



Constitution 2015

Name of Organisation – **Refugee Action Colchester**

Date constitution adopted –

Aims of the Group

- To collect, sort and distribute donations in the form of clothing and relevant supplies to Refugees
- To organise the safe and efficient distribution of the donations to refugee groups both in Britain and abroad
- To work cooperatively with other groups who deliver aid/support to refugees and asylum seekers both locally and abroad
- To administrate a Facebook page publicising our activities
- To provide a safe and welcoming environment for volunteers to enable them to help
- To distribute donations that are not needed by refugees to other local groups where appropriate

Powers - In order to achieve its aims the Group may:

- Raise money
- Open bank accounts
- Acquire and manage buildings
- Organise fundraising events
- Work with other groups and exchange information
- Do anything that is lawful which will help it to fulfil its aims

Membership of the group

- Membership of the Group shall be open to any person over 18 or any organisation living or located in the Colchester area who is interested in helping the Group to achieve its aims, willing to abide by the rules of the Group and willing to pay any subscription if it is agreed by the Management Committee.
- Membership shall be available to anyone without regard to gender, race, nationality, disability, sexual preference, religion or belief.
- Every individual member and each organisation shall have one vote at General Meetings.
- The membership of any member may be terminated for good reason by the Management Committee but the member has a right to be heard by the Management Committee before a final decision is made.

Management of the group

- The Group shall be administered by a Management Committee of the Officers, to be elected at each AGM, up to a maximum of ten members
- The Officers of the Management Committee shall be: the Chairperson, the Treasurer, and the Secretary.
- The Management Committee shall meet at least 2 times a year.
- The Chairperson shall Chair all meetings of the Group.
- The quorum for Management Committee meetings shall be 4 members.
- Voting at Management Committee meetings shall be by show of hands. If there is a tied vote then the Chairperson shall have a second vote.
- The Management Committee may by a two-thirds majority vote and for a good and proper reason remove any Committee member, provided that person has the right to be heard before a final decision is made.
- The Management Committee may appoint another member of the Group as a Committee member to fill a vacancy provided the maximum number is not exceeded.

Duties of the Officers

The duties of the Chairperson are to:

- Chair meetings of the Committee and the Group

- Represent the Group at functions/meetings that the Group has been invited to
- Act as spokesperson for the Group when necessary

The duties of the Secretary are to:

- Take and keep minutes of meetings and distribute action points
- Prepare the agenda for meetings of the Committee and the Group in consultation with the Chairperson
- Deal with correspondence
- Collect and circulate any relevant information within the Group

The duties of the Treasurer are to:

- Supervise the financial affairs of the Group
- Keep proper accounts that show all monies collected and paid out by the Group

Finance

- Any money obtained by the Group shall be used only for the Group.
- Any bank accounts opened for the Group shall be in the name of the Group.
- Any cheques issued shall be signed by the Treasurer and one other nominated official.

Annual General Meeting

- The Group shall hold an Annual General Meeting (A.G.M.) in the month of September.

- All members shall be given at least fourteen days' notice of the A.G.M. and shall be entitled to attend and vote.
- The quorum for an AGM shall be 4 members.

The business of the A.G.M. shall include:

- Receiving a report from the Chairperson on the Group's activities over the year
- Receiving a report from the Treasurer on the finances of the Group
- Electing a new Management Committee and
- Considering any other matter as may be decided.

Special General Meeting

- A Special General Meeting may be called by the Management Committee or by any officers to discuss an urgent matter. The Secretary shall give all members fourteen days' notice of any Special General Meeting together with notice of the business to be discussed. All members shall be entitled to attend and vote.

Alterations to the Constitution

- Any changes to this Constitution must be agreed by at least two-thirds of those members present and voting at any General Meeting.

Dissolution

- The Group may be wound up at any time if agreed by two-thirds of those members present and voting at any General Meeting. In the event of winding up, any assets remaining after all debts have been paid shall be given to another Group with similar aims.

This constitution was adopted at a general meeting of the Group on

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Signed by:

Chairperson:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Other Committee members: