

## AGM 2024 Resolutions

### Resolution 1

Proposed by Lindesay Mace, seconded by Patrick Ballin

This General Meeting resolves to amend the LifeLines Objects in our Constitution to use the more inclusive term “person on death row” instead of “prisoner.” By using people-first language we seek to avoid turning one aspect of a person’s life into an all-encompassing label, and to convey the humanity of the people we support, who are routinely dehumanised by the media and society. We have sought and obtained legal advice in drafting this resolution, and it has been reviewed by the Charity Commission.

We will replace the existing clause 3 (Objects) in the LifeLines Constitution as follows (changes are highlighted)

The object of the CIO is

For the public benefit, to promote the relief of suffering and distress to those persons who are awaiting execution in any state of the USA by the promotion of friendship by letter writing to such people, in particular but not exclusively by providing:

- (1) advice and information about the issues likely to arise when writing to people on death row;
- (2) one to one advice and information on making the initial contact with a specific person in the US on death row who has requested friendship, and for the life of the friendship and beyond, in particular when the sentence of death is likely to be carried out;
- (3) a quarterly publication that allows people to hear the voice of those on death row and deepens their understanding of the US justice system, and the death penalty in particular;
- (4) advice and assistance to make informed choices about giving financial and other types of support to people on death row;
- (5) conferences that include speakers with personal experience of the justice system, death row, and the impact of violent crime on all those who are affected, with an opportunity to exchange experience and knowledge with other writers.

Nothing in this constitution shall authorise an application of the property of the CIO for the purposes which are not charitable in accordance with section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and section 2 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

## Resolution 2

Proposed by Lindsey Mace, seconded by **Jan Hall**

This General Meeting resolves to amend the Constitution to use the more inclusive terms “they”, “them” and “their” (and derivatives) in place of “he”, “she”, “his”, “her” (and derivatives). It also resolves for simplicity to use “they” (and derivatives) instead of “it” when referring to “a corporate body”, and to replace “brother or sister” with “sibling”.

At LifeLines we are committed to equality, diversity and inclusion for both our members and the people we support on the row. However, currently, anyone who does not identify with “he” or “she” pronouns is excluded from the constitution. As the constitution only refers to unidentified individuals in general terms, e.g. trustees and members, it is not necessary to use gendered pronouns. As the singular form of “they” has been in common usage for decades where the individual, and therefore their gender, is not known, we feel this is the simplest choice.

The clauses and sub-clauses affected are listed below, followed by clauses 9 and 30 as examples. All clause changes can be viewed in the attached amended constitution.

5.(1)(a)

6.(3)(d)

7.

9.(1)(a), (3) & (4)(b)(i) & (ii)

12.(1) & (2)

13.(1) & (5)

14.

15.(1)

19.(3)(a)

20.(2)

22.(3)

### **9. Membership of the CIO**

#### (1) Admission of new members

##### (a) Eligibility

Membership of the CIO is open to anyone who is interested in furthering its purposes, and who, by applying for membership, has indicated **his, her or its their** agreement to become a member and acceptance of the duty of members set out in sub-clause (3) of this clause.

#### (3) Duty of members

It is the duty of each member of the CIO to exercise **his or her their** powers as a member of the CIO in the way **he or she decides they decide** in good faith would be most likely to further the purposes of the CIO.

#### (4) Termination of membership

(b) Before the charity trustees take any decision to remove someone from membership of the CIO they must:

(i) inform the member of the reasons why it is proposed to remove ~~him, her or it~~ **them** from membership;

(ii) give the member at least 21 clear days notice in which to make representations to the charity trustees as to why ~~he, she or it~~ **they** should not be removed from membership;

### **30. Interpretation**

In this constitution:

“connected person” means:

(a) a child, parent, grandchild, grandparent, **sibling** of the charity trustee;