

## **THE ASSOCIATION OF RWANDAN WOMEN REFUGEES**

### **“AFERWAR-DUTERIMBERE”**

#### **PREAMBLE AND THE FOUNDING PRINCIPLES**

We, Rwandan Women refugees, residing on different world continents:

- Fully aware of the plight of Rwandan refugees in general and women and girls in particular;
- Fully aware of the fact that isolation from one another makes it impossible for us to craft a common message to make our voice heard;
- Fully aware of the fact that Rwandan culture is rapidly deteriorating especially among women and girls,
- With the full knowledge of the extreme mistreatment of women and girls in war times and the ensuing consequences;
- We recognize the need to put all our will and energy together in order to overcome our difficulties and to improve our lives;

We resolve to do the following:

#### **I. GENERAL STRUCTURE**

##### **Article 1:**

The creation and naming of the Association:

We, hereby, establish an association for Rwandese women and girl refugees named: “The ASSOCIATION FOR RWANDESE WOMEN REFUGEES-DUTERIMBERE” for Rwandese women refugees living on different continents. Known by its French acronym: AFERWAR-DUTERIMBERE." Association des Femmes Rwandaises Réfugiées-DUTERIMBERE"

## **Article 2:**

The nature of the Association

AFERWAR-DUTERIMBERE is a NON Profit-organization

## **Article 3:**

Objectives

AFERWAR-DUTERIMBERE Objectives are as follows:

1. To help those who are victimized by war, especially women and girls, and to assist them in rebuilding their lives.
2. To fight for all human rights, those of women and girls in particular;
3. To support and spread Rwandese culture in order to keep it alive for the new generations;
4. Keeping up with new knowledge in different areas, in order to empower and improve the lives of women and girls
5. Exchanging knowledge in matters of women health

## **Article 4:**

Leadership and priority areas

a) Social

- Education

- Culture

- Religion

b) Health

- Encouraging pregnant women to follow Doctors' instruction in order to avoid complications during child birth,

-To encourage women and girls to help each other in order to get medical treatment

-To educate women and girls about family planning

c) Economy

- To help women and children find various skills and trades to help them improve their lives;
- To encourage women and girls to build entrepreneurship skills that allow them to create small profitable businesses;
- To raise awareness among women and girls about the necessity of saving, and not over spend the little resources they have;

**Article 5:**

Our motto

The Association's motto is "UNITY - COOPERATION - DEVELOPMENT"

**Article 6:**

Our coat of arms

AFERWAR-Duterimbere's Coat of Arms is "A tricolor (red,yellow,green) map of Rwanda inside a circle, a woman holding a child at the center of the map" The meaning of this Coat of arms will be explained within the Association by laws.

**Article 7:**

The duration

There is no time limit to this Association, it will last as long as the need is there.

**Article 8:**

AFERWAR - DUTERIMBERE Headquarters:

AFERWAR-DUTERIMBERE is present on different continents. Its headquarters are in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, and can be moved to another location if circumstances were to require such relocation.

## **II MEMBERS OF AFERWAR - DUTERIMBERE**

### **Article 9:**

There are three types of membership for AFERWAR - DUTERIMBERE:

- Founding members
- Regular members
- Honorary members

### **Article 10:**

-Founding members:

Founding members are entities or individuals who accepted to sign the founding documents (Statutes, rules and regulations) before it is recognized as an independent entity. These members are confirmed by the General Assembly.

### **Article 11:**

Regular members:

Regular members are entities or individual who accept to apply the rules and regulations of the Association after it have been recognized as an independent entity. They are confirmed by the Executive Committee.

### **Article 12.**

Honorary members:

The honorary members are entities or individuals who live in Eastern DRC and other countries, who subscribe to the rules and regulations of the Association, and who are willing to support it with expert advice or other tangible actions. They are confirmed by the Executive Committee.

### **Article 13:**

Membership requirements:

A Founding members and regular members:

Founding members and regulars members must be Rwandan women refugees who accept to apply the rules and regulations of the Association.

B) Honorary members:

An honorary member can be a Rwandese woman or a foreigner who accept to follow the rules and regulations of the Association.

### **Article 14:**

Reason for membership termination:

- Resignation.
- Death
- Dismissal due to various reasons which must be confirmed by the General Assembly.

### **Article 15:**

The rights and responsibilities of the members are detailed in the Association's by laws.

## **III THE ASSOCIATION'S LEADERSHIP AND FUNCTIONS**

### **Article 16:**

Leadership:

- The General Assembly
- The Executive committee
- The Board of Directors

### **Article 17:**

The General Assembly:

The General Assembly is the highest organ of the Association. It made of all members except the honorary members. Honorary members may be invited in to attend the General Assembly to voice their opinions but are barred from the Assembly's decision making process.

### **Article 18:**

The responsibilities of the General Assembly:

- Reviewing reports from the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors
- Approving the Association's budget
- Approving or amending the Association's by laws
- Appointing other members in leadership position through the electoral process
- Dissolving the Association if necessary

### **Article 19:**

The General Assembly is called every six months and any other time it becomes necessary. 2/3 of the members must be in attendance for the Assembly to proceed with its agenda. In case the quorum is not reached, another GA is called in a period no longer than a month

### **Article 20:**

The General Assembly is called upon and chaired by the President. In case of her absence the Vice President assumes her role.

### **Article 21.**

Decisions of the General Assembly require a 2/3 majority vote of all members present.

### **Article 22:**

The Executive Committee is made of:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Two advisers

### **Article 23:**

Members of the Executive committee are voted in by the General Assembly by a show of hand or written ballot, for a two year term, after which they can still pose their candidacy.

### **Article 24:**

The responsibilities of the Executive Committee are:

- Day to day running of the organization
- Deciding all matters except those that are the sole responsibility of the General Assembly.
- Studying the Association's projects:
- Representing and promoting the Association.
- Planning the General Assembly and implementing its decisions
- Studying the budget before submitting it to the General Assembly.

### **Article 25:**

The Executive Committee meets once every month and any time it becomes necessary.

**Article 26:**

The Executive Committee decision are taken by a half plus one majority vote of those present at the meeting.

**Article 27:**

The Executive committee meeting is called and chaired by the President. In case of the President's absence, the Vice President assumes her role.

**Article 28:**

The Board of Directors:

The Board of Directors is made of three Directors who elect among themselves the Chairwoman of the Board and the Deputy Chair.

**Article 29:**

The Responsibilities of the Board of Directors are:

- Making sure that the Associations resources are being used wisely.
- Compiling a report for the General Assembly which is submitted to the Assembly by the President.

**Article 30:**

The Board of Directors meets once every three months, and any other time it becomes necessary.

**Article 31:**

The Board of Directors' meeting is called and chaired by the Chairman of the Board.

**Article 32:**



The Board of Directors is appointed or removed by the General Assembly

#### **IV THE ASSOCIATIONS FINANCES**

##### **Article 33:**

The Associations' monies come from:

- Membership fees.
- Donations or inheritance
- Different fundraising activities by the Association.
- The Association private properties.

#### **V FINAL CONSIDERATIONS.**

##### **Article 34:**

Only the General Assembly has the right to modify the rules and regulations of the Association.

##### **Article 35:**

Only the General Assembly can dissolve the Association by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority votes of those in attendance.

##### **Article 36:**

Once the decision has been made about the dissolution of the Association, all its assets are shared among founding and regular members. Those assets that may not be shared among the members are then donated to another organization that has the same goals as AFERWAR-DUTERIMBERE. If no other organization is available, then it is incumbent to General Assembly that made the decision to dissolve the Association to find an appropriate use for those assets.

**Article 37:**

The Executive Committee is in charge of conflict resolution, in the event the issues are not dealt with completely, the Executive Committee defers the matter to the General Assembly for a final decision.

**Article 38:**

In the event of a situation that has not been foreseen by this document, a provisional decision is taken by the Executive Committee, pending a lasting solution to come out of the General Assembly.

**Article 39:**

Any outstanding issues not mentioned in this here document, will be included in the Association's by laws.

**Article 40:**

Once these rules are approved by the General Assembly, they will come into effect as soon as they are signed by the President of the Association.

Done in WALIKALE, Jan , 11,2015.

Racy NYINAWANSHUTI, President