

DO NOT REMOVE

UNION OF THE PHYSICALLY IMPAIRED

AGAINST SEGREGATION

CONSTITUTION

1 NAME

The name of the Union is the Union of the Physically Impaired Against Segregation.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTS

The Union aims to have all segregated facilities for physically impaired people replaced by arrangements for us to participate fully in society. These arrangements must include the necessary financial, medical, technical, educational and other help required from the State to enable us to gain the maximum possible independence in daily living activities, to achieve mobility, to undertake productive work, and to live where and how we choose with full control over our lives.

3 MEMBERSHIP

(a) Full membership is open to residents of Britain who are aged 18 or over, who are significantly physically impaired, and who accept the Policies and Constitution of the Union.

(b) Junior membership of the Union is open to residents of Britain who are aged less than 18, who are significantly physically impaired, and who accept the Policies and Constitution of the Union.

(c) Overseas membership is open to people normally resident overseas who are significantly physically impaired, and who accept the Policies and Constitution of the Union.

(d) Associate membership is open to people who are not significantly physically impaired, but who accept the Policies and Constitution of the Union.

(e) Junior, Associate and Overseas members have all the rights in the Union except the right to vote or hold Union office.

(f) The subscription for all types of membership will be determined by the Union from time to time, and membership of each kind will lapse unless the appropriate subscription is paid within three months of January 1st each year.

(g) The Executive Committee (referred to below) has power to refuse

applications from all types of membership. They must however in such an event inform all full members of the reasons for such a decision at the earliest reasonable opportunity, and their decision may be reversed by a vote of all full members, called at the request of 10% or more full members. Similarly the Executive Committee has the power to expel members who in their view are acting contrary to the Policies and Constitution of the Union, where discussion has failed to resolve the matter. The member concerned is entitled to a written statement of the Committee's reasons for expulsion, and has the right of appeal through the Circular to a vote of all members.

4 CIRCULAR AND GENERAL MEETINGS

(a) Because of the dispersed membership, and mobility problems, the principal means of formulating and deciding policy will be a confidential Circular which will be sent to all members at least 4 times a year. All members are entitled to have their views printed in the Circular up to a limit in a particular issue of a number of words to be decided from time to time. Proposals for changes in Union Policy, or for major Union decisions, put forward by the Executive Committee or by 10% or more full members in the Circular, will be decided by an open postal ballot, with each full member having one vote. This vote is to be arranged by the Executive Committee as soon as practicable and in any case within no more than 3 months of a reasonable degree of discussion having been possible through the Circular on the proposal.

(b) All votes in the Union, including those in any Committee, will be by a simple majority of those voting. Such a majority may decide to hold a General Meeting which all members will be entitled to attend. Notice of resolutions and any other business to be transacted will be sent to all members at least 1 month beforehand, and arrangements will be made for full members unable to attend to vote by post if they so request. In the event of any dispute about voting, resolutions, elections or other Union business, the Executive Committee will have the right of decision, but if 10% or more full members wish, a vote of all full members must be arranged on the point in question within 3 months.

5 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(a) An Executive Committee of the Union will be elected annually, by an open ballot of all the full members if there is more than one candidate for a position. Any full member may volunteer or be nominated by another full member for a position on the Committee. In the event of vacancies occurring between elections, the vacant position may be filled by the Executive Committee co-opting a full member of their choosing. Any member of the Executive Committee may be removed from office at any time by the vote of a majority of all full members voting in a ballot called at the request of at least 10% of all full members at the time.

(b) The Executive Committee will consist of: General Secretary; Treasurer, Membership Secretary; Information Secretary; Internal Circular Editor; Open Newsletter Editor; and 4 Regional Secretaries, that is, one for Scotland, one for Wales and the West, one for the North and Midlands, and one for London and the South East.

(c) Members of the Executive Committee may speak and act officially in the name of the Union on the basis of the Union Policies and Constitution. Each Executive Committee member is personally responsible to the Union as a whole for the carrying out of the functions of his or her office, but as far as is practicable they will consult each other and act together as a Committee. The Committee as a whole is responsible for controlling Union funds and property, and for ensuring that proper books are kept and full account of Union finance is given at least annually to all members.

(d) The Committee will draw up guide-lines for its own conduct, and the distribution of responsibilities between its members, for the approval of the Union.

(e) The overall purpose of the Committee within the Union is to facilitate the active participation and development of members in fulfilling the aims of the Union. The purpose of the Union is to offer help to members and other disabled people in our struggle to change the conditions which isolate, segregate and oppress us.

Adopted : 3 . 12 . 1974

Amended : 9 . 8 . 1976