

Levana Gender Advocacy Centre: Constitution

Article I: Name

This organization is officially known as ‘the Levana Gender Advocacy Centre,’ hereafter referred to as ‘Levana’ for the purposes of this document.

Article II: Mandate

Levana is a student-funded feminist organization, committed to creating and nurturing a radical community of Kingston students and residents devoted to fighting gender oppression and advocating for broad ideas of gender empowerment (for those of any or no gender). Levana operates on an anti-oppressive framework and therefore is committed to confronting all forms of oppression and working to dismantle oppressive systems and hierarchies including patriarchy, white privilege, colonialism, classism, cis privilege (non-trans privilege), heterosexual privilege, and able-bodied privilege. Levana exists for anyone in the Kingston community, regardless of whether or not they are Queen’s students.

Article III: Objectives

The objectives of the organization are:

1. To organize ongoing programming and actions to challenge systems of oppression (e.g. sexism, transphobia, etc.) and advocate for gender justice and diversity.
2. To strive to provide a safer space for all people who experience gender oppression, and engage in the creation and reclamation of space in Kingston and on the Queen’s University campus to allow individual and community expression.
3. To provide confidential referrals to local organizations and resources.
4. To serve as a point of connection between different feminist and gender organizations, groups, and initiatives at Queen’s University and in the Kingston community, supporting the work and people involved through funding, the use of resources, and space to meet and organize.
5. To operate a feminist resource library and zine collection, open to the public, directed by membership contributions and requests.

Article IV: Affiliation with the Alma Mater Society (AMS)

The Centre recognizes the following sections of the AMS constitution: 2.01.03, 7.01, and 7.02.

Article V: Membership

1. There shall be the following categories of membership:
 - a. Student members
 - b. Community members

2. Eligibility
 - a. Any Queen's undergraduate student having paid the opt-outable student fee for the year (\$1.25) is a member of Levana.
 - b. A community member or student not subject to the opt-outable student fee becomes a member of Levana upon a yearly payment of the equivalent of the student fee.

Article VI: Fees

Queen's undergraduate students pay fees with their school registration fees. This fee has been set through a referendum, voted upon by the student body, and cannot be changed except through referendum.

1. Student members shall pay fees in the amount of the opt-outable student fee for Levana.
2. Non-student members shall pay fees equal to the opt-outable student fee that student members pay.

Article VII: Steering Collective

1. Composition and Remuneration
 - a. The Steering Collective is a group that is directed by the Levana membership to make decisions in line with the Levana Constitution and mandate.
 - b. The Steering Collective consists of six to eight members that should reflect the body for whom Levana services are provided, selected through an application and interview process by all existing Steering Collective members.
 - c. No remuneration shall be paid to members of the Steering Collective. However, members shall be reimbursed for all expenses incurred by them while engaged in Levana affairs, subject to authorization by the Steering Collective in accordance with the guidelines set out by the Collective.
 - d. The members of the Steering Collective shall operate in a non-hierarchical and consensus-based manner, each having an equal vote/voice in meetings and decision-making.
2. Duties and Powers
 - a. The management, administration, and control of the affairs of Levana are vested in the Steering Collective, subject to this Constitution.
 - b. The board shall:
 - i. Make changes to Levana policy as it considers advisable for the conduct of the affairs of Levana that such rules and regulations are consistent with the Constitution.
 - ii. Appoint committees and delegations to carry out special tasks deemed necessary by the Collective.
 - iii. Adopt and manage the annual budget.
 - iv. Ensure the keeping of proper financial records.
 - v. Maintain accountability and transparency to the membership.

3. Steering Collective Meetings

- a. The Collective shall hold regularly scheduled meetings.
- b. Written notice of Collective meetings shall be given a week in advance with a proposed agenda.
- c. The responsibilities of taking minutes, facilitation, timekeeping, and the scheduling of meetings will be shared by the Collective.
- d. Quorum for Collective meetings is simple majority of regular Collective members, excepting any members on leave.

Article VIII: Finances

1. The fiscal year shall end on the 31st of August.
2. The Collective shall approve the budget.
3. The budget shall be made available upon request.