

# **CONSTITUTION OF THE CONNOLLY YOUTH MOVEMENT**

## **Article 1**

### **Name**

This organisation will be called the Connolly Youth Movement.

## **Article 2**

### **Objectives**

The objectives of the CYM are:

- (i) The establishment of a united, independent, democratic socialist Republic.
- (ii) To educate young people in politics and scientific socialism.
- (iii) To build a movement of youth for socialism and internationalism, against colonialism and imperialism.
- (iv) To promote a progressive youth culture and help provide an outlet for it.
- (v) To help build the communist movement and membership in Trade Unions.

## **Article 3**

### **Membership**

Membership shall be open to all young people between the ages of 14 to 30 who agree to this Constitution and the Programme of the CYM. The General Secretary shall verify CYM membership when registering new members. Where membership fees are to be charged, they will be determined by the National Treasurer.

A member may only be expelled by:

- (i) Majority vote of a Branch.
- (ii) Majority vote of a Congress / National Meeting.

Reasons for expelling a member must be reported to the NEC. Any expelled member may appeal this decision to the NEC.

Any member may speak at Congress / Meetings, propose standing orders and propose amendments to the Constitution or submissions to the Programme / Manifesto or National Strategy, provided they submit them to the NEC with reasonable time before the Congress / National Meeting.

## **Article 4**

### **National Executive Officers**

The executive officers of the CYM shall be members of the CYM at the time of election, and shall consist of National Chairperson, National Treasurer and General Secretary and such other officers as the CYM deems necessary. They shall hold office for one year and shall be elected by separate vote

from among the members of the CYM at Congress. These officers shall form part of the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the CYM.

(i) The National Chairperson shall convene and chair all NEC meetings and will be responsible for co-ordinating and organising the CYM. He /she will act as the national and international representative of the CYM, where no other appropriate officers exist. The National Chairperson shall also chair Congress and any National Meetings.

(ii) The National Treasurer shall be in charge of maintaining the CYM's finances as detailed in Article 11. The National Treasurer shall also be responsible for developing and implementing policies for increasing and maintaining current income.

(iii) The General Secretary shall be responsible for all the CYM's records as detailed in Article 5. The General Secretary shall also be in charge of all the CYM's correspondence. He / she shall also be in charge of increasing and maintaining current membership and public relations, where no other appropriate executive officers exist.

## **Article 5**

### **Records**

Records shall be kept by the General Secretary and made available for inspection to any member of the CYM or to the NEC on demand. These records will include minutes of any NEC meetings, minutes of Congress / National Meetings and the Annual Report. Full details of all officers will be recorded, and current membership lists shall be maintained, including details of membership fees paid (if any) and CPI membership.

## **Article 6**

### **National Executive Committee (NEC)**

A committee consisting of the National Executive Officers and those members elected at Congress shall govern the CYM. The NEC shall act collectively to govern the organisation and take any pressing decisions at a national level. The National Chairperson shall chair the NEC. The NEC shall hold office for one year and shall meet not less than once every three months. The NEC shall be charged with drafting the Programme of the CYM and a National Strategy to be submitted to Congress.

The NEC has the power to create ad-hoc committees to address or govern particular issues or policies.

5 members of the CYM shall sit on the NEC. These shall be the 3 National Officers elected at Congress and a member each from the Dublin and Belfast branches as elected at Congress.

## **Article 7**

### **Vacation of Office**

Any officer shall vacate her office upon resignation or upon dismissal from her office by resolution of Congress or by a petition submitted to the NEC supported by a majority of the branches or by a majority of the CYM's members.

## **Article 8**

### **Casual Vacancies**

Casual vacancies, whether of officers or members of the NEC, shall be filled by election from among the members of the CYM under such rules of procedure as the NEC shall direct. All those elected to such casual vacancies shall be current members.

## **Article 9**

### **National Congress**

The National Congress is the supreme decision-making body of the CYM. This Congress shall be held annually. Not less than fourteen clear days' notice of the Congress shall be given to members. The Congress should be composed of:

- (i) All Members, or
- (ii) Delegates from each Branch. The number of delegates to be determined by the NEC or Congress/National Meeting.

Which of these compositions is to be used for each individual Congress should be determined by the NEC or by Congress Meeting. These composition rules only refer to those with voting rights at Congress.

Congress has the power to create committees to address or govern particular issues or policies. These may be created on a permanent or ad-hoc basis.

## **Article 10**

### **National Meetings**

These shall be called at the discretion of the NEC or at the written request of a majority of branches or a majority of members of the CYM. Notice of not less than fourteen days shall be given. National Meetings will have the same power and composition as Congress.

## **Article 11**

### **Finance**

The National Treasurer shall determine what membership fees are to be levied. These will be included in the budget for the next year. This budget shall be presented at Congress to be voted on, and amended if necessary.

The National Treasurer shall maintain a national accounts book detailing all

expenditure and income. The National Treasurer shall also have responsibility for the bank account of the organisation, and shall sign all cheques. On vacating office the National Treasurer of the CYM shall hand over the books of account to her duly elected successor.

## **Article 12**

### **Branches**

Branches are the basic component of the organisation and are to be formed on a local basis. They will work locally to achieve the objectives of the CYM. They are to abide by this constitution and the programme of the CYM. All branches must be democratic. There are two types of Branch. These are:

#### **(i) Branch**

This is to be composed of three or more members, with at least two being the executive positions of branch Chairperson and branch Secretary or equivalents. That is, one person to organise the branch's activities and generally direct it and another to take minutes, maintain correspondence, finance and public relations. It must also be recognised as a Branch by the NEC.

#### **(ii) Provisional Branch**

This is any other branch.

A branch can be disaffiliated from the CYM by a majority vote of a Congress / National Meeting. This decision may be appealed to the NEC.

Branches will be charged with proposing any standing orders and amendments to the Constitution or submissions to Programme / Manifesto or National Strategy at Congress / National Meetings. These are to be submitted to the NEC with reasonable time before the Congress / National Meeting.

## **Article 13**

### **Relationship with the Communist Party of Ireland**

The CYM shall be organisationally independent of the CPI, but shall support its programme and activities.

Membership of the CPI shall be open to CYM members according to the CPI's constitution. The CYM, may at the discretion of the CPI, send observers to the CPI's National Congress.

## **Article 14**

### **Amendment of the Constitution and Emergency Provisions**

This constitution may be amended or altered only by a resolution supported by a majority of the members present and voting at a Congress or National Meeting, provided that no alteration shall contravene any part of the Objectives contained in this Constitution or the Programme / Manifesto of the CYM be valid unless and until it is allowed by the NEC.

Resolutions and amendments to either the Constitution or Programme by a branch of the CYM or an individual member must be accepted prior to Congress by the NEC.

This Constitution should be available to any Connolly Youth Movement member on request.