

THE DIALOGUES FOR PEACE CONSTITUTION

Article 1: Name

The name of this organization shall be *Dialogues For Peace*.

Article 2: Purpose

The goals of this organization are to:

- I. Create awareness and propagate knowledge, on all levels, of the various conflicts that characterize the prevailing world order. This will be done by way of symposiums, initiation of dialogues and exchanges of ideas through regular public meetings, lectures and other such open forums for constructive dialogues.
- II. Network with other political and social organizations with similar interests on campus, as well as integrating into a broader network of organizations striving for social justice, nationally and internationally.
- III. Carry out concrete and direct action in Middlebury College and off-campus, to seek amicable and non-violent resolution to conflict. This will be done by constructing public outreach programs, organizing series of panel and student led discussions, sponsoring guest speakers, screening films, working with other organizations on campus and in the community, with the aim of connecting as many people as possible to affect change in issues that they might be interested in.

Article 3: Membership

Membership is open to all students, faculty and staff of the Middlebury College community. A member will be anyone who has attended two meetings in a term. The membership list will be reviewed at the beginning and end of every semester.

Article 4: Officers

The leadership of the organization shall be a council of four elected members of the Dialogues for Peace made up of Middlebury College students.

- A Coordinator who oversees the leadership council and who will be chiefly in charge of generating ideas for the agenda of Dialogues for Peace and planning ahead for the Team. (I.e. selecting speakers and guests, structuring panel discussions, lectures, film viewings and other club activities with the Events Coordinator.)
- An Events Coordinator who will work closely with the coordinator to direct the operation of the organization efficiently. He/She will act as the 'external' communication liaison and be responsible for the public relations of Dialogues for Peace and for disseminating information of the organization's events beyond the College Community. In the absence of the Coordinator, the Events Coordinator will have the right to oversee the organization and direct it accordingly.
- A Secretary who will be the 'internal' communication liaison between Dialogues for Peace and other groups on campus, such as the Commons Councils. He/She will be the logistical 'right hand' of the coordinators and the focal point of information and communication within the College. The Secretary will also be responsible for recording the minutes of each administrative and general meeting and distributing that information to members.
- A treasurer who will act as the finance liaison between Dialogues for Peace and the SGA Finance Committee. The treasurer will essentially be responsible for fund raising for Dialogues for Peace. He/She will calculate the budgetary needs of each event and consult with groups on usage and distribution of funds and submit requests for all purchases and expenses. He/She is also responsible for submitting a yearly budget request to the SGA Finance Committee.

Article 5: Elections

Elections shall be held annually before March 15th. A quorum of 2/3 of the club members must be present at the election. At least 50% of the membership has to vote in order for the elections to be valid. Elections will be publicized amongst all members of the organization. Multiple votes for one candidate cannot be cast by a single member in this election. Council members will serve a term of one year. In extenuating circumstances, special elections may be held.

In the election of the Leadership Council, the five candidates with the most votes cast in their favor by the quorum carry the election. In the event of a tie, those contestants will take part in a run off decided by a simple majority. For the offices of Secretary and Treasurer, a simple majority is needed.

Article 6: Meetings

Meetings will be held bi-weekly. The frequency of meetings will be subject to changes when club events take place. All board members must be present or notify the coordinators of their absence in advance. Meetings will be open to all members of the College community, be it students, faculty or staff.

Article 7: Committee

No standing committees exist currently. The Coordinators reserve the power to appoint temporary committees as the needs arises. [sic]

Article 8: Advisor

The membership may recommend a member of the Faculty/Staff to advise the organization.

Article 9: Affiliations

Dialogues for Peace may form affiliations with various local and international off campus organizations, depending on the area of focus of each of its events.

Article 10: Discrimination Policy

This student organization operates in full accordance with Chapter Four, Section II, A of the Middlebury College Handbook concerning Student Organization Policies of Discrimination, Freedom of Association, Anti-Hazing, Freedom of Inquiry and Expression, Student Publication, Funding, Advertising, and Scheduling. Any and all changes made to the Student Organizations Policies section of the Middlebury College Handbook will immediately become policies adopted by Dialogues for Peace.

Article 11: Ratifications

- a. The constitution must be ratified by a two-thirds majority of the membership.
- b. The constitution must be approved by the Student Government Constitution Committee.

Article 12: Amendment

- a. Amendments to the constitution must be ratified by a two-thirds majority of the membership.
- b. Amendments to the constitution must be approved by the Student Government Constitution Committee.

Drafted Sathyavani Sathisan

Approved as to form: October 21, 2004