

Freedom Connection Constitution Draft

Freedom Connection: A Fair Trade and Anti Trafficking Coalition

Drafted on: March 2, 2022

Article One - Name of Organization

1. The name of this organization shall be Freedom Connection: A Fair Trade and Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition

Article Two - Purpose of Organization

2. State the purpose of the organization. You may also include the mission, goals, objectives, etc.
3. Mission:
 - a. The purpose of the Freedom Connection is to advocate for fair trade, help create a fair trade University at Mason, and address the issues of human trafficking as one of the fastest-growing criminal enterprises in the world today.

Our long-term goal is to help in combating human trafficking, particularly in the DC Metropolitan and Northern Virginia Area.

Furthermore, we commit to networking with other universities and active organizations within Washington DC, Northern VA, and surrounding areas. We partner with law enforcement agencies in order to create a communication network within our area of influence.

4. Vision:
 - a. Our vision for Freedom Connection is to raise awareness of human trafficking and how it impacts our everyday lives on campus and within the community. Along with the ethical slave-free alternatives of Fair Trade products.

We plan to partner with the community and student organizations to promote and advocate for both ethical consumerism toward a culture of fair trade and educate the community on the realities of human trafficking on the George Mason Fairfax campus and beyond.

Article Three - Membership

5. Membership in this organization will not be restricted on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, pregnancy status or genetic information.
6. All active members must be currently enrolled GMU students with a minimum academic achievement record defined as a cumulative grade point average of at least a 2.0.
7. State the types of membership available. For example:
 - a. Active - Currently enrolled GMU students who attend meetings/functions and pay dues. Please see dues section below.
 - b. Associate - Members of faculty/staff, community members, or students from other schools.
 - c. Honorary - Alumni or community members.
8. State what a member must do in order to be recognized as an active/associate/honorary/etc. member
 - a. In order for a member to be recognized as an active/associate/honorary/etc member, they must:
 - i. Be able to attend the majority of meetings/functions either in person or virtually
 - ii. Assist in spreading the word about Freedom Connection along with the mission, and raise awareness towards Fair Trade consumerism and the fight against human trafficking
 - iii. General event participation of a minimum of 10 hours a semester
9. Benefits of membership:
 - a. Certificates
 - b. Letters of recognition
 - c. Stole
 - d. Cords
 - e. Networking with local organizations
 - f. Research opportunities
 - g. Accolades within the university
10. State what rights and privileges go along with each level of membership. For example:
 - a. Only active members may vote on matters (official or not) including amendments, elections, and other motions brought forth in meetings.
11. State why and how membership privileges may be revoked
 - a. Membership privileges can and will be revoked in the following circumstances:
 - i. Failure to exhibit maturity and respect towards the organization, organization members, student body, and community
 - ii. Failure to participate within the organization consistently and effectively

- iii. Failure to complete obligated time by the end of the semester

Article Four - Officers

12. State the titles and duties of the officers to be selected by the membership and explicitly list out what is expected of each officer
 - a. Co-Presidents:
 - i. Human Trafficking: Elise Spencer
 - ii. Fair Trade: Meaghan Walsh
 - b. Vice President: Jared Drummond
 - c. Treasurer: John Corker
 - d. Secretary: Brenda Hernandez
 - e. Program Coordinator: Katherine Romero-Ayala
 - f. Social Media Officer: Gianna Scanzo-Masiero
13. The minimum qualifications officer candidates must have are:
 - a. Class standing: Good Standing. No academic probation or suspension.
 - b. Minimum GPA: 2.5
 - c. Commitment: Cannot miss more than 2 meetings a semester. There must be a rotation of board members at each event.
14. State the length of the officer's term and term limits, if any
 - a. The term length will be for a full academic year
15. State why and how an officer may be removed from their duties
 - a. Not attending board meetings
 - b. Failure to communicate and participate in general body meetings and events.
 - c. Misses 4 events and meetings, unless extenuating circumstances prevent them from coming.
16. All officers after completing a year as a board member will receive the graduation cords and stole.
17. At a minimum, you should have a President, V. P., Treasurer, and Secretary, however, if you would like to have more officers, you may do so but only the aforementioned are required

Advisor: Al Fuytes PHD

18. *The constitution MUST include this clause:*

The primary advisor shall be a member of the faculty or staff at George Mason University.

- a. State how the advisor will be selected:
 - i. Board votes by majority
- b. State why and how the advisor may be removed from their duties
 - i. Failure to communicate and support board members with the organization
- c. State that the advisor may offer guidance and support for the organization, but MAY NOT have a vote

Article Five - Elections

19. State approximately when elections will take place:
 - a. Usually March, but must take place by April 15th to allow time for officer transitions and an accurate, up-to-date roster for re-registration
20. Explicitly state details of the nominating procedure including the length of time allowed for nomination, who is allowed to submit nominations, and the method for submitting nominations:
 - a. Nominations will begin at the beginning of February and will last till elections are held.
 - b. You can self-nominate or be nominated by another.
21. State how nominees will present their qualifications:
 - a. Nominees must present their work schedule and class schedule to show how busy they will be and to ensure they can commit to the position.
 - b. Nominees will write a 1 paragraph statement as to what position they are going for, why they are a good fit, and what they can do to better that position and the organization.
22. Explicitly define the method that will be used for voting (usually secret ballot) and who will be responsible for tallying votes (usually a group of members):
 - a. A secret ballot will be held where all nominees will step outside while everyone turns in paper or submits their vote with the nominee's name.
23. State procedure for runoffs in the event of a tie (if applicable):
 - a. Rock, paper, scissors. Best 2 out of three.
 - b. The winner will be the main person in the title, but the runner-up can either stay a member or they can choose to run the position together to help one another.
24. State the procedure for transitioning current and new officers (usually involves a short shadow period in which new officers are familiarized with operating procedures and necessary paperwork):

Article Six - Impeachment or Resignation

Should an elected officer fail to perform the responsibilities or abuse the privileges of their elected position, the officer shall be subject to impeachment and removal from their office.

25. State the procedures for removing an individual from their official position should they fail to perform the responsibilities or abuse the privileges of their elected or appointed position in the organization:
 - a. A vote will be held by all active members of the organization, majority rules.
26. State the procedures for an individual wishing to resign from their position:

- a. Should a person wish to resign, they should do so at the next board meeting and have a replacement lineup if possible. If it is not possible, then the person shall hold their position until the end of the semester or a replacement can be found.
27. State the procedures for appointing or electing a new officer to a position that has been vacated should a current officer resign from their elected or appointed position or should a current officer be impeached or removed from their position. (See above)

Article Seven - Meetings

28. State how often the group will meet (weekly, monthly, etc.):
- a. Bi-weekly Board meetings and general body meetings.
 - b. State who presides at the meeting:
 - i. Primarily the President and Co-President; However, All board members should take turns facilitating the meetings. Both general body and board meetings.
29. State whether the executive board has separate meetings and if so, how often
- a. See article 7 section 28 subsection a
30. State attendance policy, if any
- a. Sign-up sheet will be filled out at each meeting
31. State the quorum
- a. A simple majority of the active membership plus one officer
32. State the procedure for calling special meetings
- a. The emergency meeting should be notified to the advisor and all board members with a reasonable amount of time
33. State parliamentary rules of order
- a. the latest edition of [Robert's Rules of Order](#)

Article Eight - Finance

34. No dues will be required but all finances will be managed by the treasurer

Article Nine - Amendments

35. State procedure for proposing and approving amendments to the constitution
- a. Amendments to the clause should be brought up during transitional meetings of outgoing board members and incoming board.
36. *The constitution MUST include the following clause:*

Student Involvement must review all amendments in the same manner as a completely new constitution.

Article Ten - Ratification

37. State how the constitution will be ratified

- a. This constitution shall become effective upon approval by a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the membership, and a Student Involvement staff member.

Constitution Ratified on: (dates constitution is amended and ratified)