

Uhuru Solidarity Movement Constitution and Bylaws

The National Steering Committee adopts the following articles for the Constitution and Bylaws for the Uhuru Solidarity Movement by authority of the National Central Committee of the African People's Solidarity Committee (APSC) as directed under the resolution adopted by the African People's Socialist Party USA (APSP USA) on July 14, 2010. This document was created and accepted by the National Steering Committee (NSC) on June 5, 2011.

ARTICLE 1. NAME AND ADDRESS

1. This association shall be organized as a not-for-profit corporation under the name: Uhuru Solidarity Movement, Inc. hereinafter referred to as the USM.
2. The USM works under the leadership of the African People's Socialist Party USA (APSP USA) through the agency of the African People's Solidarity Committee (APSC), as defined by Article 6.9 of the constitution of the APSP USA.
3. The place, checking account and address of the principle office of the USM shall be established by the National Steering Committee (NSC) of the USM with the approval of the National Central Committee (NCC) of APSC.
4. Other offices and checking accounts may be placed in other areas as may be determined by the NSC of the USM with the approval of the NCC of APSC.

ARTICLE 2. DURATION

1. The period of existence is permanent unless dissolved by the African People's Socialist Party USA directly or through the agency of the APSC NCC.
2. Existence shall commence immediately upon approval of this constitution by the National Steering Committee acting as the first National Steering Committee of the USM.
3. In the event of dissolution of the USM, the assets shall be distributed to the African People's Socialist Party USA.

ARTICLE 3. PURPOSES

SECTION 1. PURPOSES

1. Said association is organized exclusively as a not-for-profit corporation in connection with and through the agency of APSC.

2. The general purpose of the corporation is to stand in genuine solidarity with the African Liberation Movement led by the African People's Socialist Party USA. The anti-imperialist stance of the USM recognizes the historic role of Euro-Americans as an oppressor nation population and represents the principled actions that Euro-American people must take to support the right of Africans and all oppressed people to control their own resources, land and destiny.
3. The special purposes of the USM are to support reparations to African people by winning support and raising material resources in Euro-American communities throughout the world for the African Liberation Movement led by the African People's Socialist Party USA.

SECTION 2. RESTRICTIONS

1. The USM is organized as a separate association but subject to the supervision and control of the African People's Solidarity Committee.
2. No part of the net earnings of the USM shall benefit or be distributable to its members, officers or other private persons, except that the USM shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in this article.

ARTICLE 4. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. COMPOSITION

Membership in the USM shall be comprised of persons who sign a membership pledge, subscribing to the purposes of the USM and pay a membership fee that is determined by the USM National Steering Committee.

SECTION 2. MEMBERSHIP COLLECTION, BRANCHES AND ORGANIZING COMMITTEES

1. Membership applications shall be collected by a membership committee member either on a branch level and/or by an organizing committee (local and state level) on behalf of the USM National Office.
2. The member who collects a membership must use an official membership form that sets forth the name of the applying member, address, zip code, phone number, email address (if applicable), region, membership type and area of interest. The collector must place the form with the cash or check membership fee in an envelope and give a receipt to the donor, which sets forth the address, phone number and email address of the USM National Office.
3. The collector shall turn over the collections to the Membership Coordinator of the USM Branch, Organizing Committee or National Office. The Membership Coordinator shall register the collection on a membership report form and give the fees to the Treasurer who will deposit the funds in the USM checking account within one week of receipt of the collection.

4. The membership report form sets forth the name, address, zip code, phone number, email address (if applicable), region, membership type, area of interest, amount received and the amount to forward to the USM National Office.
5. Within one week, the USM Membership Coordinator will email the new member's name, address, zip code, phone number, email address (if applicable), region, membership type, area of interest, amount received and amount to forward to the USM National Office.
6. The NSC of the USM will determine the percentage of the membership fees that will be designated for the USM National Office.
7. At least once per month, the Membership Coordinator will receive payment from the Branch Treasurer and will remit the appropriate percentage to the USM National Office. The Membership Coordinator will send this money along with the membership report form for that time period to the USM National Office. At least once per month, the Membership Coordinator will present the membership report for that month, including money amounts sent and kept, to the Branch or Organizing Committee Steering Committee for approval.
8. The USM National Membership Office shall issue membership cards, signed by the National Membership Administrator, and mail the cards as part of the membership packet to the new members within one week of receiving the new member's information via email and will update the national membership database with new member's information. A local branch may request that membership cards be sent to the branch office to be distributed to new members joining through that local branch.
9. Branches and Organizing Committees will follow the USM Bank Policy to open and operate a bank account.
10. New memberships received through the USM website will result in an email notification to the National Membership Administrator and National Membership Chair. The funds received through the website membership will be deposited into the national USM bank account. The National Membership Administrator will forward the contact information of the new member to appropriate regional/local membership chair(s) and will update the national membership database with new member's information. The National Membership Office shall issue membership cards, signed by the National Membership Administrator, and mail the cards as part of the membership packet to new members registering through the website within one week of paid membership registration.

ARTICLE 5 NATIONAL GOVERNING STRUCTURE

SECTION 1. POWERS

The governing structure shall consist of the National Convention and the National Steering Committee. The National Steering Committee shall be empowered to terminate the membership of any individual for gross violations of the USM policies and by-laws and actions harmful to the unity or functioning of the organization in its stand of solidarity for national democratic rights and self determination of African people everywhere. The NSC shall initiate an investigation and inquiry to determine the validity of the allegations of policy violations by any of its members worldwide. These investigations and inquiries will be conducted in a manner as to provide due process to the member(s) facing allegations of misconduct. Investigations of misconduct and the resolution of these cases will be completed within 90 days. The accused member who is the subject to an investigation may be suspended or removed from participation in the USM activities until the completion of the investigation. Upon completion of the investigation the NSC will render a decision that may include a range of options concerning the allegations, up to termination of membership. The determinations of disciplinary action shall be made by a majority vote of the NSC.

SECTION 2. ORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE USM

1. The National Convention of the USM is the main educational, policy-making, advisory and advocacy body of the membership of the USM to the National Steering Committee. The National Convention shall consist of members and delegates (who are also members) of state conferences, regional conferences, local branches and local organizing committees who are members.
2. The National Convention agenda and program shall be established by the National Steering Committee, including arrangements and support.
3. The agenda and program of the National Convention shall provide for full opportunity to delegates for the reporting of state and local actions and for the presentation and discussion of proposed policy resolutions on international actions and concerns provided same are submitted to the National Steering Committee at least one month before the Convention for its comments and copies made thereof for the Convention participants available upon registration. The National Steering Committee will send proposed policy resolutions to all of the USM branches and other representatives at least one month before the Convention.
4. The National Chair shall appoint a Resolution Committee who shall review the resolutions before being submitted to the Convention for recommendation to the National Steering Committee as to their appropriateness for discussion by the Convention regarding being consistent with the policies of the African People's Solidarity Committee.

5. Resolutions submitted from the floor without review by the National Steering Committee as described herein can only come to the floor as emergency resolutions approved by the National Chair.

SECTION 3. TIME AND PLACE OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

The National Convention of the USM shall be held on an annual basis at such time and place as determined by the National Steering Committee.

SECTION 4. ORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

1. The National Steering Committee shall be comprised of the National Chair, the other National Officers as described in Article 8 of this Constitution, and such number of designated representatives approved by the NCC of the APSC subject to the approval by the NCC of the APSP USA.
2. The National Steering Committee in place shall recommend the membership of the succeeding National Steering Committee to the Convention, except for the National Chair, who shall be selected as defined in Article 7 of this Constitution. The membership of the National Steering Committee, except for the National Chair, will be elected by the Convention annually.
3. Members of the National Steering Committee shall be members of the USM.
4. Members of the National Steering Committee may be removed for cause by the NCC of the APSC, the National Chair of the USM or directly by the APSP USA.

SECTION 5. TIME AND PLACE OF MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE USM.

The National Steering Committee shall meet on a quarterly basis and at such other time and places as determined by the National Chair.

ARTICLE 6. LOCAL GOVERNING STRUCTURES

SECTION 1. GENERAL

The National Steering Committee must establish and empower organizing committees of the USM on a state level and on the city or county level comprised of persons approved by the National Steering Committee or the National Chair or his or her designated representative including the organization of state conferences and local branches of the USM.

SECTION 2. REGIONAL CONFERENCES OF THE USM

1. The National Steering Committee of the USM shall establish a standard constitution and bylaws for regional conferences of the USM allowing for full democratic organization and practice, subject to the approval of the National Central Committee of the African People's Solidarity Committee.
2. When a regional conference is established, the regional conference, subject to the approval of the National Steering Committee and the National Chair, shall represent the National Steering Committee

in representing the USM on a regional level and shall supervise the organization and activities of the local organizing committees and branches.

3. Upon finding of cause by the National Chair, or his or her representative, that the regional conference and its representatives are not complying with the policies of the USM, the National Chair or his/her representative, subject to the approval of the National Steering Committee, can remove the officers and members of the regional conference, and establish a trusteeship and trustee over the assets and affairs of the regional conference until the cause and its conditions are removed.

SECTION 3. STATE CONFERENCES OF THE USM

1. The National Steering Committee of the USM shall establish a standard constitution and bylaws for state conferences of the USM allowing for full democratic organization and practice, subject to the approval of the National Central Committee of the African People's Solidarity Committee.
2. When a state conference is established, the state conference, subject to the approval of the National Steering Committee and the National Chair, shall represent the National Steering Committee in representing the USM on a state level and shall supervise the organization and activities of the local organizing committees and branches.
3. Upon finding of cause by the National Chair, or his or her representative, that the state conference and its representatives are not complying with the policies of the USM, the National Chair or his/her representative, subject to the approval of the National Steering Committee, can remove the officers and members of the state conference, and establish a trusteeship and trustee over the assets and affairs of the state conference until the cause and its conditions are removed.

SECTION 4. LOCAL BRANCHES OF THE USM

1. The National Steering Committee of the USM shall establish a standard constitution and bylaws for local branches of the USM allowing for full democratic organization and practice, subject to the approval of the National Central Committee of the African People's Solidarity Committee.
2. Where a local branch is established, the local branch, subject to the approval of the National Steering Committee, or the Regional or State Conference if one is operating, shall represent the National Steering Committee of the USM in representing the USM on a local level.
3. Upon finding of cause by the National Chair, or his/her representative, that the local branch and its representatives are not complying with the policies of the USM, the National Chair can direct the Regional or State Conference, if one is operating, subject to the approval of the National Steering Committee, to remove the officers and members of the local branch, and establish a trusteeship and trustee over the assets and affairs of the branch until the cause and its conditions are removed. In the

absence of a Regional or State Conference, the National Chair, subject to the approval of the National Steering Committee, can remove the officers and members of the local branch directly.

ARTICLE 7 NATIONAL CHAIR OF THE USM

1. The National Chair of the USM shall be a member of the USM and a representative of the African People's Solidarity Committee appointed by the National Central Committee of the APSC, subject to the advice of the National Steering Committee of the USM, who shall serve at the will of the African People's Solidarity Committee's National Central Committee subject to the approval of National Central Committee of the APSP USA.
2. Between meetings of the National Steering Committee, the National Chair shall have authority to exercise all of the powers of the USM.
3. The National Steering Committee may pay reasonable compensation to the National Chair to serve on a full-time basis.

ARTICLE 8. OTHER NATIONAL OFFICERS

Other officers of this Organization shall include a Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Chair, and Reparations in Action Chair. Other Chairs may be determined and appointed by the National Steering Committee with such powers and duties as described in the Roberts Rules of Order (Newly Revised) and pursuant to rules of procedure adopted by the National Steering Committee.

ARTICLE 9. SUPPLEMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

The NSC of the USM will establish an organizational manual that may resolve and explain issues not addressed directly within this Constitution. The USM organizational manual shall be used for guidance when necessary for clarification concerning USM issues not specified in the Constitution.

ARTICLE 10. ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER (NEWLY REVISED)

This Organization shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order (Newly Revised) that are not inconsistent with these articles or rules of procedure adopted and approved by the National Steering Committee.

ARTICLE 11. AMENDMENTS

This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended or revised by a two-thirds majority vote of those voting members present and voting at the National Convention, subject to the approval of the National Steering Committee of the USM and the National Central Committee of the African People's Solidarity Committee.