

## **Constitution of “Legal Equality for Women Club: University of Toronto”**

### **Possible ideas: choice collective,**

#### **1. Article One – Name and Purpose**

1. The official name of the recognized student group is “Legal Equality for Women Club University of Toronto”
2. The official acronym or abbreviation of the group is “LEW Club UofT”
3. The purpose, objectives, mission and/or mandate of the organization is to educate the population of University of Toronto about the policies that limit women’s autonomy across the globe, including but not restricted to, bodily autonomy and reproductive freedom, right to education, freedom of speech and access to justice. We take an intersectional approach to our initiatives, in that we include the voices and stories of people of all backgrounds and gender identities in our advocacy work, and make a strong effort to use and encourage inclusive terminology as it pertains to all areas of our club. We will hold events with and without collaborators who hold similar values to us, including fundraisers and educational seminars. Our goal is to call attention to the harm caused by global gender inequalities, and necessitate policy change worldwide to improve the lives of women.

#### **2. Article Two – Membership and Membership Fee**

1. The group shall maintain a list of group members.
2. Membership is open to all registered students of the University of Toronto.
3. Non-voting membership is open to University of Toronto staff, faculty, alumni, and to persons from outside the University. Unless otherwise stated, non-voting members do not hold any rights awarded to voting members.
4. The membership fee will be \$1 per year.

#### **1. Article Three – Rights of Members**

1. All members may apply for a full refund of their membership fee within one (1) month of becoming a member.
2. All members have a right to attend all general meetings of members.
3. All members have a right to cast votes at all general meetings of members.
4. All members have a right to stand for election unless otherwise stated in this document.
5. All members have a right to cast votes in all group elections and referenda.
6. All executive members have a right to propose and vote on amendments to this constitution.

#### **1. Article Four - Executive Committee**

1. The term for all positions on the Executive Committee shall be from May 1st to April 30th.
2. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of 10 members.
3. All members of the Executive Committee must be currently registered students of the University of Toronto.
4. No person may serve as a financial authority or signing authority for the group if they are currently serving as a financial authority or signing authority for another recognized student group at the University of Toronto.

#### **1. Article Five - Executive Committee Composition and Duties**

1. **The Co-Presidents shall:**
  1. **5.1.1.** Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,

2. 5.1.2.Oversee the operations, management, and success of the group,
  3. 5.1.3.Serve as spokespeople for the group,
  4. 5.1.4.One or more Co-President shall hold signing and financial authority along with the Treasurer
  5. 5.1.5.Preside over meetings of the Executive Committee and/or members,
  6. 5.1.6.Ensure a transition of office annually for other all executive members
  7. 5.1.7.One Co-President will assume authority in the event of the absence of the other.
  8. 5.1.8. Ensure that the social media accounts relay accurate information, giving credit where needed
2. **The Secretary shall:**
    1. **5.2.1.**Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
    2. 5.2.2.Maintain a list of group members,
    3. 5.2.3.Maintain the group website and member contact list,
    4. 5.2.4.Record notes and motions for meetings,
    5. 5.2.5.Notify all members of general meetings.
3. **The Treasurer shall:**
    1. **5.3.1.**Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
    2. 5.3.2.Record all financial transactions of the group,
    3. 5.3.3.Hold signing and financial authority along with the one or more Co-President,
    4. 5.3.4.Maintain a budget of income and expenses,
    5. 5.3.5.Advise members on financial position of the group,
    6. 5.3.6.Prepare an annual budget for the group.
4. **The Social Media Coordinator shall:**
    1. 5.4.1.Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee
    2. 5.4.2.Manage the social media platforms of the Club, including physical design of posts and stories (not content)
    3. 5.4.3.Be responsible for social media based communications
    4. 5.4.4.Manage general members who maintain positions related to social media
5. **The Head of Events shall:**
    1. 5.5.1.Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee
    2. 5.5.2.Organize events for general members
    3. 5.5.3.Collaborate with other executive members to plan and execute fundraisers and other club events
    4. 5.5.4.Oversee any volunteers assisting with the planning and/or execution of events
    5. 5.5.5. Be responsible for finding and booking event spaces
6. **The Outreach Coordinator shall:**
    1. 5.6.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee
    2. 5.6.2. Be responsible for reaching out to other clubs for potential collaborations
    3. 5.6.3. Be responsible for reaching out to organizations outside of the university for potential collaborations
    4. 5.6.4. Be responsible for keeping up-to-date with emails and other methods of contact with the club outside of social media
7. **The Head Writer shall:**

1. 5.7.1 Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee
2. 5.7.2. Be responsible for managing all general members who want to write posts for social media
3. 5.7.3.Keep up to date with intersectional feminist issues and decide which to research and report on, ensuring accuracy
4. 5.7.4. Be responsible for ensuring that writers, themself included, use reliable sources of information when doing research, and that those sources are cited accurately.

**1. Article Six – Elections**

1. All executive positions shall be filled in an annual election and each voting position must be open to all student members. This rule cannot exclude Co-President 1 and 2, Secretary or Treasurer.
2. Recommendations for each executive position may be made by the executive currently holding that position, but no restrictions may be made that bar students from running.
3. All members shall be eligible to and cast a ballot for each voting position.
4. Non-voting group members shall not be eligible to cast a ballot for any elected position.
5. The nominee winning the plurality of votes cast in the election for each position shall be deemed the winner.
6. On the condition that multiple candidates are to be elected for a single position, the nominees winning the largest share of the votes cast shall be deemed the winners until all positions are filled.
7. The elections must be held in an unbiased manner. No individual who is seeking election may participate in planning or administering the election.

**1. Article Seven – Finances**

1. The Treasurer shall keep an active record of income and expenses.
2. The Treasurer shall present the group's updates on the group's financial position at annual general meetings.
3. The Executive Committee must approve all expenditures over \$100.00 through a majority vote at a meeting of the Executive Committee.
4. The group may not engage in activities that are essentially commercial in nature.
5. The group will not have as a major activity a function that makes it an on-campus chapter of a commercial organization.
6. The group will not provide services and goods at a profit when that profit is used for purposes other than those of the group.
7. The group will not pay salaries to any of its officers.

**1. Article Eight – Meetings**

1. The Executive Committee shall meet bi-monthly. The quorum for Executive Committee meetings shall be 50%+1 of the members of the Executive Committee.
2. The group shall hold general meetings at least twice per year to provide the general membership an opportunity to review the group's annual activity plan, financial health, and propose or vote on constitutional amendments.
3. The Executive Committee must announce the date of a general meeting to the general membership at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

**1. Article Nine - Termination of Membership**

1. The Executive Committee may revoke the membership of any member of the club who commits an act negatively affecting the interests of the club and its members, including non-disclosure of a significant or continuing conflict of interest.
2. A vote to revoke membership must be held at a meeting of the Executive Committee.
3. A two-thirds majority of the Executive Committee is required to approve any motion to revoke membership.
4. Any member facing removal shall have the right to appeal the decision of the Executive Committee to the general membership.
5. In the case of an appeal, a simple majority vote at a meeting of the general membership shall be required to sustain the revocation of membership.
6. Following a termination of membership, the member will be removed from the club's membership and will lose any privileges associated with being a member of the club.
7. Executive Committee members are subject to the same termination of membership process as general members.

1. **Article Ten – Amendments**

1. **10.1.**All constitutional amendments shall require a 2/3 majority vote to be passed at a general meeting.
2. **10.2.**All voting members may propose and vote on amendments to the constitution.
3. **10.3.**The Executive Committee shall submit the revised constitution to staff in the Division of Student Life at the University of Toronto within two (2) weeks.
4. **10.4.**Amendments to the constitution shall take effect only once the revised constitution has been approved by staff in the Division of Student Life at the University of Toronto.