

CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR
IRISH JUSTICE

GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT

The purpose of the National Association for Irish Justice is to establish broad public support in the United States for the demands of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association and self determination for the people of Ireland. The National Association for Irish Justice is an association of diverse groups united in their support for the Irish people. Consequently, the National Association for Irish Justice should not take specific stands on issues not directly related to the Irish situation. However, this in no way limits the prerogative of local autonomous groups or affiliates of taking specific stands.

The National Association for Irish Justice supports the struggle to achieve equal rights for all people. It also supports the right of every man to a standard of living which allows him to live with dignity and which supports the right of every nation to self-determination, and reiterates its opposition to any form of economic, political or military imperialism.

ARTICLE I

TITLE

The name of this unincorporated organization shall be National Association for Irish Justice.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

A. The National Association for Irish Justice is the co-ordinating body dedicated to enlisting aid from the American people for civil rights and political freedom in the thirty-two (32) counties of Ireland. We further call upon all bodies subscribing to a belief in civil and political liberty to affiliate with the National Association for Irish Justice. It is recognized by this

conference that the National Association for Irish Justice is the official body, and recognized by this conference as such, for the co-ordinating of American aid to civil rights and political freedom in the thirty-two (32) counties of Ireland.

B. It is hereby agreed that the National Association for Irish Justice supports all organizations subscribing to the aims of the National Association for Irish Justice.

ARTICLE III

AIMS

A. The National Association for Irish Justice supports the political and economic freedom of all Ireland.

B. The National Association for Irish Justice accepts responsibility for advancing the cause of the political and economic unity of Ireland.

C. To educate the American public on conditions in Ireland, and on the issues involved in the present struggle for justice.

D. To assist in the organization of groups throughout the United States to support the Irish struggle for civil rights and political freedom.

E. The primary emphasis of the National Association for Irish Justice is on the achievement of full civil rights in Northern Ireland through the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

A. The National Association for Irish Justice shall embrace persons of all beliefs, and membership is open to all regardless of sex, nationality or race, and political or religious beliefs shall not disbar one from membership.

B. Membership of the National Association for Irish Justice may be by individuals or groups, the only criteria for such membership being dependent on their subscribing to the aims of the Association.

ARTICLE V

FINANCE

A. Individual dues payable for membership shall be at the rate of \$3.00 per year and groups shall be charged \$1.00 per year per member plus a basic affiliation fee in proportion to size. The affiliation fee to be worked out by the National Committee.

ARTICLE V (cont'd)

B. The Executive Committee of the National Association for Irish Justice shall be responsible for the collection of all monies on behalf of the Association.

C. All monies donated to the National Association for Irish Justice with specific intention including monies for the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association shall be so allocated by the Association. Disbursement of unspecified funds shall be the responsibility of the Executive Committee.

D. None of the above subsections shall prevent the National Association for Irish Justice from setting priorities for its own operational expenses.

ARTICLE VI

ORGANIZATION

A. The Executive Committee of the National Association for Irish Justice shall be elected by the Annual Conference and serve for a one year term.

B. The National Association for Irish Justice is responsible only to Annual Conference or Special Conference convened by a majority of its affiliated bodies. Voting shall be confined to delegates present.

C. The Executive Committee shall assume ultimate responsibility for all affairs relative to the National Association for Irish Justice. It shall be responsible to the Annual Conference or Special Conference convened according to rule.

D. The Executive Committee shall consist of twelve (12) members: National Coordinator, Executive Secretary, Recording Secretary, West Coast Secretary (appointed), National Student Coordinator, Treasurer and six other members.

E. A quorum of at least seven (7) members of the Executive Committee shall be required to hold a meeting. A simple majority of the membership of the Executive Committee shall be required to pass resolutions and decisions.

F. The Executive Committee shall hold regular meetings. In case of emergency meetings, considering policy, each member shall be notified by the Recording Secretary. Proposed agenda shall be sent to each member in advance of all regular and policy meetings.

G. At least eight (8) members of the Executive Committee shall be members of National Association for Irish Justice affiliated groups.

ARTICLE VI (cont'd)

H. Any member of the National Association for Irish Justice Executive Committee may be disbarred from working with and making decisions on behalf of the Association by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the National Committee. Such disbarment shall not terminate membership on the Executive Committee and any such penalized member shall have recourse to appeal to special conference as provided by rule.

E. Any member of the National Committee registered out of the areas where meetings are held shall be eligible to vote at meetings of the Executive Committee attended. All National Committee members shall be notified of regular Executive Committee or Emergency meetings concerning policy and shall receive copies of the proposed agenda.

J. Vacancies on the Executive Committee caused by resignation, death, etc. may be filled by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the National Committee.

K. A National Committee shall be elected by the Annual Conference. In addition, one member from each of the following areas elected by regional conference: One (1) from the West Coast; One (1) from the Mid-West; One (1) from the South; One (1) from the South-East; One (1) from New England; One (1) from the Eastern Seaboard (Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.)

L. Local affiliates of the National Association for Irish Justice shall be autonomous in their own areas as to tactics of support for the struggle in Ireland and shall only come under the direction of the National Association for Irish Justice on nationally coordinated activities and on questions regarding Civil Rights Association policies.

ARTICLE VII

The National Coordinator, with the approval of the Executive Committee, will appoint national organizers to handle all work and activities of the Association. The staff will be made up of a Student Organizer; New York Organizer; Executive Secretary; Labor Organizer; and other staff necessary to develop adequate support for the struggle in Ireland.

ARTICLE VIII

The National Committee shall meet at the beginning of each new quarter, there review the work of the National Executive, and discuss future activities of the National Association for Irish Justice and if necessary call for a special convening of a conference as provided by rule.

ARTICLE IX

DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

A. Executive Committee: It shall establish general policy of the Association, receive financial support quarterly, and assist the functioning of the National

ARTICLE IX (cont'd.)

B. National Coordinator: Shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Association with the duty of implementing policy set by the majority vote of the membership.

C. Treasurer: Shall handle all funds paid to or given to the Association and shall report yearly to the general membership and quarterly to the Executive Committee.

All financial transactions shall be audited yearly by a non-member agency.

All disbursements shall require the signatures of the Treasurer and the National Coordinator or, in the absence of the latter, the Executive Secretary.

D. Executive Secretary: Shall maintain contact between the National Office of the Association and the general membership of the Association; and all Irish and American groups interested in Irish Justice. Shall handle general communications of the National Office.

E. Recording Secretary: Shall be responsible for taking and distributing minutes of the Annual Conference and the Executive and National Committee meetings; Shall be responsible for keeping National Records. The Secretary shall notify the members of the Executive and National Committees of Regular Meetings or Special Policy Meetings of both of these Committees and shall send those members the proposed agenda and the minutes of these meetings.

F. West Coast Secretary: Shall serve as liason between the membership of the Association on the West Coast and the National Office of the Association.

G. Student Organizer: Shall disseminate information on the Irish struggle to the Universities and High Schools throughout the country and organize school groups in support of Irish Justice.