

RULES OF GENDERBRIDGE INCORPORATED

1. **Name:** The name of the society is **Genderbridge Incorporated**.

2. **Objects:** The objects for which the society is established are:
 - a. To support, assist and advocate for trans people and their community.

 - b. To promote the overall wellbeing of trans people and advocate for their social, cultural and political rights.

 - c. To promote or establish appropriate services for trans people, including a telephone help line and such services as may from time to time be deemed necessary.

 - d. To carry out educational services for the general public, run or promote seminars, produce publications and newsletters and any other suitable methods of publicity and information.

 - e. To do such other things as are incidental to or conducive of the above objects.

3. **Definition:** For the purposes of the society, a trans person is one whose gender expression or gender identity is at a variance with society's assigned gender role.

4. **Membership:** of the Group shall consist of people supportive of the group's aims.
 - a. Applications must be submitted in writing on the current published membership application form and voted in at a Board meeting. Upon acceptance of the application by the board payment of the current annual subscription, if levied, will be required to be paid. The membership shall commence upon receipt of the annual subscription, or where a fee is not levied, a written notification to the member by the board.

 - b. Members may resign their membership in writing and may be deemed to have resigned if their subscription remains unpaid three months after it is due.

 - c. Any member whose words or actions are believed to bring the society into disrepute or whose actions are believed to be incompatible with the objects of the society may be called upon to attend a meeting of the committee to discuss their actions. The committee having heard the member shall decide whether the acts of the member are incompatible with membership and may terminate the membership immediately.

5. **Officers of the Society:**
 - a. The annual meeting of the society shall elect a chairperson, vice chairperson, a secretary (who may also fill the role of treasurer) and a number of committee members to a total of no less than five and no more than ten.

 - b. The committee may make rules for the conduct of its meetings and may select such

other office bearers from among its members as it sees fit.

- c. The committee may co-opt from among members to fill a casual vacancy on the committee until the next annual general meeting.
- d. The quorum for committee meetings shall be 3 (if 5 members), 4 (if 6 or 7 members) or 5 (if 8 or 9 members) or 6 (if ten members).
- e. Committee members may resign in writing but may be deemed to have resigned (and must be replaced) if they miss three consecutive committee meetings without being given leave to be absent.
- f. The committee shall keep minutes of its meetings which shall be available on request to any member.
- g. In the event an officer or officers of the society resign during their term either a Special General Meeting can be called to re-elect members to the vacancy or the committee can co-opt a member to that vacancy at the committee's discretion.

6. Subscriptions: Subscriptions shall be payable yearly and shall be set by the annual general meeting

7. Meetings:

- a. An annual general meeting shall be held each year within six weeks of the end of the financial year which shall end on 31st March to consider the chairperson's report, a statement of accounts, confirm the subscription rate for the New Year and elect the officers.
- b. A notice of the AGM shall be sent to all members at their last known address fourteen days before the meetings, setting out the candidates for office, any notices of motion to be discussed and any other matters to be discussed at the meeting.
- c. Motions may be put from the floor at the meeting but only with the support of a majority of those present and voting, decided by a show of hands.
- d. Only full members may vote for the election of officers and on any change to these rules but associate members may vote on other matters.
- e. The quorum for general and special meetings shall be one quarter of the financial members.
- f. A special meeting must be called by the committee on the requisition of one third of the full members to consider the matter set out in the requisition. A special meeting must be called within six weeks of the date of the requisition and notified in the same manner as for an annual general meeting.
- g. The society shall hold general meetings as appropriate. Meetings shall be open to such members or non-members as the committee shall designate and people may be advised of such meetings by newsletter, telephone, email or such other means as the committee shall decide.

8. Finances:

- a. The committee shall operate a bank account and cheques are to be signed by two members of the committee nominated for that purpose.
- b. The society shall have no power to invest or to borrow money.

9. **Common Seal:** The society shall have a common seal which shall be held by the chairperson and only affixed by order of the committee duly authorised by resolution of an annual or special general meeting.

10. **Alteration of rules:** These rules may be altered only by resolution passed by a majority of full members at an annual or special general meeting where the text of the alteration has been duly notified in advance of the meeting.

11. Payments/benefits:

- a. Any income, benefit or advantage must be used to advance the charitable purposes of the organisation.
- b. No member of the organisation, or anyone associated with a member, is allowed to take part in, or influence any decision made by the organisation in respect to payments to, or on behalf of, the member or associated person of any income, benefit or advantage.
- c. Any payments made to a member of the organisation, or person associated with a member, must be for goods and services that advance the charitable purpose and must be reasonable and relative to payments that would be made between unrelated parties.

12. **Winding Up:** Should Genderbridge be wound up, if any property remains after the winding up or dissolution of the organisation and the settlement of all the organisations debts and liabilities, that property must either:

- a. Be used to further the purposes of the organisation and in accordance with its rules, or
- b. be given or transferred to another organisation that is charitable under New Zealand law and includes in its purposes ones similar to those of Genderbridge