

Sapphic Community Organization

Articles of Association

ARTICLE 1: ESTABLISHMENT - NAME

The community association, named “Sapphic Community Organization (SCO)” is established in Eressos, Lesbos according to the provisions of the Civil Code.

ARTICLE 2: SEAT

The seat of “SCO” is in a particular building in the village of Skala Eresou on the island of Lesbos, Greece.

ARTICLE 3: PURPOSE

SCO aims to

- celebrate the history of women and Sapphic communities in Eressos
- encourage learning and cultural exchange between locals and visitors
- address issues facing women and the gender diverse community
- support refugees who seek to set up their home in Eressos
- protect the region's unique biodiversity
- keep Eressos accessible for local people
- spread joy and community belonging

ARTICLE 4: MEANS OF ACCOMPLISHING AIMS

1. Celebrate History & Culture

Honor the Past: Commemorate the deep-rooted herstory of the region to educate and empower present generations.

Creative Expression: Provide an intersectional space for self- and collective empowerment, artistic pursuits, and the development of feminist practices.

2. Encourage Learning & Exchange

Skill-Sharing: Host communal seasonal workshops and residencies for both residents and visitors.
Event Programming: Organize regular, year-round gatherings such as potlucks and movie nights to foster both local and international networking.

3. Address Women and FLINTA*¹ Issues

Safer Spaces: Create a welcoming environment that exists outside of commercial venues that require mandatory consumption.

Support Networks: Facilitate intersectional environments for creativity and community building among women and FLINTA* individuals.

4. Support Refugees

Facilitate the participation of refugees and migrants in local life.

Collaboration: Partner with specialized advocacy groups to strengthen refugee support systems.

5. Protect Regional Biodiversity Environmental Action:

Integrate environmental consciousness into all decision-making processes.

Education & Cleanup: Collaborate with environmental advocacy groups.

6. Keep Eressos Accessible:

Build physical and intellectual connections to the local community to ensure an inclusive atmosphere.

¹ FLINTA* stands for Women, lesbians, Intersex, Non-binary, Trans and Asexual people in German.

Collaborate with local organizations to pursue community accessibility for living and visiting.

ARTICLE 5: MEMBERS - RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

Regular members

1. Regular members of “SCO” are registered, upon their application (either in person or through a specially designed digital platform) to the Board of “SCO”. They can be of any nationality, 18 years of age and over, who accept the purposes of the Association as defined by the Articles of Association and the Guidance Document. Registration of regular members takes place by decision of the Board at their request.
2. Regular members have the right to vote.
3. The annual subscription is determined by a decision of the General Assembly.
4. While in order to support the purpose and viability of the association it is stipulated that regular members if they choose to attend or participate in any of the activities of the association will pay the same amount as other guests. It is the member’s choice if they participate or not. There will be occasional “free for members” or “Members only” events to show gratitude for the members’ involvement.
5. Regular members of “SCO” have the right to take part in the General Assemblies, to speak, to vote, to stand for committee office and to be elected members of the Board if nominated by the Board.
6. The refusal or delay in paying the annual subscription by a member of “SCO” bars that member from taking part in the General Assemblies and could lead to the removal of their name from the register of the Association.

Honorary members

7. Honorary members support the association through their membership.
8. Honorary members are invited to attend the General Assembly and Extraordinary Assembly as observers without a right to speak or vote.
9. Honorary members may receive invitations to certain events

Regular and honorary members

10. Any member who does not fulfil his/her obligations to “SCO”, to the regulations of the Articles of Association, to the decisions of the General Assembly and behaves in a manner incompatible with the aims of the association can be expelled by decision of the Board of Directors. Every member has the right to a fair review and a formal appeal under article 88 of the Civil Code.
11. Any member can request in writing their deletion from the membership book at any time. Membership fees, if applicable, are non-refundable. Members may resign from any office to which they have been elected or offer their services in the form of a written resignation by email or post. The resignation is valid 2 weeks later and only after the assignment of their role / responsibilities to another member, the delivery of material / work done / codes / contact lists or other important items to the replacement. The resigned member must remain available to support the replacement for as long as needed upon mutual agreement. The material emerging from the work of any member contracted for/by “SCO” belongs to “SCO”.
12. If a member is accused of behavior that contravenes the Guidance Document or with intentional disregard for SCO or commits a serious criminal offence, the Board of Directors can make a decision regarding the status of that member up to and including their expulsion from the association. An expelled member has the right to a fair review and a formal appeal under article 88 of the Civil Code.
13. The membership is automatically resolved upon death. Membership is not transferable.

ARTICLE 6: THE BODIES OF “SCO”

The bodies of “SCO” are the General Assembly and the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may call for the formation of Committees as needed and ask special persons to become part of an Advisory Board.

ARTICLE 7: GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. The General Assembly is the sovereign governing body of community activities of “SCO” and decides on any case, which does not fall under the jurisdiction of another body.
2. The General Assembly has attained quorum when at least 1/4 of its regular members are present. In case of non-quorum, the Meeting is repeated in exactly one week, at the same time, in the same place and with the same agenda without further notice. The second time the body is in quorum regardless of the number of regular members present.
3. The General Assembly approves the annual budget, balance sheets, accounts and reports.
4. The General Assembly is made up of regular members of “SCO”.
5. The General Assembly meets once a year on any day of the third quarter of each year.
6. An extraordinary General Assembly may be called by the BoD. It can also be called by at least 1/5 of its current regular members by a written request addressed to the Board of Directors and listing the issues to be discussed. In this case, the meeting must take place within a period not exceeding fifteen (15) days from the receipt of the request.
7. The Board of Directors invites members to the General Assembly at least fourteen (14) days before the meeting. They send invitations by email or post. The invitation states the date, time, and location of the meeting, as well as the topics on the agenda. The Board of Directors prepares this agenda. Regular members can ask to add a new topic to the agenda by writing a request at least ten days before the meeting. At the start of the meeting, the General Assembly votes on whether to add these extra topics. If members cannot attend in person, they may join the meeting online. Regular members can also vote electronically if a majority of the General Assembly agrees to use electronic voting.
8. The decisions of the General Assembly are validly adopted by an absolute majority of the regular members present who may be present either in person or online.
9. If at least 3/4 of the regular members agree in writing to a particular proposal, a decision can be adopted without an assembly of the members.
10. At every meeting of the General Assembly, the first point of order is to elect the Chair, Recorder and Timekeeper.
11. The rules of order are stated in the Guidance Document.
12. The rules of article 98 of the Civil Code are followed in each ballot of the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 8: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. The “SCO” is governed by at least a two-member Board of Directors. It can be extended to up to 5 persons. The Board of Directors consists at a minimum of the Chair, and General Secretary. The obligations of the Treasurer will be directed to a professional accountant and overseen by the Board. There may be Board members without a title.
2. The Board of Directors administers and manages the interests, obligation, and property of “SCO”, in accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Association, prepares the report of the management of the previous year as well as the budget of the next year, which it submits to the General Assembly for approval. It is responsible for the accountability of the proceedings at the end of each year. It forms various committees, temporary or permanent and assigns to them the study and execution of various issues and activities of the Association. It also may call for an advisory board.
3. The Board of Directors meets regularly every two months, and extraordinarily, whenever deemed necessary by at least two members of the Board of Directors.
4. The decisions of the Board of Directors are taken by a majority of the present members, and it is in quorum when two of its members, one of them the chair, are present.
5. Unless decided differently by the Board before the meeting, any voting will be made by hand sign. The minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors are approved and signed by the members of the Board, after reading them at the next meeting.

6. To add members to, or replace parting members of the Board, the Board of Directors will create a Nomination Committee to select and propose new members to the Board. If parting members are the chair or the secretary and their seats cannot be filled from within the existing board, an extraordinary General Assembly will be called within fifteen (15) days to elect a replacement.
7. The Board of Directors meets at the headquarters of "SCO" or elsewhere or online (conference call and other possible ways), following a decision of the Board of Directors.
8. Board members may receive compensation as allowed by law.
9. The Board of directors may decide to hire and employ personnel.

ARTICLE 9: COMMITTEES

The General Assembly as well as the Board of Directors may call for the establishment of Committees to help management and operations in accordance with the mission. These Committees can include, but are not limited to, Finance Committee, Program Committee, Development Committee, Maintenance Committee, Communications Committee (PR).

ARTICLE 10: ADVISORY BOARD

The Board of Directors may establish an Advisory Board of "SCO" members and non-members to advise and collaborate on certain issues.

ARTICLE 11: RESPONSIBILITIES OF BOARD MEMBERS

1. The Chair Of the Board of Directors coordinates the work of "SCO", in accordance with the decisions of the General Assembly and the Board of Directors, the terms of these Articles of Association and the provisions of the laws. Represents "SCO" in the Courts of all degrees and jurisdiction, in the public, Municipal and other authorities, in the legal entities of Public and Private Law and in general judicial and extrajudicial areas or entities. Coordinates the meetings of the Board of Directors, co-signs with the present members the minutes of the meetings, supervises and ensures the observance of the provisions of the Guidance Document and the execution of the decisions of the Board of Directors and the General Assembly and controls the General Secretary, the Treasury/accountant and management. With the General Secretary and the Treasurer/accountant she/they/he prepare/s the annual balance sheet, budget and report as well as the report of the activities of the Board of Directors, which she/they/he, after being approved by the Board, submits for approval to the General Assembly at its regular annual meeting.
2. The Secretary acts and handles the correspondence of "SCO", receives the applications and after their approval processes the registrations of the members, keeps the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors, keeps the stamp, co-signs with the Chair "SCO"s documents, keeps files and protocols. She/they/he, with the Chair, administer/s the Treasury and the management. She/they/he also co-sign/s with the Chair the receipts and payment orders, if the Board of Directors decides so.

ARTICLE 12: AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION - CHANGE OF PURPOSE - DISSOLUTION

1. Amendment of Articles of Association

To amend the articles of association, amendments require the approval of three-quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the present regular members. Amendments may be initiated by the Board of Directors or at least one-tenth ($\frac{1}{10}$) of regular members.

2. Change of Purpose

Changes to the purpose of the association must be approved by three-quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the present regular members. Changes to the purpose may be initiated by the Board of Directors or at least one-tenth ($\frac{1}{10}$) of the regular members.

3. Dissolution of the Association

The Association may be dissolved by decision of the General Assembly or by court order under the law. The decision to dissolve the association must be approved by three-quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) of present regular members.

4. Liquidation

Liquidation is handled by liquidators appointed by the assembly; remaining assets cannot be distributed to members and go to an organization with a similar goal.

ARTICLE 13: GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

1. "SCO" is governed by internal regulations (laid out in the Guidance Document). Members must read the Guidance Document as well as the Articles of Association before joining the association in order to understand its purpose.
2. The Guidance Document may be amended upon the proposal of the Board of Directors or a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of the regular members of the General Assembly present, when it is found that it does not meet the needs of the association and its members. All regular members can propose amendments – changes which will be voted on and approved by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of regular members and will be the new Guidance Document. The Board has the right to draw up internal regulations, which will define in detail the procedures by which the various activities of the Association will be carried out and the way its various sections will operate. The internal regulations do not apply before they are approved by the General Assembly and may not amend the provisions of the Articles of Association.

ARTICLE 14: THE ASSOCIATION'S BOOKS

Mandatory:

- Register of members. All members' details are entered in it.
- Book of Minutes of the Board of Directors.
- Book of Minutes of the General Assembly of the members.
- Receipts – Payments Book.

"SCO" can keep other books depending on its needs.

ARTICLE 15: GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. "SCO" is entitled to participate in broader and / or similar associations, internationally, according to its stated purpose. The provisions of these Articles of Association and the relevant laws are applied proportionally.
2. Actions of the bodies of "SCO" are legally binding, as long as they are decided within the framework of their responsibility and during their term of office.
3. "SCO" is generally represented judicially and extrajudicially by its Chair and where they are hindered, by the Secretary. For certain actions it is possible for the representation to be assigned to a third party member of the association or not, depending on the case, after the relevant approval of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 16: COMMENCEMENT

The First Ordinary Assembly, which will approve the members of the Board of Directors, will take place no later than three (3) months from the approval of these Articles of Association and the registration of the association in the Books of Associations of the Lesvos Court of First Instance.

Until then, the association will be governed by a temporary Steering Committee / temporary Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 17: PROVISIONAL ORDER

Membership fees are established once a year by vote at the general assembly. The annual membership fee is due upon the anniversary of their initial membership. This provision might be changed by the General Assembly in deciding on a different yearly membership fee.

ARTICLE 18: FINAL LAYOUT

These Articles of Association consist of EIGHTEEN (18) articles, drafted and after being read, approved by the founding members in ERESOS, LESVOS and signed as follows:

THE FOUNDERS

Present at the Founding Assembly