

# RULES FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION (NZ) INCORPORATED

## 1. NAME

The name of the Society is WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF (NZ) INCORPORATED (hereinafter in these rules called "the Society").

## 2. OBJECTS

a) The Women's Studies Association (NZ) is a feminist organisation formed to promote radical social change through the medium of women's studies.

We believe that a feminist perspective necessarily acknowledges oppression on the grounds of race sexuality class and disability as well as gender.

We acknowledge the Maori people as tangata whenua of Aotearoa. This means we have a particular responsibility to address their oppression among our work and activities.

b) To undertake, promote and disseminate research about women by women from a feminist perspective.

c) To inform and educate women about women in culturally appropriate ways

d) To encourage the preservation of existing material about women in culturally appropriate ways.

e) To facilitate the establishment of women's studies courses with a feminist perspective.

f) To undertake and promote the publication of material about women.

h) To organise and participate in activities, conferences, seminars and displays in furtherance of the objects of the Society.

i) To explore alternative institutions and structures for the education of women.

j) To do all such things as the Society may deem to be advantageously carried on together with and / or in furtherance of the above objects.

k) To foster promote organise and manage such amenities and facilities, social or otherwise, as the Society may think necessary or expedient for the purpose of furthering any of the objects of the Society.

l) To purchase, take on lease or in exchange, on hire or otherwise acquire hold mortgage and dispose of, any real or personal property and any rights and privileges which the Society shall think necessary or expedient for the purpose of furthering any of the objects of the Society; and to sell, exchange,

let on bail or lease with or without option of purchase, or in any manner dispose of any such property, rights or privileges.

m) To apply for and acquire any licence or permit deemed necessary or expedient by the Society in furtherance of any of its objects.

n) To raise funds and accept donations gifts and bequests for the purpose furthering any of the objects of the Society.

o) To use the funds of the Society as the Society may consider necessary or expedient in payment of the costs and expenses and in

furthering or carrying out any of the objects of the Society including the employment of counsel, solicitors, agents, officers and servants.

p) To do all such things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects.

q) Any of the objects shall be read and construed as principal objects.

r) The objects shall be read and construed as being limited to New Zealand.

## 3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Society shall be as follows:

a) Voting. Shall include any woman who subscribes to the objects of the Society.

b) Corporate. Shall include any organisation that subscribes to the objects of the Society.

c) Associate. Shall include any other individual who subscribe to the objects of the Society.

d) Honorary. Shall include such members as shall from time to time be elected by the Society in Annual General Meeting.

Membership commences upon receipt by the Society of the subscription the amount of which shall be decided each year at the Annual General Meeting. Any member may resign at any time by written notice to the Committee of the Society or may be deemed to have resigned once the subscription remains unpaid six months after the beginning of the financial year.

## 4. SUBSCRIPTIONS

a) Every member excepting honorary members shall pay to the Society all subscriptions and levies and other sums of money as shall by resolution in Annual or Special General Meeting be levied upon her as a member and which the Society shall consider necessary or expedient for the purpose of furthering the interests thereof and its members.

b) The financial year shall commence on the

first day of April and end on the last day of March the following year.

## 5. RESIGNATION

- a) Any member may resign her membership by written notice to the Secretary of the Society and such notice shall take effect according to its tenor, but without prejudice to any outstanding financial liabilities to the Society.
- b) Any member whose subscription is overdue at the end of the financial year may be deemed to have resigned but without prejudice to any outstanding financial liabilities to the Society.

## 6. RULES

- a) The rules of the Society or any of them may from time to time be altered, added to or otherwise amended by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of members present entitled to vote and voting at an Annual or Special general Meeting and for which due notice has been given as hereinafter described, provided that no such alteration, addition, rescission or other amendment shall affect the exclusively charitable nature of the Society. Every such notice shall set forth the purport of the proposed addition, alteration, rescission or other amendment.
- b) The decision of the Committee on the construction or interpretation of any rule shall be conclusive and binding on all members of the Society.

## 7. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting shall normally be held within three (3) months of the end of the financial year and at such place as the Committee may determine for the following purposes:

- a) To receive from the Committee a report and audited balance sheet and statement of accounts for the preceding year.
- b) To elect members to the Committee for the ensuing year.
- c) To appoint an Honorary Auditor and an Honorary Solicitor for the ensuing year.
- d) To decide on any resolution which may be submitted to the said meeting.

## 8. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

The Committee or a majority of the Committee may at any time for any special purpose call a Special General Meeting and it shall forthwith do so upon the requisition in writing of any twenty

(20) financial members stating the purpose for which the meeting is required.

## 9. NOTICE OF ANNUAL AND SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Notice of Annual and Special General Meetings shall be given by circular sent by postal address at least fourteen (14) clear days before any such meeting is due to be held and specifying the business to be transacted.

## 10. PROCEDURE AT GENERAL MEETINGS

- a) At all General Meetings of the Society each financial member present shall have one (1) vote and in the case of an equality of votes the Chairperson shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberative vote. Voting shall normally be by show of hands but may be by ballot demanded by at least three (3) financial members before the question is put to the meeting
- b) The quorum for all General Meetings shall be fifteen (15) members entitled to vote.

## 11. COMMITTEE

- a) At the first meeting of the Society and at every Annual General Meeting thereafter the Society shall elect a Committee comprising twelve members such Committee to include regional representation.
- b) All members of the Committee shall hold office until death, retirement, resignation, absence or removal from office or election of successors to office.
- c) Any member of the Committee who shall, without tendering an apology, absent herself from three consecutive meetings of the Committee shall ipso facto be deemed to have resigned.
- d) The Committee shall have power to appoint or co-opt any member to fill any casual vacancy on the Committee until the next Annual General Meeting and any member so appointed shall retire at the next Annual General Meeting together with the rest of the Committee but all or any of the retiring committee shall be eligible for re-election.
- e) All members of the Committee shall be financial members of the Society.
- f) The Committee may invite such persons to attend and speak at Committee Meetings as may be deemed necessary or expedient.
- g) The quorum for all Committee Meetings shall be seven (7) members.
- h) The Society in General Meeting or the Committee may from time to time appoint,

combine, re-appoint and discharge subcommittees to which may be delegated any matters for consideration management or control and shall for such purposes be at liberty to appoint to such subcommittees persons who are not members of the Committee.

i) The Committee shall be responsible for the conduct of the Society. All major policy decisions shall be made by the Society in General Meeting and the Committee shall be accountable to the Society for the implementation of such policy.

## 12. COMMON SEAL

a) The Common Seal of the Society shall be that appointed by the Committee which shall be responsible for the safe custody thereof

b) Whenever the Common Seal of the Society is required to be affixed to any deed, document, writing or other instrument the Seal shall be affixed pursuant to a resolution of the Committee or of the Society by any two members of the Committee thereby authorised to affix the Seal (and the persons so affixing the Seal shall at the same time sign the document to which the Seal is so affixed).

## 13. FINANCIAL

a) The Society shall in addition to other powers vested in it have a power to borrow or raise money from time to time by the issue of debentures, bonds, mortgages or any other security or without any such security and upon such terms as to priority and otherwise as the Society shall think fit but the powers as to the borrowing or raising of money shall not be exercised except pursuant to a resolution of the Society passed in Annual or Special General Meeting.

b) All moneys received by or on behalf of the Society shall be paid to the credit of the Society's account at such Bank as may from time to time be fixed by the Society and all cheques or withdrawal slips drawn on the account shall be signed by any two members of the Committee appointed by the Committee for that purpose.

c) The Society may from time to time invest the whole or any part of the funds of the Society in any such securities as are permitted by law for the investment of trust funds and upon such terms as the Committee may think fit.

d) The Society may pay an honorarium or salary to any person undertaking the duties of Secretary or Treasurer as it shall deem appropriate from time to time.

e) Any use of the Society's funds under clause 2o) and/or 13d) shall be applied only to its objectives. No member of the Society or person associated with a member shall participate in or materially influence any decision made by the Society in respect of a payment to or on behalf of that member or associated person under 2o) and/or 13d). Any such payment shall be reasonable and no greater than an amount commensurate on the open market with the work involved

## 14. REGULATIONS

The Society may from time to time by resolution at General Meeting make, amend, or rescind regulations not inconsistent with these rules governing procedure at its meetings and of publications (if any) of reports thereof and of the business of the Society to the press.

## 15. PUBLICATIONS

A publications sub-committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Society.

## 16. WINDING UP

The Society may be wound up voluntarily if the Society at a Special General Meeting of members passes a resolution carried by a majority of the valid votes cast by members eligible to vote and voting at the meeting in person requiring the Society to be wound up and such resolution is confirmed at a subsequent Special General Meeting called together for that purpose held not earlier than thirty (30) days after the date on which the resolution so to be confirmed was passed.

If in the event of such a winding up or on dissolution by the Registrar, there remains after the satisfaction of all debts, any property whatsoever, the same shall not be distributed to members, but transferred to a charitable organisation within New Zealand having objects and purposes similar to our own.

## INTERPRETATION

In these rules where applicable the feminine shall include the masculine and the singular the plural.