



THE
CONSTITUTION

OF THE

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NATIONAL WOMEN CITIZENS
ASSOCIATIONS.

AS FINALLY PASSED

AT A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LOCAL
WOMEN CITIZENS ASSOCIATIONS,

ON

November 8th, 1918.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

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PREAMBLE.

This organisation arose as a result of a meeting in the Caxton Hall, London, in July, 1917, when it had become apparent that the Parliamentary Franchise would in the near future be accorded to the women of the United Kingdom. Fifty women's societies responded to the invitation of the President of the National Union of Women Workers to consult together for the initiation of some co-operative scheme of work among women on the use and responsibility of the women's vote.

The plan adopted was the election of a Provisional Committee by those societies, which should proceed with the formation of local Women Citizens Associations. In July, 1918, a number of new Associations met and formulated the following Constitution, which should establish them as self-governing local bodies and bind them together as a national system working through a Central Executive elected by representatives of the Associations.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

Name.

This organisation shall be called the National Women Citizens Associations.

Objects.

To bring together on non-party, non-sectarian and democratic lines women's societies and individual women, in order to foster a sense of citizenship in women; to encourage the study of political, social and economic questions; and to secure the adequate representation of women in local administration and in the affairs of the nation and of the Empire.

ARTICLE II.

General Organisation.

The method of organisation shall be to establish local self-governing Women Citizens Associations throughout the country, linked together by a central Committee elected by these Associations at the Annual General Meeting.

ARTICLE III.

Central Committee.

1. The Central Committee shall consist of the President, the Honorary Treasurer, and eighteen other members. At least half the members of the Central Committee must be members of provincial Women Citizens Associations.

The duty of the Central Committee shall be to promote the formation of local Women Citizens Associations and to assist in their work and development.

2. Each local Association shall have the right of making twenty nominations for the members of the Central Committee—viz., President, Hon. Treasurer, and eighteen other members. The consent of each nominee must have been previously obtained, and the nominations must be sent in at least one month before the Annual General Meeting.

ARTICLE IV.

Local Women Citizens Associations.

(a) It shall be the duty of each local Women Citizens Association while in relation with the National Women Citizens Associations to carry on its work in harmony with the objects of the National Women Citizens Associations. Any other object not inconsistent with these objects may be added by any Women Citizens Association.

(b) In respect of membership, meetings, elections of the local office-bearers and committee and financial arrangements other than those with the Central Committee, each local Association shall frame its own rules, provided that these shall be on democratic lines. If difficulties should arise within a Women Citizens Association, the Central Committee shall be under no obligation to intervene in regard to internal matters, but may, if it see fit, respond to any request for counsel.

ARTICLE V.

Relation of local Association to Central Committee.

The local Associations shall pay to the Hon. Treasurer of the National Women Citizens Associations a yearly subscription amounting to 10 per cent. of their total annual subscriptions.

ARTICLE VI.

Meetings.

1. The National Women Citizens Associations shall hold at least one General Meeting each year, which shall be a meeting of representatives of local Associations.

2. The business taken at such Annual General Meeting shall be:—

First.—An Annual Report submitted by the Committee, which shall include a duly audited financial statement.

Second.—The election of the Central Committee.

Third.—The consideration of resolutions submitted by local Associations or by the Central Committee.

3. The basis of representation shall be: Each Association numbering 100 or less members shall have two delegates; a third delegate for any number between 100 and 200; and a fourth delegate for any number between 200 and 300; four delegates to be the maximum representation of any Association, and two the minimum to which they are entitled. Any one delegate may carry the full voting powers ascribed to the delegation.

4. Conferences may be called throughout the year at the discretion of the Central Committee or by request of not fewer than six local Associations.

5. The notice summoning the Annual General Meeting shall be issued not less than six weeks before the meeting and shall be accompanied by an Agenda of the business.

ARTICLE VII.

Standing Orders.

1. The Standing Orders shall be those adopted at the Special General Meeting held on November 8th, 1918.

2. No alteration shall be made in the Standing Orders except at the Annual General Meeting upon due notice.

ARTICLE VIII.

Alterations in Constitution.

No alteration shall be made in this Constitution except at a General Meeting of which due notice shall have been given, and upon a two-thirds vote of those present and voting.