



Guidelines for National Women's Council of Ireland Executive Board for the Ratification of Applications for Membership of NWC

Revised, November 2020

These guidelines seek to provide assistance to the National Women's Council Executive Board in determining whether to accept applications for full membership of the organisation.

The National Women's Council (NWC) is primarily and fundamentally a membership organisation. We derive our mandate from our membership. We depend on them to create the conditions for the diverse voices of women to be heard and to be a strong and effective representative organisation for women's rights in Ireland. Our vision is of an Ireland and a world where there is full equality between women and men. Our mission is to lead and be a catalyst for change in the achievement of equality between women and men by articulating the views and experiences of our members. Our values and beliefs shape how we work and key among these are feminism, solidarity, human rights, respect for bodily integrity, redistribution of care work, collective action, collaboration, participation, women's leadership, and a society based on equality, respect and inclusivity.

In determining whether to accept a new applicant for full membership of NWC, the Executive Board will do so in the context of ensuring the promotion and protection of the vision, mission and values of NWC, and in recognition of its role in acting in a position of trust for NWC members as per our Memorandum and Articles of Association. In doing so the Executive Board will take into account the following;

1. Whether the applicant organisation meets the new criteria for full membership of NWC
2. The reason given by the applicant organisation for seeking to join
3. The kind of activity and focus of the work of the applicant organisation



4. The values, mission and vision of the applicant organisation
5. The demonstrated commitment of the applicant organisation to feminism and women's equality
6. The potential for collaboration and alliance building
7. Previous communication or relationship between the applicant organisation and NWC or members of NWC (where known)
8. Any perceived potential conflict of values or interest which may arise as a result of the organisation becoming a member of NWC
9. What are our key concerns in relation to ratifying this groups application?
10. As an organisation that seeks to be as inclusive as possible are there ways in which we can include this group while addressing the concerns that we have and ensuring that the integrity of NWC is protected?
11. What are the potential positive/negative impacts on NWC of including/excluding this organisation as a member?

In asking the above question consideration could be given to such factors as; the message being disseminated from NWC, the impact on NWC's work, the reaction of members and other NWC supporters/stakeholders, the impact on NWC's reputation.