

OBJECT

**Women not
Sex Objects**

Object Constitution

**www.object.org.uk
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Objectives

- i. To ensure the media and popular culture promotes equality and respect with regard to gender in order to help ensure a safe, just and inclusive environment for women, children and men.
- ii. To promote education, awareness and understanding and to disseminate knowledge about the harmful impact of media stereotyping on social belief systems and the changes needed in popular culture and social belief systems to achieve a safe and equitable environment.

Values

To welcome all who share our aspirations

To incorporate an ethos of equal opportunities at all levels of our operation

To encourage user participation

To operate with honesty and integrity in all our dealings

Administration

The organisation and its property shall be administered and managed in accordance with this constitution by an Executive Committee

Powers

To further the Organisation's objectives, the Executive Committee may :

1. Publicise, campaign and exercise political influence
2. Write, print or otherwise reproduce by any means of recorded audio and/or visual information whether now or hereafter invented and circulate, gratuitously or otherwise, periodicals, magazines, books, leaflets or other documents
3. Hold exhibitions, meetings, lectures, classes, seminars, workshops, courses or other events either alone or with others
4. Promote or carry out research and investigation
5. Raise funds, invite and receive contributions
6. Borrow money
7. Employ staff (who may not be members of the Executive Committee) as necessary for the proper pursuit of the Organisation's objectives

and to make reasonable provision for the payment of staff pensions and super annuation

8. Seek voluntary assistance for the organisation
9. Cooperate with other bodies (such as other voluntary groups) operating in furtherance of the objects or of similar purposes and to exchange information and advice with them
10. Establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for all or any of the objectives
11. Appoint and form advisory committees, if necessary
12. Carry out all such other lawful procedures as necessary
13. Accept subscriptions, gifts and donations
14. Issue appeals, hold public meetings and take such other steps as may be required for the purpose of procuring contributions to funds in the shape of donations, subscriptions or otherwise
15. Issue cheques and other financial instruments, and to operate bank and other accounts
16. Subject to such consents as may be required by law, to borrow and raise money for the objects of the organisation on such terms and conditions and on such security as may be thought fit
17. Carry on trade for the carrying out of the said objects
18. Take and accept any gift of money, property or other assets, whether subject to any special trust or not, for any one or more of the objects of the organisation
19. Invest the monies of the Company not immediately required for its objects in or upon such investments, securities or property as may be thought fit
20. Make any donation either in cash or assets for the furtherance of the objects of the organisation
21. Establish or support any institution and to subscribe or guarantee money for purposes calculated to further the objects of the organisation

22. Establish where necessary local branches (whether autonomous or not); to do all such other lawful things as shall further the above objects or any of them.

Membership

Membership is open to :

1. Individuals (over the age of 18) who are interested in furthering the work of the organisation and who have paid any necessary annual subscription or in some other way shown that they are interested in furthering Object's work
2. Any organisation or association interested in furthering the work of Object and has paid an annual subscription (such bodies being referred to in this constitution as 'member organisations')
3. Every member shall have one vote
4. Each member organisation shall appoint an individual to represent it and to vote on its behalf at meetings and may appoint an alternative individual to replace its appointed representative at any meeting if the appointed representative is unable to attend
5. Each member organisation shall notify the name of the representative appointed by it and of an alternative representative. If either of these individuals leaves the member organisation she or he shall cease to be the representative of the member organisation
6. Those interested in becoming a member will be asked to sign a simple declaration that they believe in the cause of Object and will not act against the organisation whilst a member
7. Object recognises the importance of confidentiality and will never pass on a member's details without the express consent of that member
8. The Executive Committee may unanimously and for good reason terminate the membership of any individual or member organisation : Provided that the individual concerned or the appointed representative of the member organisation concerned, shall have the right to be heard by the Executive Committee, accompanied by a friend, before a final decision is made
9. The Executive may refuse membership to an individual or organisation

The Executive

The Executive Committee shall comprise 3 to 8 members

Membership of the Committee will be decided at the Annual General Meeting, having advertised vacancies in the Committee as widely and appropriately as possible

Committee members elected at the Annual General Meeting will hold office from the conclusion of that meeting.

Executive Committee members will retire together at the end of the Annual General Meeting each year, but may be re-elected or re-appointed

The Executive may appoint co-opted members (as long as these comprise less than one third of the members of the Executive Committee)

The proceedings of the Executive Committee shall not be invalidated by a vacancy or by any failure to appoint or any defect in the appointment or qualification of a member

No person shall be entitled to act as a member of the Executive Committee whether on a first or on a subsequent entry into office, unless a declaration of acceptance and of willingness to act in the trust of Object is signed

Nobody shall be appointed as a member of the Executive Committee who is aged under 18 or disqualified under the clauses below (Determination of Membership of Executive Committee).

Honorary Officers

At the Annual General Meeting, members may elect a Chair, secretary and treasurer, who will hold office from the conclusion of that meeting

Determination of Membership of Executive Committee

A member of the Executive Committee shall cease to hold office if she or he :

1. Is disqualified from acting as a member by virtue of section 72 of the Charities Act 1993 (or and statutory re-enactment for modification of that provision)
2. Becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering her or his own affairs
3. Is absent, without prior notice, over a six month period and the Executive Committee resolve that her or his office be vacated

4. Notifies the Executive Committee a wish to resign (but only if at least three members of the Committee will be in office when the resignation takes effect)
5. Gives the majority of the Executive Committee reason to believe that she or he has acted against the best interests of the organisation
6. Will be compromised by holding office (for example, through involvement with a rival or opposing organisation)

Personal Interest

No member of the Executive Committee shall acquire any interest in property belonging to the organisation (otherwise than as a trustee for the organisation) or receive remuneration or be interested, other than as a member of the Committee, in any contract entered into by the Committee

However, any member of the Executive Committee who is a solicitor, accountant or other person engaged in work of similar nature may charge and be paid all the usual professional charges for work undertaken when instructed by the other members of the Executive Committee to act in a professional capacity on behalf of the organisation. This is with the proviso that at no time shall a majority of the members of the Executive Committee benefit under this provision and that a member of the Committee shall withdraw from any meeting at which her or his own instruction or remuneration, or that of her or his firm, is under discussion

Meetings and Proceedings of the Executive

The Executive Committee shall hold at least 3 ordinary meetings each year

A special meeting may be called at any time by the chair or by any two members of the Executive Committee, with not less than 4 days' notice being given to the other members of the Executive Committee of the matters to be discussed. If the matter concerns the appointment of a co-opted member then not less than 10 days' notice must be given, although a meeting is not necessary to agree on the appointment of a co-optee

The Chair shall act as Chair at meetings of the Executive Committee, or appoint another member of the Committee to act as Chair. If the Chair is absent from any meeting, the members of the Committee present will choose one of their number to Chair the meeting before any other business is transacted

At least 3 members of the Executive Committee must be present at a meeting

Every matter shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members of the Executive Committee present and voting on the question but in the case of equality of votes the Chair of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote

The Executive Committee shall keep minutes of the proceedings at all meetings of the Committee and any sub-committee

The Executive Committee may from time to time make and alter rules for the conduct of their business, the summoning and conduct of their meetings and the custody of documents. No rule may be made which is inconsistent with this constitution

The Executive Committee may appoint one or more sub-committees consisting of 3 or more members of the Executive for the purpose of making any inquiry or supervising or performing any function or duty which in the opinion of the Executive Committee would be more conveniently undertaken or carried out by a sub-committee : provided that all acts and proceedings of any such sub-committees are fully and promptly reported to the Executive Committee

Meetings will be held in a manner fully compatible with equalities - in an inclusive, respectful and supportive atmosphere, where any member may speak without interruption and where the views of every member are of import. It is the responsibility of all members of the Committee, in particular the Chair, to ensure this

Finances

The funds of the Organisation, including all donations, contributions and bequests, shall be paid into an account operated by the Executive Committee in the name of the Organisation. All cheques drawn on the account must be signed by two members of the Executive Committee

The funds belonging to the Organisation may only be applied to furthering its objectives

Accounts

The Executive Committee shall:

1. Keep accounting records for the organisation
2. Prepare annual statements of account for the organisation
3. Audit or ensure independent examination of the statements of account

Annual Report

The Executive Committee shall prepare an annual report

Annual General Meeting

The Organisation shall hold Annual General Meetings in the month of October of each year, or as close to this time as practicable

Every Annual General Meeting shall be called by the Executive Committee, with at least 21 days' notice. All the members of the organisation are entitled to attend and vote at the meeting

The Executive Committee shall present to each Annual General Meeting the report and accounts of the preceding year

Nominations for election to the Executive Committee must be made by members of the organisation in writing (email or post) at least 14 days before the annual general meeting

Election to the Executive Committee should be by vote (either open or ballot) at the AGM or by proxy (email or post) for those members who cannot attend the AGM

Special General Meeting

The Executive Committee may call a special general meeting of the Organisation at any time, If at least 10 members of the organisation request such a meeting in writing stating the business to be considered, the Executive shall call such a meeting. At least 21 days notice must be given and the notice must state the business to be discussed.

Notices

Any notice required to be served on a member of the Organisation (including of the Executive Committee) shall be in writing and be served either in person, by post or email to her or his last known address, and be deemed to have been received within 10 days of posting.

Alterations to the Constitution

Subject to the following provisions, the Constitution may be altered by a resolution passed by not less than three-quarters of members. The notice of the general meeting at which amendments are to be discussed must include notice of the resolution, setting out the terms of the alteration proposed. Those members who cannot attend are entitled to vote by proxy (email/post).

1. No amendment may be made to the need for Executive Committee members not to be personally interested or the dissolution clause

2. No amendment may be made which would have the effect of making the Organisation cease to be charitable
3. The name of the Organisation may be altered - but only under exceptional circumstances

Dissolution

If the Executive Committee decides that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Organisation, it shall call a meeting (giving 21 days' notice or more) stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed. If the proposal is confirmed by a three-quarters majority, the Executive Committee shall have power to realise any assets held by or on behalf of the Organisation

Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the Organisation as the members of the Organisation may determine or, failing that, shall be applied for some other charitable purpose

Adoption of the Constitution

This constitution was adopted on **1st Nov 2008**
by the persons whose signatures appear at the bottom of this document

Signed

I declare I accept my membership of the Executive Committee and willingness to act in the trust of Object.

Jeremy Coutinho _____

Ellie Cumbo _____

Victoria Henry _____

Debra Viceholt _____