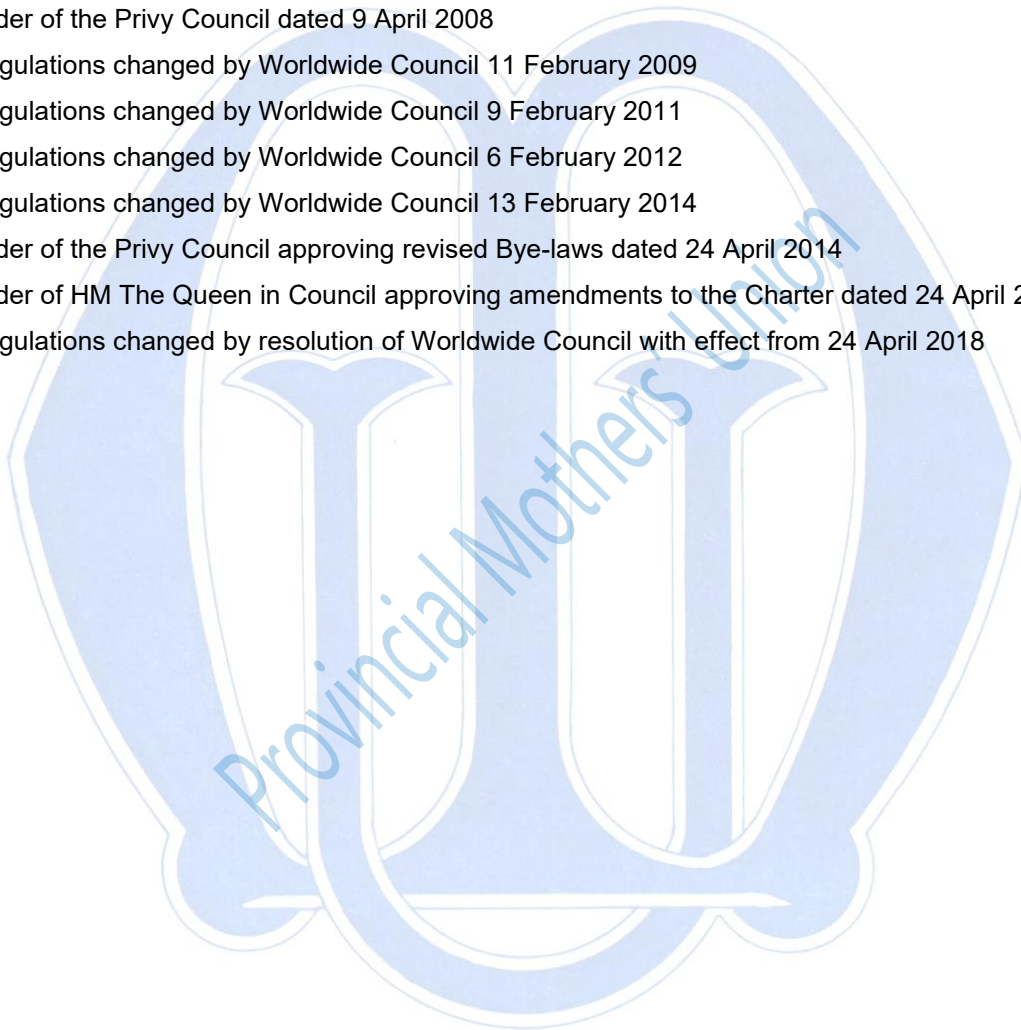

THE CONSTITUTION OF MOTHERS' UNION 24 APRIL 2018



**THE CONSTITUTION
OF
MOTHERS' UNION**

Amended by:

- Supplemental Charter dated 6 September 1974
- Order of the Privy Council dated 28 June 1995
- Order of the Privy Council dated 17 September 2002
- Order of the Privy Council dated 10 October 2002
- Order of the Privy Council dated 9 April 2008
- Regulations changed by Worldwide Council 11 February 2009
- Regulations changed by Worldwide Council 9 February 2011
- Regulations changed by Worldwide Council 6 February 2012
- Regulations changed by Worldwide Council 13 February 2014
- Order of the Privy Council approving revised Bye-laws dated 24 April 2014
- Order of HM The Queen in Council approving amendments to the Charter dated 24 April 2018
- Regulations changed by resolution of Worldwide Council with effect from 24 April 2018



ROYAL CHARTER

MOTHERS' UNION

(Incorporated by Royal Charter)

ELIZABETH THE SECOND by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Our other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith:

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETINGS!

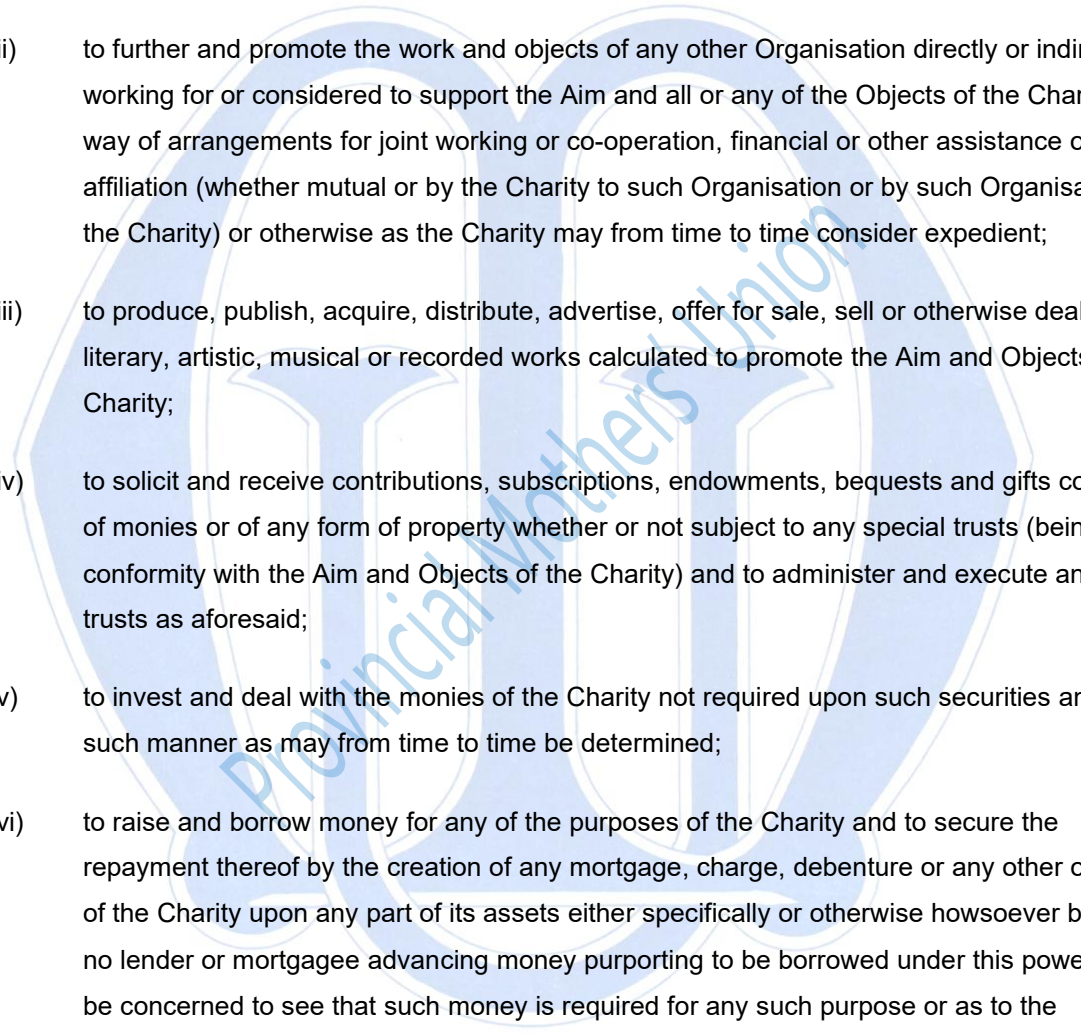
WHEREAS an Association known as "THE MOTHERS' UNION" (Incorporated) was registered under the Companies (Consolidation) Act 1908 Company limited by guarantee in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and twelve:

AND WHEREAS His Majesty King George the Fifth by Royal Charter (hereinafter referred to "the Original Charter") dated the fifteenth day of June One thousand nine hundred and twenty-six constituted a Body Politic and Corporate by the name of "The Mothers' Union" (therein and hereinafter referred to as "the Society") with perpetual succession and a Common Seal:

AND WHEREAS the Society has presented unto us a humble Petition praying that We should be graciously pleased to grant to it a new Charter:

NOW THEREFORE KNOW YE that We having taking the said Petition into Our Royal Consideration have of Our especial grace, certain knowledge and mere motion willed and ordained and do by these Presents for Us, Our Heirs and Successors will and ordain as follows: -

1. The provisions of the Original Charter, except in so far as they incorporate the Charity and confer upon it perpetual succession and authorise it to have a Common Seal, are hereby revoked and the provisions of this Our Charter are hereby substituted therefor, but nothing in this revocation shall affect the legality or validity of any act, deed or thing lawfully done or executed there under.
2. The Aim of the Charity is the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life, and in furtherance of the said Aim (but not otherwise) to carry out all or any of the following Objects, that is to say-
 - (i) to uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and to provide its wider understanding;
 - (ii) to encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the Church;
 - (iii) to maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service;
 - (iv) to promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children;
 - (v) to help those whose family life has met with adversity.
3. For the better attainment of the foregoing Aim and Objects the Charity shall have the following powers:-

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- (i) to establish and support, financially or otherwise, Provincial, Diocesan and other organisations of the Charity throughout the world, to recognise and affiliate such organisations to the Charity on such terms as the Charity shall from time to time think fit, to authorise the use by such organisations of the name "Mothers' Union" or any translation thereof, addition thereto or substitution therefor on such terms as aforesaid and whenever the Charity shall so determine to withdraw all or any of such support, recognition, affiliation or authority from any one or more of such organisations, and after such withdrawal to take steps to cause such Organisation to cease to use the name "Mothers' Union", or any translation thereof, or any name likely to be confused therewith;
 - (ii) to further and promote the work and objects of any other Organisation directly or indirectly working for or considered to support the Aim and all or any of the Objects of the Charity, by way of arrangements for joint working or co-operation, financial or other assistance or support, affiliation (whether mutual or by the Charity to such Organisation or by such Organisation to the Charity) or otherwise as the Charity may from time to time consider expedient;
 - (iii) to produce, publish, acquire, distribute, advertise, offer for sale, sell or otherwise deal in any literary, artistic, musical or recorded works calculated to promote the Aim and Objects of the Charity;
 - (iv) to solicit and receive contributions, subscriptions, endowments, bequests and gifts consisting of monies or of any form of property whether or not subject to any special trusts (being in conformity with the Aim and Objects of the Charity) and to administer and execute any such trusts as aforesaid;
 - (v) to invest and deal with the monies of the Charity not required upon such securities and in such manner as may from time to time be determined;
 - (vi) to raise and borrow money for any of the purposes of the Charity and to secure the repayment thereof by the creation of any mortgage, charge, debenture or any other obligation of the Charity upon any part of its assets either specifically or otherwise howsoever by so that no lender or mortgagee advancing money purporting to be borrowed under this power shall be concerned to see that such money is required for any such purpose or as to the application thereof;
 - (vii) to grant and pay salaries, pensions, gratuities or other sums in consideration or recognition of services rendered to the Charity;
 - (viii) to acquire any lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever within Our United Kingdom or elsewhere and to hold all or any lands which the Charity is hereby authorised to acquire in perpetuity or on lease or otherwise and from time to time (by subject to any such consent or

approval as may by law be required) to grant, demise, alienate or otherwise dispose of the same or any part thereof;

- (ix) to improve, manage, develop, sell, exchange, mortgage or otherwise deal with or turn to account (but subject to any consent or approval as may by law be required) all or any of the property of the Charity;
- (x) to do all such other acts and things as shall further the attainment of the Aim and Objects or the exercise of any of the powers of the Charity or of any affiliated Organisation: Provided that notwithstanding anything in this Article contained the Charity shall have no power to pay or apply any money or property except in furtherance of objects which are exclusively charitable according to the Law of England and each of the several powers conferred upon it by this Article shall be read, construed and take effect subject to this overriding limitation.

4. The terms and conditions of membership of the Charity shall be prescribed Bye-Laws.
5. The Charity shall consist of such categories of membership as may be prescribed by the Bye-Laws, and members shall have such rights and privileges respectively as shall be conferred upon them by the Bye-Laws.
6.
 - (i) There shall be a President of the Charity who shall be known as the Worldwide President of Mothers' Union.
 - (ii) There shall be a Board of Trustees of the Charity constituted in accordance with the Bye-Laws
Subject to the provisions of this Our Charter and the Bye-Laws, the Board of Trustees (hereinafter referred to as "the Board") shall have the control and management of the affairs of the Charity and shall be convened and shall conduct its proceedings in the manner prescribed by the Bye-Laws.
 - (iii) There shall be a Worldwide Council of the Charity constituted in accordance with the Bye-Laws
7. Subject to the provisions of this Our Charter, the affairs of the Charity shall be managed and regulated in accordance with the Bye-Laws set forth in the Schedule hereto, as amended, added to or replaced in accordance with this Article. The Bye-Laws may from time to time be amended, added to, replaced, or repealed by the Board by a resolution of three-quarters of those members of the Board present and voting at a meeting. Provided that no such amendment, addition, replacement, or repeal shall be effectual unless it shall have been approved by the Lords of Our Most Honourable Privy

Council of which approval a Certificate under the hand of the Clark of Our said Council shall be conclusive evidence.

8. Subject to approval by Special Resolution of the Worldwide Council, the Board may, by resolution of three-quarters of those members of the Board present and voting at a meeting, amend, add to or revoke any of the provisions of the Original Charter or of this Our Charter, or of any supplemental Charter granted by the Charity, and any such amendment, addition or revocation shall, when allowed by Us, Our Heirs or Successors in Council, become effectual so that the relevant Charter shall thenceforth continue and operate as though it had been originally granted as so amended, added to or revoked in manner aforesaid. Provided that no amendment, addition or revocation shall be made which would cause the Charity to cease to be a charity at law. This Article shall apply to the Original Charter and to this Our Charter as amended, added to, or revoked, in manner aforesaid.
9. It shall be lawful to the Worldwide Council with the sanction by Us, Our Heirs or Successors in Council and upon such terms as We or They think fit, by Special Resolution or surrender the Original Charter, this Our Charter and any Supplemental Charter and to wind up the affairs of the Charity, but if on the winding up or dissolution of the Charity there shall remain after the sanitation of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the charity or any of them but shall (subject to any special trusts affecting the same) be transferred to some affiliated Organisation or affiliated organisations or to some other institution or institutions having exclusively charitable objects of a Christian character similar to the Aim and Objects of the Charity to be determined by the Worldwide Council at or before the time of dissolution or in default thereof by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.
10. For the purpose of Articles 8 and 9 of this Our Charter a Special Resolution shall mean a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of such members of the Worldwide Council as being entitled so to do, vote at a meeting of the Worldwide Council of which not less than twenty-one days' notice, specifying the intention to propose the resolution as a Special Resolution, has been duly given in accordance with the Bye-Laws.

And Lastly, We do hereby for by Us, Our Heirs or Successors grant and declare that these Our Letters or the enrolment thereof shall be in all things valid and effectual in law according to the true intent and meaning of the same and shall be taken, construed and adjudicated in the most favourable and beneficial sense and to the best advantage of the Charity as well in Our Courts as elsewhere notwithstanding any non-recital uncertainty or imperfection in these Our Letters.

IN WITNESS whereof We have cause these Our Letters to be made Patent.

WITNESS Ourselves at Westminster the fifth day of September in the twenty-third year of Our Reign.



PROVINCIAL MOTHERS' UNION

To view the entire Mothers' Union
Constitution 2018

Please contact Mothers' Union Offices on
email at:

muprov@anglicanchurchsa.org.za
