



CONSTITUTION: The 70s Group

1. Name

- 1.1 The organisation hereby constituted shall be called The 70s Group, and may be abbreviated as The 70s.
- 1.2 Body corporate
The 70s shall:
 - 1.2.1 Exist in its own right, separately from its members.
 - 1.2.2 Continue to exist even when its membership changes and there are different office bearers.
 - 1.2.3 Be able to own property and other possessions.
 - 1.2.4 Be able to sue and be sued in its own name.
 - 1.2.5 Not be responsible and/or liable for the statement/s and/or action/s of any of its members save where this is in pursuance of a mandate duly authorising such member to take a certain action.

2. Objectives

The 70s's objectives are to:

- 2.1 Create a non-profit organisation that builds on the strengths and successes of the 1970s generation of activists in our country.
- 2.2 Engage with government, other state and public institutions, private and non-governmental sector entities and communities to enhance their efficacy in dealing with our citizens.
- 2.3 Establish programmes that will result in The 70s expertise, skills and knowledge being made accessible to all citizens through research and/or policy recommendations and/or other interventions that benefit society.
- 2.4 Forge partnerships with relevant national, regional and international entities with similar interests.
- 2.5 Produce, publish and cause to be published in any appropriate format, content relevant to The 70s purpose.

3. Key Principles

The following key principles shall inform The 70s:

- 3.1 Mutual respect
- 3.2 Maximum unity without detracting from the individual's right to disagree
- 3.3 Consensus decision-making
- 3.4 Integrity and ethical engagement
- 3.5 Accountability
- 3.6 Transparency
- 3.7 Anti-sectarian (belief, opinion)
- 3.8 Anti-racist
- 3.9 Anti-sexist
- 3.10 Leading by example



4. Income and Property

- 4.1 The 70s shall keep records of everything it owns.
- 4.2 The 70s may not lend or give any of its money and/or property to its members or office bearers. The 70s is entitled to pay a member or office bearer a fair and reasonable amount for services rendered by the member or office bearer on behalf of The 70s with prior approval of The 70s.
- 4.3 A member or office bearer of The 70s can only be reimbursed by The 70s for actual expenses incurred on behalf of The 70s and with prior approval The 70s.
- 4.4 Members or office bearers of The 70s do not have ownership rights over property that belongs to The 70s.

5. Membership

Membership of The 70s:

- 5.1 Is open to 1970s liberation activists, others involved in the struggle, and their offspring, who were not involved in the apartheid system;
- 5.2 Shall be by individual application and nomination by at least two existing members;
- 5.3 Shall be by written application on the prescribed form to the Management Committee, which may accept or decline such application or refer the application to a general meeting of members;
- 5.4 Is conferred when the application is accepted through consensus of the members.
- 5.5 Office bearers of political parties are free to join The 70s, but will not be in The 70s leadership.
- 5.6 Members are free to express their individual opinions without binding The 70s.
- 5.7 A member may represent and speak on behalf of The 70s when so mandated.
- 5.8 Members of The 70s must attend its annual general meetings where they may exercise their right to determine the policy of The 70s.
- 5.9 All members of The 70s shall abide by decisions that are taken by the Management Committee and/or a general meeting of members.
- 5.10 A member shall not be personally responsible for and/or liable for any statement and/or action of The 70s, save for a member's gross negligence in pursuance of any The 70s's objectives.

6. Management

- 6.1 A Management Committee, comprising at least five (5) and not more than nine (9) members, shall be responsible for the management of The 70s. Such members will be the office bearers of The 70s, and will include the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and other positions as The 70s may determine from time to time.
- 6.2 Office bearers will serve for one year, but, depending on the kind of services needed and their ability to readily provide those services, office bearers can stand for re-election into office annually.
- 6.3 If a member of the Management Committee does not attend two (2) consecutive Management Committee meetings, without having applied for and obtaining leave of absence from the Management Committee, then the Management Committee is entitled to replace such person.
- 6.4 The 70s has the right to form sub-committees as and when the need arises. To be valid, the decisions that sub-committees take must be approved by the Management Committee, at its next scheduled meeting.

7. Powers of The 70s

- 7.1 The powers of The 70s will be vested in the Management Committee, which may take on the power and authority, within the law, that it believes it needs to be able to achieve the objectives that are stated in article 2 of this constitution.
- 7.2 The Management Committee has the power and authority to raise funds and to invite and receive contributions.
- 7.3 The Management Committee has the power and authority to buy, hire or exchange any property that it needs to achieve its objectives.
- 7.4 The Management Committee has the right, power and authority to make by-laws for proper management of the affairs of The 70s, including procedure for application, approval and termination of membership, and the duties and functions of its sub-committees and any of its office bearers.
- 7.5 The Management Committee has the power and authority to open a banking account in the name of the organisation.
- 7.6 The Management Committee has the power to engage and collaborate with any person and/or organisation to acquire and develop intellectual property including but not limited to academic and literary publications, works of art and artifacts.

8. Meetings and Procedures of the Management Committee

- 8.1 The Management Committee shall meet at least once a quarter.
- 8.2 The quorum for meetings of the Management Committee shall comprise at least 50% of members of the Management Committee.
- 8.3 When necessary, decisions of the Management Committee will be taken by consensus. If consensus is not reached, the decision shall be by majority vote. If the votes are equal on an issue, then the Chairperson will have a casting vote.
- 8.4 The agenda for a meeting will be emailed to Management Committee members at least a week before the meeting. Minutes will be taken at every meeting to record the Management Committee's decisions and such minutes will be emailed to Management Committee members at least two weeks after each meeting. The minutes shall be confirmed at the next meeting as a true record of proceedings of the Management Committee, and shall thereafter be signed by the Chairperson. Minutes of all meetings must be kept safely and always be on hand for members to consult.
- 8.5 The Chairperson or any two (2) members of the committee can call a special meeting if there is sufficient reason to do so. The committee member/s calling the special meeting must give written notice not less than 21 days before the proposed meeting date, and must state in the notice which issues will be discussed at the meeting. If, however, one of the matters to be discussed is to appoint a new Management Committee member, then those calling the meeting must give the other committee members not less than 30 days' notice.
- 8.6 The Chairperson shall chair all meetings of the Management Committee. If the Chairperson is not present, then the Vice-Chairperson shall chair the meeting. If both are absent, members of the Committee who are present must choose from amongst themselves a chair for that meeting as the first item on the agenda.
- 8.7 If the Management Committee deems it necessary, it can decide to set up one or more permanent or ad hoc sub-committees comprising at least three (3) and not more than five (5) persons. A sub-committee must regularly report to the Management Committee on its activities and according to its instructions, and, unless otherwise specified, its procedures shall be according to section 8 of the constitution.

9. Annual General Meetings

- 9.1 The annual general meeting (AGM) is the highest decision-making body of The 70s.
- 9.2 An AGM must be held once every year within three months after the end of The 70s's financial year, which will be 31 December of each year.
- 9.3 The 70s will deal with the following business, amongst others, at its AGM:
 - 9.3.1 Agree to and confirm the agenda.
 - 9.3.2 Attendance register and any apologies received.
 - 9.3.3 Declaration of any conflict of interests.
 - 9.3.4 Note and confirm the previous meeting's minutes.
 - 9.3.5 Matters arising from the previous minutes.
 - 9.3.6 Chairperson's report.
 - 9.3.7 Treasurer's report.
 - 9.3.8 Secretary's report.
 - 9.3.9 Any amendments to the Constitution that may be necessary.
 - 9.3.10 Election of members of the Management Committee.
 - 9.3.11 Any other business.
 - 9.3.12 Closure of the meeting.
- 9.4 At least 21 days' notice, including the agenda, must be given for a general meeting including the AGM.
- 9.5 The quorum for a general meeting shall be thirty (30) members.
- 9.6 The minutes of a general meeting shall be made available to members within 21 days after the meeting.

10. Finances

- 10.1 An accounting officer shall be appointed at the AGM. The accounting officer's duty is to audit and check on the finances of The 70s.
- 10.2 The Treasurer's duty is to control the day-to-day finances and keep proper records of all finances of The 70s. In terms of article 6.5, the Treasurer shall arrange for all funds to be deposited into a bank account in the name of The 70s.
- 10.3 Withdrawals can only be made by a majority decision of the Management Committee.
- 10.4 The 70s's accounting records and reports must be ready and handed to the Director of Nonprofit Organisations within six months after the financial year-end, which shall be 30 June.
- 10.5 If The 70s has funds that can be invested, the funds may only be invested with registered financial institutions that are listed in Section 1 of the Financial Institutions (Investment of Funds) Act, 1984, or in securities that are listed on a licensed stock exchange as set out in the Stock Exchange Control Act, 1985. The 70s can seek investment advice to maximise its returns.

11. Amendments to the Constitution

- 11.1 Amendments to the constitution, save that relating to dissolution which is contained in article 12, can only be made by a two thirds majority vote of the members present at the annual general meeting or special general meeting, with due and proper notice having been given.
- 11.2 A written notice must go out not less than twenty one (21) days before the meeting at which the changes to the constitution are going to be proposed. The notice must indicate the proposed changes to the constitution that will be discussed at the meeting.

12. Dissolution

- 12.1 The 70s may dissolve on good cause if at least two-thirds of the members present and voting at a meeting convened for the purpose of considering such matter are in favour of dissolution.
- 12.2 The 70s can only dissolve if it has paid off all its debts. After paying off its debts, if there is property or money left over it can only be given in some form to another nonprofit organisation that has similar objectives. The 70s's general meeting where dissolution is accepted can decide what organisation this should be.

This constitution was approved and accepted by members of The 70s Group on 10 July 2018.

