

MAKE POVERTY HISTORY – NORTH EAST

CONSTITUTION

1. Name

The Association shall be called Make Poverty History - North East (which may be abbreviated to MPH-NE for internal use). The logo will be

MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY *NorthEast*.

2. Objects

The objects of MPH-NE shall be to:

- (a) Continue to promote the aims of the national Make Poverty History campaign of 2005, with its emphasis on 'Trade Justice, Drop the Debt, and More and Better Aid', in accordance with the Manifesto of Make Poverty History.
- (b) Promote urgent action to curb global warming, given that "The impacts of climate change will fall disproportionately upon developing countries and the poor...within all countries" (Third Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change).
- (c) Promote Fairtrade.
- (d) Support all those in the Tees-to-Tweed region seeking to promote the above aims.
- (e) Work with NGOs and other organisations having similar aims, and network with groups in other geographical areas.
- (f) Encourage other areas in the country to set up local groups to promote economic justice.

3. Administration

- (a) The work of MPH-NE shall be administered and directed by a Coordinating & Resources Committee.
- (b) Committee membership is on an individual basis, but we welcome members affiliated to relevant organisations.
- (c) Anyone who is willing to work towards the elimination of poverty in the Global South is eligible to join the Committee, provided they are committed to the use of exclusively peaceful and lawful actions.

4. Resignation

A member shall cease to be a member if he/she gives written notice to the Secretary of his/her resignation.

5. Expulsion

The Committee shall have power to expel a member when, in its opinion, it would not be in the interests of the work of the Committee for him/her to remain a member. A member shall not be expelled unless he/she is given 14 days written notice to attend a meeting of the Committee and given written details of the complaint made against him/her. The member shall be given an opportunity to appear before the Committee

to answer complaints made against him/her and shall not be expelled unless at least two thirds of the members then present vote in favour of his/her expulsion.

6. Attendance

If a member of the Committee misses more than one half of the meetings in a year they shall be written to and may be asked to resign.

7. Officers, Sub-Groups and Indemnity

- (a) The Officers of the Committee shall be as follows: Chair, Vice Chair, Development Coordinator, Treasurer, Secretary, Minutes/Agenda Secretary, Mailing List Secretary and Web Manager. They must all be members of the Committee. The Committee may arrange for another person to assist the Secretary or Treasurer if required.
- (b) The first Officers shall be appointed to hold office until the first Annual General Meeting. After that, the Officers shall be proposed, seconded and elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting when they shall retire. Any vacancy occurring by resignation, or otherwise, may be filled by the remaining members. Retiring Officers shall be eligible for re-election.
- (c) The Committee may appoint from among the members such sub-groups as they may consider necessary. All sub-groups shall periodically report their proceedings to the Association.
- (d) The members of the Committee shall be entitled to an indemnity out of the assets of the Association for all expenses and other liabilities properly incurred by them in the management of the affairs of the Association.

8. Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held each year not later than the end of January to transact the following business:

- (a) To receive the Chair's report of the activities of the Association during the previous year and to approve that annual report.
- (b) When the Association has raised its own income and/or incurred its own expenditure, to receive the Treasurer's report as to the financial administration of the Association.
- (c) To elect the Officers.
- (d) To consider the effectiveness of the Association.

9. Other Regular Meetings

Meetings will normally be convened on a monthly basis. A meeting may also be called at any time by the Chair, or at the concerted request of any three members of the Committee.

10. Procedure at the Annual and Regular Meetings

- (a) The Minutes Secretary shall send to each member at his/her last known address, written notice of the date of the meeting, together with the resolutions to be proposed thereat, at least 7 days before the meeting.
- (b) The quorum for the meetings shall be one third.

- (c) The Chair, or in his/her absence the Vice-Chair or another member, shall take the chair. Each member present shall have one vote and resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority. In the event of an equality of votes the Chair shall have a casting or additional vote.
- (d) The Minutes Secretary, or in his/her absence another member, shall take minutes at meetings.

11. Alteration of the Constitution

The Constitution may be altered by resolution at an Annual or regular meeting provided that the resolution is carried by a majority of at least two thirds of members present at the meeting.

12. Finance

- (a) The Treasurer shall ensure that proper arrangements are in place for the financial administration of the Association and for appropriate scrutiny or audit.
- (b) The income of the Association shall be applied only in furtherance of the objects of the Association and no part thereof shall be paid by way of bonus, dividend or profit to any members of the Association.

13. Equality and Diversity

The Association shall operate in a manner that recognises and values the diverse communities in the North East and ensure that all communities are able to participate in promoting Make Poverty History North East.

14. Dissolution

- (a) A resolution to dissolve the Association shall only be proposed at a meeting of the Committee and shall be carried by a majority of at least two thirds of the members present.
- (b) The dissolution shall take effect from the date of the resolution and the members shall be responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Association.
- (c) Any property remaining after discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Association shall be handed to a local body or bodies that support the principles of Make Poverty History.

J.M. 6/3/06

Revised 19/4/06

Accepted 8/5/06