

**CONSTITUTION OF THE
INDEPENDENT JEWISH VOICES CHAPTER AT
CARLETON UNIVERSITY**

**Independent
Jewish Voices**
Carleton University



**Voix juives
indépendantes**
Université Carleton

Land Acknowledgement

As members of the Independent Jewish Voices chapter at Carleton University, we recognize that the lands upon which we gather, work, and reside are situated on the unceded traditional territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe Nation. Indigenous people have cared for this land for generations, nurturing its resources and maintaining a deep connection to its sacredness.

In our commitment to justice and peace, guided by the principles of *Tzedek ve Shalom*, we acknowledge the parallels between the experiences of Indigenous peoples here on Turtle Island and the Palestinian people in their ancestral homeland. Both have faced displacement, dispossession, and the denial of their rights and sovereignty.

Throughout history, Jews have faced marginalization, persecution, and displacement, and we carry the memory of these experiences with us as we stand in solidarity with other oppressed communities. As Jews, we understand the importance of acknowledging historical and ongoing injustices, including those perpetrated against Indigenous peoples across the globe. We recognize our responsibility to stand in solidarity with marginalized communities and to actively work towards justice and reconciliation, because no one is free, until we are all free.

In acknowledging the land on which we gather, we commit to listening, learning, and amplifying the voices of Indigenous peoples. We pledge to engage in meaningful allyship and to support their struggles for self-determination, sovereignty, and dignity.

Together, we affirm our dedication to building a world rooted in justice, peace, and solidarity, where all peoples can thrive in harmony with the land and each other.

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Article I: Preamble

Many of the sections in this constitution were taken directly from the Independent Jewish Voices Canada website, our national parent organization.

1.1 Definitions

General Membership: The General Membership shall be the legislative body of the organization and shall be composed of all members

The Executive: The Executive shall be the administrative body of the organization and shall be composed of members elected by the General Membership.

1.2 Name

The organization shall be known as *Independent Jewish Voices – Carleton University*, and hereinafter shall be referred to as *IJV-CU*, *IJV*, or *IJV Carleton*. No other name shall be used in the advertisement or representation of the club.

1.3 Mandate

We are guided by the notion of *Tzedek ve Shalom* (Justice and Peace). We are a group of Jews at Carleton University from diverse backgrounds, occupations, and affiliations who share a strong commitment to social justice and universal human rights. We come together in the belief that the broad spectrum of opinion among the Jewish population of this university (and of Turtle Island as a whole) is not reflected by those institutions that claim to represent Jewish communities as a whole. We further believe that individuals and groups within all communities should feel free to express their views on any issue of public concern without incurring accusations of disloyalty.

1.4 Principles and Basis of Unity

The Independent Jewish Voices chapter at Carleton University is guided by the following principles, which all individuals must agree to prior to becoming a member:

1. We are anti-Zionist. We hold that the treatment and occupation of Palestinians by Israel is morally reprehensible. Zionism is the ideology underlying that treatment.
2. We affirm that human rights are universal and indivisible and should be upheld without exception.
3. We believe that all people living within Israel-Palestine have the right to freedom, equality, and to peaceful and secure lives.
4. We believe that the fight against antisemitism is undermined when principled opposition to unjust Israeli government policies and practices—including those that contravene international law—are branded as antisemitic.
5. We oppose all forms of racism, including antisemitism, anti-Arab racism, anti-Black racism, Islamophobia, and intra-Jewish racism, which marginalizes Jews of colour, Sephardi and Mizrahi Jews.
6. We stand in solidarity with the Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island (North America) in their efforts to overcome the impacts of European colonization, both past and present.
7. We seek direction from the communities with whom we stand in solidarity and follow their leadership at every opportunity.
8. We strive to be inclusive, justice-seeking, democratic, and open to diverse ideas and practices.
9. We believe that true security requires justice and solidarity.

We hereby reclaim the tradition of Jewish support for universal freedoms, human rights and social justice. The lessons we have learned from our own history compel us to speak out.

These principles are violated when we allow an occupying power to trample the human rights of an occupied people. Palestinian inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza, living under Israeli occupation and military

blockade, face appalling living conditions, with desperately little hope for the future. At the same time, Palestinian Israelis are subjected to a range of discriminatory laws and regulations and are consequently unable to enjoy the same rights and freedoms that are enjoyed by Israeli Jews. This institutionalized discrimination has led increasing numbers of people around the world to identify Israel as an apartheid state.

Article II: Structure

2.1 General Membership

General membership shall be open to all students at Carleton University who support the mission and goals of IJV-CU, regardless of religious or ethnic background.

General members shall have the following rights:

1. To speak on all matters pertaining to the organization;
2. To vote in all elections;
3. To partake in any events of the organization;
4. To be duly informed of all meetings, events, and elections of the organization; and,
5. To attend all General Membership meetings.

In order to be considered a Member in Good Standing and receive a credit on their Co-Curricular Record (CCR), members must adhere to the following responsibilities:

1. To support and uphold the mission, goals, and values of IJV-CU, including the Basis of Unity.
2. To attend a minimum of two (2) events or meetings per academic year.
3. To uphold the policies, by-laws, and constitution of the Carleton University Students' Association.
4. Members are encouraged to promote the goals and activities of IJV-CU both within and outside the university community and to advocate for social justice, human rights, and peace in their personal and professional capacities as possible.

2.2 Executive

The Executive shall be composed of those members elected by the General Membership to administer the affairs of IJV-CU. The Executive shall be responsible for:

1. Developing and implementing long-term goals and strategies to advance the mission and objectives of IJV-CU.
2. Overseeing the organization's finances, including budgeting, fundraising, and fiscal accountability. This includes preparing financial reports, maintaining accurate records, and ensuring compliance with relevant financial regulations and policies.
3. Organizing and coordinating events, activities, and campaigns per the organization's mission and goals. This includes securing venues, speakers, and resources, as well as promoting events to the membership and broader community.
4. Maintaining regular communication with the membership, as well as external stakeholders, through newsletters, social media, and other channels. This includes fostering relationships with other student organizations, community groups, and relevant stakeholders to amplify the organization's impact and reach.
5. Facilitating opportunities for member engagement, participation, and involvement in the organization's activities and decision-making processes. This includes recruiting new members, fostering a sense of belonging and community within the organization, and providing avenues for member feedback and input.

2.2.1 Jewish Status for the Executive

It is strongly recommended that members of the Executive identify as Jewish. This recommendation is in accordance with IJV Canada's Executive structure. This recommendation ensures that the leadership

of IJV-CU is grounded in the Jewish community, allowing for authentic representation and understanding of Jewish perspectives on issues related to social justice, human rights, and peace.

2.3 Faculty Advisor

IJV-CU may appoint a faculty advisor, who must be a faculty member or staff member at Carleton University. The Faculty Advisor shall serve as a resource and guide to the organization, providing mentorship, support, and institutional knowledge to the Executive and general membership.

The Faculty Advisor shall have the following rights:

1. The faculty advisor shall have the right to attend all meetings of IJV-CU, including Executive meetings and General Assembly meetings, as a non-voting member.
2. The faculty advisor shall have the right to participate in discussions and offer input on matters related to the organization's activities, policies, and decisions.
3. The faculty advisor shall have the right to represent IJV-CU in official university contexts or meetings when appropriate and agreed upon by the Executive.

The Faculty Advisor shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Providing guidance on organizational development, planning, and decision-making.
2. Supporting the organization in fulfilling its educational mission and promoting campus dialogue on relevant issues.
3. Facilitating connections with other faculty, staff, or external stakeholders who may support the organization's work.

2.3.1 Jewish Status for Faculty Advisor

The Faculty Advisor is not required to adhere to any specific religious or ethnic background. However, it is strongly encouraged that the Faculty Advisor is a member of Carleton University's Jewish Community, as this facilitates a deeper understanding of the cultural and historical context surrounding the organization's mission and objectives.

Article III: Governance

3.1 Executive

IJV-CU shall have an Executive responsible for the overall management and operations of the Society. The Executive shall be democratically elected by the General Membership. All Executives shall be well-versed in principles of Tzedek ve Shalom and it is recommended that Executives be knowledgeable regarding Jewish culture.

3.2 Composition

The Executive shall consist of the following positions:

1. One (1) President
2. One (1) Vice President Finance
3. One (1) Vice President Internal
4. One (1) Vice President Communications

3.3 Additional Positions

The Executive may include additional positions as deemed necessary to support the organization's activities and goals. These positions may be assigned specific responsibilities or areas of focus, such as membership recruitment, event planning, communications, or advocacy. Any creation or modification of these positions will follow the amendment procedure outlined in Article VIII of this constitution.

3.4 Election and Term of Office

Members of the Executive shall be elected by the General Membership in accordance with the procedures outlined in Section V. The term of office for Executive members shall be one (1) academic year, beginning on May 1st and ending on April 30th of each year, with the possibility of re-election for consecutive terms.

3.5 Executive Portfolios

IJV-CU is structured with the following executive portfolios, each essential to the effective functioning and impact of the organization:

3.5.1 President

The President of IJV-CU assumes the role of leader, providing direction and vision aligned with the organization's mission. They preside over Executive and General Membership meetings. Additionally, the President serves as the primary spokesperson for IJV-CU, representing the organization in external engagements with university administration, student groups, and the wider community. During times of challenge or controversy, the President offers guidance and ensures adherence to organizational values.

3.5.2 Vice President Finance

As Vice President Finance, the individual oversees the financial health of IJV-CU. They manage budgeting, financial planning, and expenditure tracking, ensuring responsible allocation of resources. Fundraising efforts, including grants, donations, and sponsorships, fall under their purview. Moreover, the Vice President Finance prepares financial reports, fostering transparency and accountability within the organization.

3.5.3 Vice President Internal

The Vice President Internal focuses on nurturing a vibrant and engaged membership within IJV-CU. They design strategies for recruitment, retention, and recognition of members, cultivating a sense of belonging and participation. Facilitating effective communication among members and soliciting feedback to address concerns are critical aspects of their role.

3.5.4 Vice President Communications

In their capacity as Vice President Communications, the individual spearheads efforts to amplify IJV-CU's impact and reach through strategic communication initiatives. They craft and execute comprehensive communication strategies to raise awareness of the organization's mission and activities among diverse stakeholders. Managing media relations, social media platforms, and the organization's website, the Vice President Communications ensures consistent and effective messaging. Furthermore, they develop marketing materials and branding campaigns to enhance IJV-CU's visibility and relevance within the university and the broader community.

Article IV: Meetings

4.1 Meetings of the General Membership

Meetings of the General Membership can be called:

1. At the request of the President, for a meeting to be held not less than one (1) week from the date of publication of the notice;
2. At the request of the Executive, for a meeting to be held not less than one (1) week from the date of publication of the notice; or
3. At the request of any five (5) members of the organization.

4.1.1 Annual General Meeting

A minimum of one (1) meeting of the General Membership must occur per year in the spring for the purpose of elections.

4.1.2 Quorum of the General Membership

The presence of at least five (5) members, or the majority of members, whichever is less, shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of General Membership for the exercise of its powers.

4.2 Meetings of the Executive

Meetings of the Executive shall:

1. Be held at regular intervals and are for the purpose of running the club.
2. Votes by the Executive on club business shall be declared by a simple majority.

Article V: Leadership Succession

IJV-CU operates its Executive leadership selection process through a consensus-based method. This approach ensures that decisions regarding the composition of the Executive are made collectively and inclusively by the organization's members.

5.1 Notification and Preparation

All club members will receive advance notification of a meeting, scheduled more than a week in advance, to discuss the future leadership of the club. The notification will include details of the meeting location, with virtual options available for those unable to attend in person.

5.2 Meeting Facilitation

During the meeting, members may elect or appoint an individual to keep track of meeting minutes and compile a report detailing the consensus-building process.

5.3 Consensus Building

Club members will work together across multiple meetings to reach a consensus on the future leadership of the organization. Discussions will focus on evaluating candidates and determining alignment with the organization's values and goals.

5.4 Reporting and Communication

If consensus is achieved, members will designate a representative to inform and email the Student Groups Administrator with a report summarizing the consensus decision and providing meeting minutes.

5.5 Unsuccessful Consensus

In the event that consensus cannot be reached, the outgoing club president will inform the Student Groups Administrator. The organization will then decide whether to pursue an election or request permission to implement an application and interview process for selecting new leadership.

Article VI: Impeachment

6.1 Consultation with the CUSA Clubs Membership Removal Committee

Before proceeding with any impeachment action, IJV-CU will first consult the CUSA Clubs Membership Removal Committee (MRC) for guidance. The MRC will advise on the appropriate next steps for the organization.

6.2 Impeachment of an Executive

This section pertains to the impeachment of any member on the Executive, including the President and Vice-Presidents, as defined in Section 3.2.

6.2.1 Grounds for Impeachment of an Executive

Grounds for impeachment of a club executive include any violation of the constitution, the governing documents of CUSA, committing acts that negatively affect or harm the interests of the club and its members, and/or failure to fulfill executive duties.

6.2.2 Procedure for Impeachment of an Executive

Any member can bring forward a request for impeachment to any executive. Within ten (10) days of receiving the request, the executive will host a meeting with the general membership. During this meeting, the complaint will be reviewed, and both the member bringing forward the complaint and the accused executive will have the opportunity to speak.

6.2.3 Voting Process for an Impeachment of an Executive

A vote for impeachment with the general membership will be conducted. The accused executive shall not be permitted to vote. A simple majority will be needed to impeach the executive. Successful impeachment results in the removal of the executive from office and as a member of the club.

6.3 Impeachment of a General Member

This section pertains to the impeachment of a general member of the organization, as defined in Section 2.1.

6.3.1 Grounds for Impeachment of a General Member

Grounds for impeachment of a general member of the organization include any violation of the constitution, the governing documents of CUSA, and committing acts that negatively affect or harm the interests of the club and its members.

6.3.2 Procedure for Impeachment of a General Member

Any member can bring forward a request for impeachment to any executive. Within ten (10) days of receiving the request, the Executive will host a meeting. At this meeting, the complaint will be reviewed, and both the individual bringing forward the complaint and the person accused shall be given time to speak.

6.3.3 Voting Process for an Impeachment of a General Member

A vote for impeachment within the Executive will be conducted. A simple majority of executives will be needed to impeach the member. Successful impeachment results in the removal of the individual as a member of the club.

Article VII: Amendments

Proposed amendments to this constitution may be submitted by any member of IJV-CU to the Executive for consideration.

7.1 Submitting an Amendment

The proposed amendments must be submitted in writing and include a rationale for the proposed changes.

7.2 Notice of Amendment

Notice of the proposed amendments shall be provided to the General Membership at least two (2) weeks prior to the vote at which they will be considered. Members will receive a secret ballot in their emails to vote for proposed amendments.

7.3 Voting

A simple majority will be required to adopt the new amendment. Approved amendments shall take effect immediately upon their adoption, unless otherwise specified in the amendment itself. The Executive shall be responsible for ensuring that the amended constitution is updated and made available to all members in a timely manner.

Article VIII: Dissolution

8.1 Initiation of Dissolution

The process of dissolution of IJV-CU may be initiated by a two-thirds majority vote of the General Membership or by recommendation of the Executive in circumstances where continuation of the organization is no longer feasible or aligned with its mission and goals.

8.2 Disposition of Assets

Upon dissolution of the organization, all assets gained through CUSA shall be returned to CUSA, and all other assets shall be given to Independent Jewish Voices Canada.