

Draft

The Draft Constitution of Ewe Union in Norway (EweNor)

§ 1. Name of the union: Ewe Union in Norway (EweNor).

§ 2. Purpose and Vision:

The association aims to:

- Promote the physical, mental, and existential health of its members and their integration into Norwegian society.
- Build robust social networks among members as a buffer against daily challenges, loneliness, and social isolation.
- Ensure members gain deeper insight and understanding of Ewe history, cultural traditions, and values.
- Teach members' children Ewe culture and language to ensure the preservation and transmission of their cultural identity.
- Inform members and their children about educational and career opportunities in Norway, organize extra classes for their children, and encourage them to participate in youth projects initiated by the association.
- Organize various courses, workshops, seminars, thematic days, and group activities every month in line with the Union's aims and objectives.

§ 3. Organizational Structure

- The Ewe Union is an independent and autonomous legal entity with members and is a freehold. No one has a claim to the Union's assets or property nor is liable for debts or other obligations.
- The Union's activities are financed through membership dues and public and private grants/donations if these do not compromise the Ewe Union's independence or contradict the Union's aims and objectives.

§ 4. Membership

- Membership in the Union is open to all persons of Ewe descent residing in Norway, their children, and spouses.
- Membership in the Union is dependent on the payment of an annual dues.
- To have voting rights, a member must be at least 14 years old.

§ 5. Rights and Obligations of Membership

- All members have the right to attend the annual General Assembly, have voting rights, and are eligible for positions of trust in the Union.
- Members who owe dues for more than a year do not have voting rights or other rights, and the board can strike them from the membership list.
- Members are obliged to comply with decisions made by the General Assembly.

§ 6. Administration

- The Chairperson/Executive Director of the Union is the head of the union. The Chairperson reports to the Board/Executive Committee, which has personal responsibility for him or her.
- The Chairperson represents the Ewe Union externally, follows up on local representatives, and has personal responsibility for employees of the union. The Chairperson shall follow up on the Ewe Union politically and organizationally and is responsible for the Union's finances.

§ 7. Governing Bodies

- Ordinary Annual General Assembly.
- Extraordinary General Assembly.
- The Board

§ 8. Annual General Assembly

- The annual General Assembly, held every year, is the union's highest authority. The annual General Assembly is quorate with the number of voting members present, and all members have one vote. The General Assembly chairperson is elected by the General Assembly.
- Unless otherwise determined, a decision must be made by a simple majority of the votes cast to be valid. In the event of a tie, the decision is made by drawing lots.
- The annual General Assembly shall be convened by the board with at least one month's notice directly to the members. Proposals to be considered at the annual General Assembly must be submitted to the board no later than two weeks before the meeting. The complete agenda must be available to the members no later than one week before the annual meeting.
- The General Assembly cannot consider proposals not listed on the agenda unless 3/4 of those present require it.

§ 9. Tasks of the Annual General Assembly

The annual General Assembly shall:

- Review the annual report of the union
- Review the audited accounts of the union
- Deliberate over incoming proposals
- Determine the annual membership dues
- Approve the annual budget
- Elect:
 - Chairperson and deputy Chairperson of the union
 - Board members
 - Deputy board members
 - Auditor
 - Persons eligible for appointment as honorary members of the union

§ 10. Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting

- Extraordinary General Assembly meetings shall be held when the board decides or at least 1/3 of the members request it. Notification shall be given in the same manner as for ordinary annual General Assembly meetings with at least 14 days' notice.
- An extraordinary General Assembly can only consider and make decisions on the matters announced in the notice.

§ 11. The Board

- The union shall have a board of 8 members and 2 deputy members:
 - Leader
 - Deputy leader
 - 6 regular board members
 - 2 deputy members
- Efforts should be made to ensure broad representation from different parts of the country.
- The board is the highest authority between annual General Assembly. The board shall meet when the board chairperson or a majority of the board members request it.

- Regular board members are elected for 2-year terms, while deputy members are elected for 1 year.

The board shall:

- implement annual General Assembly resolutions.
- appoint any committees, working groups, reference groups, or individuals to perform specific tasks and prepare instructions or mandates for them.
- administer and monitor the union's finances in accordance with applicable instructions and regulations in Norway.
- represent the union externally.
- The board can make decisions when a majority of the board members are present. Decisions are made by a majority of the votes cast.

§ 12. Electoral Committee and Conduct of Elections

- The board shall propose an election committee consisting of 3 members and 1 deputy member to be elected for 1 year by the annual General Assembly.
- The election committee shall set up a list of candidates for the new board.
- Proposed candidates must have been asked and agreed to stand.

§ 13. Signature

- The board members collectively have the right to sign documents on behalf of the union.
- The right to signature is delegated to the Chairperson of the union and the board leader jointly.

§ 14. Exclusion and Sanctions

- The board can exclude members of the Ewe Union for violating the union's regulations or guidelines. The proposed excluded member has the right to submit a written statement to the board. If a member is proposed for exclusion, the board must consider the proposal within two months.
- If a member is excluded, the member has the right to appeal the decision to the general assembly, where the decision can be upheld.
- Sanctions can be imposed on members who act contrary to the association's regulations, ethical guidelines, or in a manner that is likely to harm the Ewe Union's purpose and reputation.

- Sanctions are handled by the board and take effect from the time the decision is made.

§ 15. Amendment of Constitution

- Amendments to these provisions can only be made at an ordinary or extraordinary General Assembly meeting as an item on the agenda and require a 2/3 majority of the votes cast.

§ 16. Dissolution

- A proposal for the dissolution of the union can be made by the board or at least 2/3 of the union's members. The proposal must be written and justified and sent to the union's members at least one month before convening an extraordinary General Assembly to consider the proposal.
- After dissolution and settlement of debts, the union's assets shall be used for the purpose the association seeks to promote by giving the net assets to a non-profit organization decided and approved by the General Assembly.
- No members have a claim to the union's funds or any part thereof.