

No. 23 of 1920.

**An Ordinance to Incorporate the Young Women's Christian
Association of Colombo.**

(As amended by No. 14 of 1921.)

[Date of Governor's assent : October 7, 1920.]

[Date of commencement : October 7, 1920.]

WHEREAS an association, called and known as "The
Young Women's Christian Association of Colombo,"
has heretofore been established at Colombo for the purpose of
effectually carrying out and transacting all matters connected
with the said organization according to the rules agreed to by
its members :

Preamble.

And whereas the said association has heretofore successfully
carried out and transacted the several objects and matters for

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which it was established, and has applied to be incorporated, and it will be for the public advantage to grant the application :

Be it therefore enacted by the Governor of Ceylon, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows :

Short title.

1 This Ordinance may be cited for all purposes as " The Young Women's Christian Association of Colombo Ordinance, No. 23 of 1920."

Incorporation of Young Women's Christian Association of Colombo.

2 From and after the passing of this Ordinance, the President, Vice-President, and members of the Board of Management for the time being of the said Young Women's Christian Association of Colombo, and such and so many persons as are now members of the said Young Women's Christian Association of Colombo or shall hereafter be admitted as members of the corporation hereby constituted, shall be and become a corporation with continuance for ever under the style and name of " The Young Women's Christian Association of Colombo," and by that name shall and may sue and be sued in all courts, with full power and authority to have and use a common seal and to change and alter the same at their pleasure.

General objects of the corporation.

3 The general objects for which the corporation is constituted are hereby declared to be to promote the spiritual, intellectual, social, and physical welfare of the young women of Colombo, including the promotion amongst them of science and literature, their instruction, the diffusion amongst them of useful knowledge and maintenance of libraries, reading rooms, rest rooms, and other features for general use among the members, and traveller's aid work for any young women passing through Colombo.

Board of Management.

4 (1) The affairs of the corporation shall, subject to the rules for the time being of the corporation as hereinafter provided, be administered by a Board of Management consisting of the President and the Vice-Presidents respectively of the corporation and not less than eight other members, to be elected respectively in accordance with the rules in force for the time being of the corporation.

(2) All members of the corporation shall be subject to the rules in force for the time being of the corporation.

(3) The first Board of Management shall consist of Lady Bertram, C.B.E. ; Mrs. W. A. Cole ; Mrs. L. W. A. de Soysa ; Mrs. Napier-Clavering ; Miss E. van Geyzel ; Mrs. M. von Possner ; Mrs. Murray G. Brooks ; Mrs. J. Lochore ; Mrs. M. J. Cary ; Miss Laura von Possner ; Mrs. John Walker ; Mrs. H. P. Beling ; Mrs. E. L. F. de Soysa.

Power to make rules.

5 It shall be lawful for the corporation from time to time, at any general meeting of the members, and by a majority of votes, to make rules for the admission, withdrawal, or expulsion of members ; for the imposition of fines and forfeitures

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for breaches of rules ; for the conduct of the duties of the Board of Management, and of the various officers, agents, and servants of the corporation ; for the procedure in the transaction of business ; and otherwise generally for the management of the affairs of the corporation and the accomplishment of its objects. Such rules when made may, at a like meeting, be altered, added to, amended, or cancelled, subject, however, to the requirements of section 7.

6 Subject to the provisions in the preceding section contained, the rules set forth in the schedule hereto shall for all purposes be the rules of the corporation ; provided, however, that nothing in this section contained shall be held or construed to prevent the corporation at all times hereafter from making fresh rules, or from altering, amending, adding to, or cancelling any of the rules in the schedule hereto or to be hereafter made by the corporation.

The rules in schedule to be the rules of the corporation.

7 No rule in the schedule hereto, nor any rule hereafter passed at a general meeting, and no decision come to by the corporation in general meeting, shall be altered, added to, amended, or cancelled, except by a majority of the members present and voting at any subsequent general meeting.

Amendment of rules.

8 On the coming into operation of this Ordinance all and every the property belonging to the said Young Women's Christian Association of Colombo, whether held in the name of the said Young Women's Christian Association of Colombo or in the name or names of any person or persons in trust for the said Young Women's Christian Association of Colombo, shall be and the same are hereby vested in the corporation hereby constituted, and the same, together with all after-acquired property, both movable and immovable, and all subscriptions, contributions, donations, fines, amounts of loan and advance received or to be received, shall be held by the said corporation for the purposes of this Ordinance, and subject to the rules for the time being in force of the said corporation.

Property vested in corporation.

9 All debts and liabilities of the said Young Women's Christian Association of Colombo existing at the time of the coming into operation of this Ordinance shall be paid by the corporation hereby constituted, and all debts due to, and subscriptions, contributions, and fines payable to, the said Young Women's Christian Association of Colombo shall be paid to the said corporation for the purposes of this Ordinance.

Debts due by and payable to the corporation.

10 The seal of the corporation shall not be affixed to any instrument whatsoever except in the presence of two of the members of the Board of Management, who shall sign their names to the instrument in token of their presence, and such signing shall be independent of the signing of any person as a witness.

The seal of the corporation to be affixed.

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Corporation
may hold
property,
movable and
immovable.

11 The corporation shall be able and capable in law to take and hold any property, movable or immovable, which may become vested in it by virtue of any purchase, grant, gift, testamentary disposition, or otherwise, and all such property shall be held by the corporation for the purposes of this Ordinance, and subject to the rules for the time being of the said corporation, with full power to sell, mortgage, lease, exchange, or otherwise dispose of the same.

*Saving as to
rights of His
Majesty and
others.*
[§ 2, 14 of 1921.]

12 *Nothing in this Ordinance contained shall prejudice or affect the rights of His Majesty the King, his heirs and successors, or of any body politic or corporate, or of any other persons, except such as are mentioned in this Ordinance, and those claiming by, from, or under them.*

SCHEDULE.

Rules of the Young Women's Christian Association of Colombo.

Article 1.

Name.—The name of this organization shall be “The Young Women's Christian Association of Colombo.”

Article 2.

Object.—The object of this association shall be to promote the spiritual, intellectual, social, and general welfare of young women.

Article 3.

Affiliation.—This association is affiliated with the National Young Women's Christian Association of India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Article 4.

1. *Membership.*—The members of this association shall be young women not less than fourteen years of age, and shall be classed as active, associate, and sustaining members.

2. The active membership of this association shall consist of young women who are communicant members of Protestant evangelical churches, and who wish to be known as distinctly and avowedly on the side of Christ.

3. Any young woman of good character may become an associate member.

4. Sustaining members (who may be either active or associate) shall pay a membership fee of at least Rs. 12 a year.

5. Active members only shall have the right to vote and to hold office. Associate members shall have the same privileges as active members, but not the right to vote or to hold office.

6. Applicants for membership must be suitably recommended, and approved by the Board of Management.

7. The fees and privileges of membership shall be as determined by the Board of Management.

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Article 5.

1. *Management.*—The supervision and development of the work of the association shall be entrusted to a Board of Management composed of active members of the association representing so far as possible the various Protestant evangelical churches in the city. It shall comprise—

- (a) Not more than twelve members elected at the annual business meeting of the association.*
- (b) Not more than three additional members elected by the Board during the year. These members of the Board shall serve for one year, or until their successors have been elected.
- (c) All Branch Secretaries *ex officio*.
- (d) All Secretaries received through the Committee of the National Young Women's Christian Association of India, Burma, and Ceylon.

2. The officers of the association shall be a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary (appointed by the Committee of the National Young Women's Christian Association of India, Burma and Ceylon), a Recording Secretary, and a Treasurer. These officers, except the General Secretary, shall be elected at the first meeting of the Board of Management following the annual business meeting. They shall also be the officers of the Board of Management.

3. It shall be the duty of the President (or, in her absence, of one of the Vice-Presidents) to preside at all business meetings of the association and of the Board of Management.

4. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to have charge of all moneys received for the purposes of the association, and to disburse the same only in such manner as the Board of Management may from time to time determine. The Treasurer shall keep full and correct accounts, and shall submit a statement of the accounts at each regular meeting of the Board of Management and at the annual business and public meetings of the association. The Treasurer shall forward the affiliation fee to the Treasurer of the National Committee at the beginning of each year.

5. It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to attend all business meetings of the association and of the Board of Management and to keep minutes thereof.

6. The General Secretary shall be the executive officer of the association and of the Board of Management.

7. All deeds and other instruments to which the association may be a party, and which shall have received the sanction and approval of the Board of Management shall be executed on behalf of the association by the President (or, in her absence, by one of the Vice-Presidents) and by the General Secretary.

8. The President and the General Secretary shall be *ex officio* members of all committees of the association.

9. The Board of Management shall have power—

- (a) To elect additional members, not exceeding three, to the Board of Management during the year.
- (b) To fill all vacancies that may occur among the officers or in the Board of Management during the year.

*Of these members, six shall be elected each year to serve for a term of two years, or until their successors have been elected.

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- (c) To appoint such sub-committees and special committees as may be required to supervise and conduct the business of the association.
- (d) To make by-laws for its own government and for the government of the association and its departments and branches, provided that such by-laws are not inconsistent with this constitution.
- (e) By the vote of not less than two-thirds of the members for the time being of the Board to purchase or acquire, or take on lease, immovable property on behalf of the association.
- (f) By the like two-thirds vote to sell, let, or lease the immovable property of the association, or mortgage or charge the same for the purpose of raising money for the benefit of the association.
- (g) To keep up, manage, and control all property of the association. To invest and lay out the moneys of the association, and to dispose of and deal with the movable property of the association in such manner as it may deem fit for the benefit of the association. No contract, debt, or obligation shall be binding unless contracted by virtue of a resolution of the Board of Management.

10. Regular meetings of the Board of Management shall be held monthly, April and May excepted. Special meetings may be called by the President, or at the written request of five members, the object of the meeting being stated in the notice, and no other business being transacted. Five members shall constitute a quorum. An executive committee composed of all the officers shall have power to act for the Board, when necessary, in the interim between meetings.

11. The members of the Board of Management shall be *ex officio* members of all organizations formed within the association or under its auspices, and no organization shall be so formed without the approval of the Board.

Article 6.

1. *Departments and Branches.*—Departments and branches may be formed under such conditions as the Board of Management may approve.

2. Each branch shall have a Secretary elected annually by its members from among their own number. It shall be the duty of the Branch Secretary to attend all business meetings of the branch, and to keep faithful records; also to attend the meetings of the Board of Management.

3. Fees received from members shall be paid into the general treasury through the Branch Secretary, and applications for money for local expenses may be made through her to the Board of Management.

Article 7.

1. *Meetings of the Association.*—An annual business meeting of the association shall be held in the month of January, at which the report of the Board of Management and of the Treasurer shall be presented, and members of the Board shall be elected in accordance with article 5, section 1.

2. An annual public meeting of the association shall be held as early in the year as possible, at which a general report of the work of the association and a duly audited statement of accounts shall be presented.

3. Special meetings of the association shall be called by the President at the written request of ten active members or by order of the Board of Management.

4. Fifteen active members shall constitute a quorum.

5. All business meetings of the association shall be opened by the reading of scripture and prayer.

Article 8.

Interdenominational Basis.—The work of the association shall be entirely unsectarian, and nothing tending to affect its character as such shall be introduced at any of its meetings.

Article 9.

Amendments.—This constitution (except article 4, sections 2 and 5, which cannot be amended) may be altered or amended by a three-fourths vote of the active members present at the regular or called meeting of the association, provided that such alteration or amendment shall have been previously approved by the Board of Management, and that due notice shall have been given to the members of the association, the proposed alteration or amendment being stated in the notice.