8.2 Names for the above offices shall be proposed and seconded at the Annual General Meeting and election will follow on a simple majority vote of the members. All office-bearers, except the Treasurer may be re-elected to the same or related post for a consecutive term of office. The term of office of the Committee is 1 year.
- 8.3 Election will be either by show of hands or, subject to the agreement of the majority of the voting members present, by a secret ballot. In the event of a tie, the Chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote.

- 8.4 A Committee Meeting shall be held at least once every 3 months after giving seven days' notice to Committee Members. The President may call a Committee Meeting at any time by giving five days' notice. At least ½ of the Committee Members must be present for its proceedings to be valid.
- 8.5 Any member of the Committee absenting himself from three meetings consecutively without satisfactory explanations shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the Committee and a successor may be co-opted by the Committee to serve until the next Annual General Meeting. Any change in the Committee shall be notified to the Registrar of Societies within two weeks of the change.
- 8.6 The duty of the Committee is to organise and supervise the daily activities of the Society and in the furtherance thereof may adopt byelaws. The Committee may not act contrary to the expressed wishes of the General Meeting without prior reference to it and always remains subordinate to the General Meetings.
- 8.7 The Committee has power to authorize the expenditure of a sum not exceeding \$20,000 per month from the Society's funds for the Society's purposes.

#### **DUTIES OF OFFICE-BEARERS**

- 9.1 The President shall chair all General and Committee meetings. She shall also represent the Society in its dealings with outside persons.
- 9.2 The Vice-Presidents shall assist the President and deputise for her in her absence.
- 9.3 The Secretary shall keep all records, except financial, of the Society and shall be responsible for their correctness. She will keep minutes of all General and Committee meetings. She shall maintain an up-to-date Register of Members at all times.
- 9.4 The Assistant Secretary shall assist the Secretary and deputise for her in her absence.
- 9.5 The Treasurer shall keep all funds and collect and disburse all moneys on behalf of the Society and shall keep an account of all monetary transactions and shall be responsible for their correctness. She is authorised to expend up to \$ 500.00 per month for petty expenses on behalf of the Society. She will not keep more than \$ 500.00 in the form of cash and money in excess of this will be deposited in a bank to be named by the Committee. Cheques, etc. for withdrawals from the bank will be signed by the Treasurer and either the President or the Vice-President or the Secretary.
- 9.6 Ordinary Committee Members shall assist in the general administration of the Society and perform duties assigned by the Committee from time to time.

## **AUDIT AND FINANCIAL YEAR**

- 10.1 A firm of Certified Accountants shall be appointed as Honorary Auditors at each Annual General Meeting for a term of 1 year and shall be eligible for re-appointment.
- 10.2 They:
- a) Will be required to audit each year's accounts and present a report upon them to the Annual General Meeting.
  - b) May be required by the President to audit the Society's accounts for any period within their tenure of office at any date and make a report to the Committee.
- 10.3 The financial year shall be from 1st January to 31st December.

## **TRUSTEES**

- 11.1 If the Society at any time acquires any immovable property, such property shall be vested in trustees subject to a declaration of trust.
- 11.2 The trustees of the Society shall:
- a. Not be more than 4 and not less than 2 in number.
  - b. Be elected by a General Meeting of members.
  - c. Not effect any sale or mortgage of property without the prior approval of the General Meeting of members.
- 11.3 The office of the trustee shall be vacated:
- a. If the trustee dies or becomes a lunatic or of unsound mind.
  - b. If she is absent from the Republic of Singapore for a period of more than one year.
  - c. If she is guilty of misconduct of such a kind as to render it undesirable that she continues as a trustee.
  - d. If she submits notice of resignation from her trusteeship.

- 11.4 Notice of any proposal to remove a trustee from her trusteeship or to appoint a new trustee to fill a vacancy must be given by posting it on the notice board in the Society's premises at least two weeks before the General Meeting at which the proposal is to be discussed. The result of such General Meeting shall then be notified to the Registrar of Societies.
- 11.5 The address of each immovable properties, name of each trustee and any subsequent change must be notified to the Registrar of Societies.

### **VISITORS AND GUESTS**

- 12.1 Visitors and guests may be admitted into the premises of the Society but they shall not be admitted into the privileges of the Society. All visitors and guests shall abide by the Society's rules and regulations.

### **PROHIBITIONS**

- 13.1 Gambling of any kind, whether for stakes or not, is forbidden on the Society's premises. The introduction of materials for gambling or drug taking and of bad characters into the premises is prohibited.
- 13.2 The funds of the Society shall not be used to pay the fines of members who have been convicted in court of law.
- 13.3 The Society shall not engage in any trade union activity as defined in any written law relating to trade unions for the time being in force in Singapore.
- 13.4 The Society shall not attempt to restrict or interfere with trade or make directly or indirectly any recommendation to, any arrangement with its members which has the purpose or is likely to have the effect of fixing or controlling the price or any discount, allowance or rebate relating to any goods or service which adversely affect consumer interests.
- 13.5 The Society shall not indulge in any political activity or allow its funds and/or premises to be used for political purposes.
- 13.6 The Society shall not hold any lottery, whether confined to its members or not, in the name of the Society or its office-bearers, Committee or members unless with the prior approval of the relevant authorities.
- 13.7 The Society shall not raise funds from the public for whatever purposes without the prior approval in writing of the Head, Licensing Division, Singapore Police Force and other relevant authorities.

## **AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION**

- 14 No alteration or addition/deletion to this Constitution shall be made except at a general meeting and with the consent of two-thirds of the voting members present at the General Meeting, and they shall not come into force without the prior sanction of the Registrar of Societies.

## **INTERPRETATION**

- 15 In the event of any question or matter pertaining to day-to-day administration which is not expressly provided for in this Constitution, the Committee shall have power to use their own discretion. The decision of the Committee shall be final unless it is reversed at a General Meeting of members.

## **DISPUTES**

- 16 In the event of any dispute arising amongst members, they shall attempt to resolve the matter at an Extraordinary General Meeting in accordance with this Constitution. Should the members fail to resolve the matter, they may bring the matter to a court of law for settlement.

## **DISSOLUTION**

- 17.1 The Society shall not be dissolved, except with the consent of not less than  $\frac{3}{5}$  of the total voting membership of the Society for the time being resident in Singapore expressed, either in person or by proxy, at a General Meeting convened for the purpose.
- 17.2 In the event of the Society being dissolved as provided above, all debts and liabilities legally incurred on behalf of the Society shall be fully discharged, and the remaining funds will be disposed of in such manner as the General Meeting of members may determine or donated to an approved charity or charities in Singapore.
- 17.3 A Certificate of Dissolution shall be given within seven days of the dissolution to the Registrar of Societies.