

AFRICAN NATIONAL REPARATIONS ORGANIZATION (ANRO)



**Constitution
and
By-Laws**

AFRICAN NATIONAL REPARATIONS ORGANIZATION (ANRO) Constitution and By-Laws

Article I. NAME

This organization shall be known as African National Reparations Organization (ANRO).

Article II. PURPOSE and NATURE

Section 1. The purpose for which this organization has been formed and for which it exists is to achieve justice and repayment from the U.S. government for the crimes and oppression committed against African people in the U.S. for over 400 years of exploitation, stressing popular direct action methods.

Section 2. ANRO is a national African membership organization composed of affiliated chapters, and of direct national individual associate (contributing) members. It shall represent the affiliated chapters and associate members on a national level and give voice to their convictions and ideals.

Article III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any person holding active membership in any affiliated chapter, all National Officers and members of the National Coordinating Committee.

Section 2. Any African person who supports National ANRO financially is a national associate member unless he or she wishes to be considered only a contributor.

Section 3. Active membership shall not be available to any person who:

- a. associates him or herself with any other group or organization which expounds a philosophy which is inimical or in contradiction to the *fundamental principles* of ANRO.
- b. persistently violates the current ANRO Rules for Action, as determined by the National Chairperson and Executive Committee, or;
- c. attempts to subvert the ANRO group through allegiance to other groups or organizations;
- d. attempts to subvert ANRO principles of unity which are anti-colonialism, anti-imperialism, political and economic self-determination, self-defense and anti-sexism, and unity with the call of the non-aligned nations and Native Americans for reparations.

Section 4.

- a. The National Coordinating Committee or its Executive Committee may hold a hearing on the eligibility for continued membership of any active member and shall be empowered to make such rules and regulations as it may deem necessary for the conduct of such a hearing.
- b. At least two weeks prior to such a hearing, the National Chairperson must inform the active member in writing of the charges against him or her and must request a written statement from the member and from the chapter of which he or she is a member. The said member shall have the right to present testimony and witnesses in his or her behalf.
- c. If his or her membership in ANRO is found to be in violation of the restrictions contained in this article, the Executive Committee of the National Coordinating Committee shall remove him or her from membership and exclude him or her from participation in national and local groups. Within thirty (30) days after receipt of the decision by the Executive Committee or National Coordinating Committee to remove him or her from membership, he or she shall have the right to file notice of appeal in writing to the National Chairperson at the National ANRO office and make his or her appeal to the National Coordinating Committee if excluded by the Executive Committee, or to the Convention if excluded by the National Coordinating Committee, and the decision of the Convention shall be final.

Section 5. Any active member removed from an affiliated chapter by that chapter for whatever reason has the right first to appeal that ruling to the Regional Coordinating Committees of the region where the chapter is located, and may then further appeal such removal to the Executive Committee, then to the next meeting of the National Coordinating Committee and then to the Convention, whose decision shall be final. The Regional Coordinating Committee must inform the affiliated chapter of its intent to hold such a hearing and must request a written statement and presentation of witnesses from the affiliated chapter.

Article IV. AFFILIATION

Section 1. Local action groups may be affiliated by the annual Convention, the National Coordinating Committee or the Executive Committee. In order to apply for affiliation, a local action group must:

- a. give written notice to the National Coordinator of intent to organize and apply for affiliation as an ANRO chapter;
- b. operate for ninety days following the filing of the notice of this intent;
- c. have at least five (5) active members.

Its application for affiliation must be accompanied by the affiliation form, an acceptable constitution (unless otherwise determined, the constitution and by-laws for local chapter set forth in attachment "A" shall be the official constitution and by-laws for all chapters) and payment of a non-refundable fifty (50) dollar fee. Before the National Coordinating Committee or the Executive Committee may consider such an application for affiliation, it must have a report and recommendation in writing from the National Coordinator. The National Coordinating Committee or Executive Committee must take action on the application within sixty (60) days after receipt of the application for affil-

iation. Any local action group which applies for affiliation is to receive a written copy of the report submitted by the National Office, stating whether affiliation has been recommended or not. If affiliation is not recommended, the report should state clearly why and should offer suggestions for correction. Once affiliation has been denied, the local action group shall have the right to request another visit from a Field Secretary. If the visit is not granted within three months after the request, the local action group shall have the right to appeal to the National Coordinating Committee.

Section 2. Each affiliating group shall be known as the _____ and shall be abbreviated as _____, or a chapter of the _____, and each group must accept the ANRO Rules for Action and the National ANRO Constitution. At least one representative of National ANRO shall visit the prospective group and report on it to the National Coordinator before affiliation.

Section 3. In the case of a city where a local action group applies for affiliation and one or more ANRO chapters is already affiliated, the existing chapter(s) shall be given the opportunity to make a statement and present witnesses relating to the application for affiliation of the new group, and the new group may be affiliated only by a two-thirds majority of those members voting at a meeting of the National Coordinating Committee or by the National Convention.

Section 4. National ANRO, or any of its affiliated chapters, may cooperate with other organizations, but may not affiliate with any organization when such affiliation requires National ANRO or any of its chapters to relinquish their autonomy.

Article V. DISAFFILIATION and SUSPENSION

Section 1. An affiliated local chapter may be disaffiliated by the Executive Committee or the National Coordinating Committee if; the chapter has ceased to carry on direct actions; or takes actions not in accordance with ANRO Rules for Action; or acts in violation of the local or national Constitution; or acts in violation of the by-laws of the national organization; or fails to follow the duly authorized instructions of the National Coordinating Committee, the Executive Committee, or the National Chairperson; or falls below five (5) active members; or consistently takes positions on matters not directly pertaining to the anti-colonial struggle for justice, political and economic self-determination and human dignity.

Section 2. Such disaffiliation by the Executive Committee may be appealed to the next meeting of the National Coordinating Committee and then to the Convention, and such disaffiliation by the National Coordinating Committee may be appealed to the next Convention. The decision of the Convention shall be final.

Section 3. An affiliated chapter may be suspended by the National Coordinator acting upon the unanimous instruction of the National Chairperson and the National Vice-Chairpersons for any one or more of the following reasons:

- a. violation of the ANRO Rules of Action;
- b. acts in violation of the local constitution, national constitution or by-laws;