

Scottish Irish Abortion Rights Campaign

1. Name

The name of the group shall be **Scottish Irish Abortion Rights Campaign**.

2. Aims

The aims of Scottish Irish Abortion Rights Campaign will be:

- To bring people in Scotland together to campaign for free, safe, legal abortion on the island of Ireland. This may include: fundraising; policy & advocacy; direct action; establishing partnerships with relevant people and organisations in the UK; and building awareness through media and communication platforms
- To challenge the stigma and silence surrounding abortion by sharing and promoting accurate, up-to-date information
- To educate the general public as well as policy makers in Scotland about the need for free, safe, and legal access to abortion services on the island of Ireland, lobbying for their support in matters that may directly or indirectly affect this goal
- To mobilise support for abortion rights on the island of Ireland from a range of groups across Scotland which may include professional organisations, trade unions, representative bodies, charity and third sector organisation, political parties and their members, grassroots groups as well as individuals
- To work collaboratively and in partnership with campaigns which align with our aims and values

3. Membership

Membership is open to anyone who:

- is interested in furthering the aims of Scottish Irish Abortion Rights Campaign.
- Agrees to conduct themselves in a manner that is at all times respectful of others

Membership is free and will begin when an individual has been involved in more than two events organised by Scottish Irish Abortion Rights Campaign (or related events). Members must also sign up to the mailing list to ensure they are contactable.

The mailing list is monitored by the Community Key Contacts.

4. Ceasing to be a member

Members may resign at any time by requesting removal from the mailing list. Members should contact the organisation's Community Key Contacts to do so.

Any offensive behaviour, including (but not limited to) racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, ageism or making inflammatory remarks, will not be permitted at any time including on shared social media platforms and during meetings. Anyone behaving in an offensive way or breaking the equal opportunities policy may be blocked on social media platforms and/or expelled from Scottish Irish Abortion Rights Campaign. Any individual who

is involved in offensive behaviour shall have the right to make an apology that acknowledges the offence that that has been caused. The Scottish Irish Abortion Rights Campaign Committee reserve the right not to accept this apology. The Scottish Irish Abortion Rights Campaign Committee also reserve the right to issue a onetime warning which if breached will be followed by immediate expulsion from the group.

5. Raising a concern

A concern may be raised by going through any member of the committee. This may done in confidence.

The Scottish Irish Abortion Rights Campaign Committee will investigate and review any concerns raised in a timely fashion and in manner that is respectful to all parties.

If a committee member is a party involved, or linked, to the concern, they will not take part in any actions related to the investigation and review.

6. Equal Opportunities

Scottish Irish Abortion Rights Campaign will not discriminate on the grounds of protected characteristics including, but not limited to, gender, race, ethnic or national origin, sexuality, gender identity, disability, religious or political belief, marital status or age.

7. Constituency

The business of Scottish Irish Abortion Rights Campaign Committee will be carried out by a Committee elected biannually at the Biannual General Meeting. The Committee will meet as necessary, and not less than, four times a year.

The Committee will consist of 9 members, and be composed of 3 officers and 6 key contacts. Up to 2 additional members may be co-opted onto the committee at the discretion of the committee.

The Committee's roles are as follows:

- Chair, who shall chair both general and committee meetings
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Key Contacts
 - Policy development x2
 - Community building x2
 - Awareness raising x2

In the event of a role becoming vacant during a six-month term, a replacement will be elected by the next Biannual Meeting of members.

Any committee member not attending a meeting without apology for three months will be contacted by the committee and asked if they wish to resign.

The Committee meetings will be open to any member of Scottish Irish Abortion Rights Campaign wishing to attend.

8. Meetings

8.1. Biannual General Meetings

A biannual General Meeting (BGM) will be held within eight months of the previous BGM.

All members will be notified via email at least 2 weeks before the date of the meeting, giving the venue, date and time.

Nominations for the committee may be made to the Chair before the meeting, or at the meeting.

The quorum for the BGM will be 10 or more members. This may include committee members.

At the BGM: -

- The Committee will present a summary of the work of Scottish Irish Abortion Rights Campaign over the six-month term.
- The Committee will present the accounts of Scottish Irish Abortion Rights Campaign for the previous six-month term.
- The Committee for the next six-month term will be elected.
- Any proposals given to the Chair in advance of the meeting will be discussed.

8.2 General Meetings

General Meetings are open to all members and will be held at least once every 3 months or more often if necessary.

- All members will be given two weeks' notice of such a meeting, including the venue, date, time and agenda. Notice may be given by email, WhatsApp message or social media post.
- The quorum for a General Meeting shall be 5 members or more. This may include committee members
- At each meeting of the group a minute taker will be appointed who will record an agreed minute of the business of the meeting.
- At each meeting of the group the elected chair will facilitate the business of the meeting and strive to allow fair representation of the views of those present.

- At the start of each meeting of the group a proposed agenda will be approved by members present.

8.3 Committee Meetings

Committee meetings may be called by the Chair or Key Contacts. Committee members must receive notice of meetings at least 7 days before the meeting.

The quorum for Committee meetings is three Committee members.

8.4 Voting rights

Voting rights are limited to members of the organisation who have previously attend two or more meetings.

9. Rules of Procedure for meetings

All questions that arise at any meeting will be discussed openly and the meeting will seek to find general agreement that everyone present can agree to.

If a consensus cannot be reached a vote will be taken and a decision will be made by a simple majority of members present. If the number of votes cast on each side is equal, the chair of the meeting shall have an additional casting vote.

10. Finances

An account will be maintained on behalf of the group at a bank or building society agreed by the committee. Three cheque signatories will be nominated by the Committee. The signatories must not be related nor members of the same household.

All payments will be signed by two of the signatories.

- For cheque payments, the signatories will sign the cheque.
- For other payments (such as BACS payments, cash withdrawals, debit card payments or cash payments), a requisition note will be signed by two signatories, and held by the treasurer.

Records of income and expenditure will be maintained by the Treasurer and a financial statement given at each meeting.

All money raised by or on behalf of Scottish Irish Abortion Rights Campaign is only to be used to further the aims of the group, as specified in Item 2 of this constitution.

9. Amendments to the Constitution

Amendments to the constitution may only be made at the Biannual General Meeting or an Annual General Meeting.

- Any proposal to amend the constitution must be given to the Chair in writing. The proposal must then be circulated with the notice of meeting.
- Any proposal to amend the constitution will require a two thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote.

10. Dissolution

If a meeting, by simple majority, decides that it is necessary to close down the group it may call a Committee Meeting to do so. The sole business of this meeting will be to dissolve the group.

If it is agreed to dissolve the group, all remaining money and other assets, once outstanding debts have been paid, will be donated to an organisation which shares similar aims to Scottish Irish Abortion Rights Campaign and is agreed upon by those present at the meeting.

This constitution was agreed at the Biannual General Meeting of the Scottish Irish Abortion Rights Campaign on: -

Date/...../.....

Name and position in group

Signed

Name and position in group

Signed