

UNITED KINGDOM RACE AND EUROPE NETWORK CONSTITUTION

This Constitution was formally adopted at the Annual General Meeting of the Network on

PREAMBLE

The Parties to the present Constitution,

Determined to fight racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in all its forms and manifestations at local, national and European level, and act against the discrimination and exclusion of people of different racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds,

Convinced that there is no justification for racial differentiation and discrimination in theory and practice, anywhere,

Convinced that promoting equality and celebrating cultural, ethnic and racial diversity contributes to friendly and peaceful relations amongst people and communities,

Believing that developing and securing good relations between organisations involved in race relations and working against racial discrimination promotes understanding between people and builds communities free from all forms of racial segregation and racial discrimination,

Believing that the European context is increasingly vital in the above mentioned,

Have agreed as follows:

TITLE I

DEFINITION AND OBJECTIVES OF UKREN

Article 1

Establishment of UKREN

1. Reflecting the will to build a network ensuring that organisations working against race discrimination in the United Kingdom, local and national are kept informed of the latest domestic and European developments in race relations, and acknowledging the importance of the European context, this Constitution establishes the United Kingdom Race and Europe Network (hereinafter called UKREN).

2. UKREN shall be open to all organisations which respect its objectives and are committed to promoting them together.

3. UKREN aims to be a black led organisation and will work towards a minimum of 50% of the Council coming from black or ethnic minority community.

4. In recognition of the fact that UKREN aims to be representative of the United Kingdom as a whole, it shall aim to ensure that the membership has representation from the following geographic areas in proportion to MEP representation at EU level:

- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern Ireland
- English regions

4. UKREN aims to maintain a gender balance and work towards equal representation of both men and women and ensure active involvement and representation of young people in its activities and membership.

Article 2

UKREN's Objectives

UKREN shall work towards the advancement of education and, in particular to:

- (a) raise awareness of the implications of the UK's membership of the European Union in black and ethnic minority communities, identify and act on their concerns;
- (b) build awareness of the influence of the European Union on race and immigration issues in the UK amongst politicians and the public;
- (c) identify points of consensus between British non-governmental organisations and effectively co-ordinate and channel these views;
- (d) bridge the gap between ethnic minority communities and policy makers;
- (e) encourage public debate about European issues affecting ethnic minorities;
- (f) maintain a formal association with the European Network Against Racism (herein after referred to as ENAR);
- (g) work with other European non-governmental organisations and institutions outside of ENAR and the European Union.

TITLE II

UKREN ACTIVITIES

Article 3

Areas of actions

In furtherance of its objectives and in accordance with Article 2, UKREN shall:

- (a) promote and carry out or assist the promotion or carrying out of research or other investigations and, as appropriate, publish the results;
- (b) organise, either alone or in partnership with others, meetings, consultations, conferences and seminars;
- (c) publish, either alone or in partnership with others, reports, newsletters or other documents or information;

Article 4

Flexibility clause

UKREN shall, if action should prove necessary, promote and co-operate in the achievements of its activities and work in association and/or in partnership with others as may be necessary for the attainment of its objectives or any one of them within the limits of the law.

TITLE III

UKREN INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

CHAPTER I

THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Article 5

Institutional Framework

1. UKREN shall have an institutional framework which shall aim to:

- represent and promote its values
- develop and advance its objectives
- ensure continuity, effectiveness and consistency of its activities

The institutional framework comprises:

- The Council
- The Executive Committee
- The Secretariat

2. Each institution shall act in accordance with the functions and competences conferred on it by the Constitution and in conformity with the procedures set out in it. The institutions shall exercise their functions in mutual cooperation.

Article 6

Annual General Meeting

1. The Annual General Meeting shall exercise functions of consultation and adoption. The Annual General Meeting shall be composed of UKREN Members.

2. The Annual General Meeting shall consult on and adopt the following:

- (a) the appointment of members of the Council;
- (b) the Annual Financial and Work Programme;
- (c) rules and procedures;
- (d) the future work programme;
- (e) the termination of UKREN Membership in accordance with Article 12;
- (f) other matters considered necessary.

3. The Annual General Meeting shall initiate the dissolution of UKREN if it considers necessary on the grounds of budgetary constraints or other serious circumstances.

Article 7

Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting shall be convened by the Council any time at its discretion and upon a requisition of a written proposal stating reasons for the request, from not less than 25 Members with a minimum of 80% of Full Members, for the purpose of consulting on and adopting the amendments to be made to this Constitution and to other matters considered as necessary.

Article 8

The Council

1. The Council shall define strategic directions and priorities for UKREN and contribute to its continuous development including regular Constitution and Council composition review.

2. The Council shall consider the Financial Report and Work Programme.

3. The Council shall regularly review the amount of the annual rate of subscription payable by each category of UKREN Members.

4. The Council shall consist of a maximum of 50 member organisations' representatives, of which will include no more than 3 representatives of Associate Members. Subject of maximum size of 50 members, the Council may co-opt other persons when it

considers necessary to maintain the balance of its work.

5. The Council shall be elected by a postal ballot by the membership according to Article 13 and endorsed by Annual General Meeting. The term of appointment shall be 3 years.

6. The proceedings of the Council shall not be invalidated by any failure to elect or any defect in the election, appointment, co-options or qualification of any member.

7. The Council shall meet once a year, convened by its Chair. Decisions of the Council shall be at a 25% quorum or such number as the Council shall determine when it considers necessary to maintain the balance of its work.

8. Decisions of the Council shall be taken by consensus. In case of a tie the Chair has a casting vote.

9. The Council shall appoint sub-committees, advisory groups or working parties of its own members as it considers necessary for the carrying out of its work and may determine their terms of reference, duration and composition. All sub-committees shall compile regular reports on their work to be submitted to the Council.

Article 9

The Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee shall oversee UKREN Work Programme and the activities of the Secretariat and propose changes to the Annual General Meeting as it considers necessary to maintain consistency and effectiveness in the work of UKREN.

2. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chair and two Vice – Chairs of the Council, the Treasurer and 6 members of the Council. The Executive Committee may co-opt other persons when it considers necessary to maintain the balance of its work.

3. The Executive Committee shall meet as necessary, convened by the Chair of the Council. At its meetings the quorum shall consist of 5 members of the Executive Committee.

4. Any member of the Executive Committee who fails to attend three consecutive meetings without reasonable cause to be considered and decided on by the Executive Committee by majority vote, shall lose her/his post and shall be replaced by the Council.

Article 10

The Secretariat

1. The Secretariat shall ensure the application of decisions taken by the institutions pursuant the Constitution. It shall manage activities and programmes and compile the Annual Activities Report. To this end it shall have management, coordinating, executive and administrative functions. It shall ensure UKREN's external representation and internal and external information dissemination.

2. The Secretariat shall consist of paid staff when funding is available and volunteers as needed.

3. The Secretariat shall have proper regard for the decisions of the Council and the Executive Committee. It shall report on its activities to the Council periodically.

CHAPTER II

OTHER UKREN INSTITUTIONS AND REPRESENTATIVE BODIES

Article 11

The Chair and Vice – Chairs of the Council

1. The Council shall elect its Chair and two Vice – Chairs from among its members, by majority vote, for a term of three years. In the event of serious misconduct or a long term impediment, the Council can end her or his term of office and start a new election procedure.
2. The Chair of the Council:
 - (a) shall chair and ensure the continuity and effectiveness of the work of the Council, the Council sub-committees and the Executive Committee;
 - (b) shall facilitate consensus on the meetings of the Council and the Executive Committee;
 - (c) shall represent UKREN in its external relations.
3. The Chair shall have a casting vote.
4. The work of the Chair shall be assisted by two Vice – Chairs, who in case of an impediment shall substitute the Chair in its functions. If neither the Chair nor the Vice –Chairs are present, those present shall elect one of their members to take the chair and exercise its voting rights.

Article 12

ENAR Representatives

1. The Executive Committee shall elect two representatives on ENAR from its members, by majority vote, for a term of three years in accordance with requirements of ENAR cycle of representation. In the event of serious misconduct or a long term impediment, the Executive Committee can end her or his term of office and start a new election procedure.
2. The ENAR Representative:
 - (a) shall represent UKREN's interest in the work of ENAR;
 - (b) shall maintain continuous working relations with ENAR and report to UKREN on any relevant policy development, ENAR internal and external affairs that may affect the work of UKREN, and national and international activities carried out by or in connection to ENAR.
3. The ENAR Representative shall report on its activities to the Executive Committee periodically.

Article 13

The Treasurer

1. The Treasurer shall execute the budget and compile the Annual Financial Report. The Treasurer shall oversee the accounts of all UKREN revenue and expenditure and shall ensure good financial management.
2. The Treasurer shall report on its activities to the Executive Committee and the Annual General Meeting.

Article 14

Rules of Procedures

1. Rules of Procedures at all General Meetings shall follow the provisions for voting rights laid down by this Constitution. All matters arising shall be decided in accordance with Article 16 by those present and entitled to vote.
2. The Chair of the Council shall act as the chair of the General Meetings. In case of impediment a chair of the meeting has to be elected amongst the Vice-Chairs or the members of the meeting. Decisions at General Meetings shall be taken by consensus. In case of a tie the Chair has a casting vote.
3. The quorum at General Meetings shall be 10% of UKREN Membership or 50 members, whichever is the smaller.
4. Postal votes shall be permitted for the purposes of the election of Council and Executive Committee Members prior to the Annual General Meeting and in accordance with Article 6.
5. A minute book shall be kept by the Secretariat and a record of all proceedings and resolutions shall be maintained.

TITLE IV

UKREN MEMBERSHIP

Article 15

Members

1. Membership of UKREN comprises:
 - (a) Full Members: non-governmental organisations, community based organisations, UK organisations designated as specialist race bodies under the provision of the Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin; and benevolent, charitable or philanthropic groups which subscribe to the values and objectives of UKREN;
 - (b) Associate Members: other organisations which subscribe to the values and objectives of UKREN including non-profit and social enterprises.
2. Membership of any member organisation shall be terminated by the Annual General Meeting in case of dissolution of UKREN, provided that the organisation concerned has the right to be heard and make representations to the Council before a final decision is made.

Article 16

Voting rights

1. Voting rights between UKREN Members shall reflect the establishment of UKREN as a grassroots network organisation and shall be weighted on the basis of a 2:1 ratio in favour of Full Members.
2. Full and Associate Members shall be entitled to vote at UKREN meetings by means of a duly authorised representative, nominated by the Member organisation, with the power to cast one vote.
3. Individuals can only be nominated by and vote on behalf of one UKREN Member.

TITLE VII
GENERAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 17

Amendments to the Constitution

1. Any Member of UKREN may submit to the Secretariat written proposals for the amendment of this Constitution at least forty-two calendar days before the Annual General Meeting and the Executive Committee shall be notified.
2. At least twenty-one calendar days notice in writing of the meeting setting forth the amendments to be proposed shall be sent by the Secretariat to the Annual General Meeting.
3. Any amendments to this Constitution shall receive assent of not less than two-thirds of the members of UKREN present and voting at the Annual General Meeting or meeting specially called for this purpose.

Article 18

Dissolution of UKREN

1. In accordance with Article 6 when the Council considers it necessary it shall convene an Annual General Meeting with a prior notice of twenty-one days.
2. In case the dissolution of UKREN has been decided on, the Council shall dispose any assets held by or in the name of UKREN.
3. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such other charitable organisation having values and objectives similar to those UKREN as the Council shall decide.
4. UKREN shall indemnify and keep indemnify every officer, member, volunteer and employee of the organisation from and against claims, demands, actions and proceedings including all costs and expenses in connection therewith or arising therefrom, made or brought against UKREN in connection with its activities, the actions of its officers, members, volunteers or employees, or in connection with its property and equipment. This indemnity shall not extend to liabilities arising from wilful and individual fraud, wrongdoing or wrongful omission on the part of the officer, member, volunteer or employee sought to be made liable.

Article 19

Duration

This Constitution is concluded for an unlimited period.

Article 20

Entry into force

This Constitution shall enter into force on the day of adoption by the Annual General Meeting.