

# Bylaws for Improving Lives

## Article I: Name and Purpose

### Section 1: Name

The name of this organization shall be "Improving Lives."

### Section 2: Purpose

Improving Lives is a mission-driven organization dedicated to empowering Black and Brown communities to address systemic discrimination and injustice through education and legal measures assistance, community support, and advocacy programs.

## Article II: Mission and Vision

### Section 1: Mission Statement

Improving Lives strives to empower Black and Brown communities to overcome systemic discrimination and injustice while advocating for dignity, respect, and equal rights for all individuals.

### Section 2: Vision Statement

Improving Lives envisions a world where Black and Brown communities flourish in a society free from discrimination and inequality, nurturing empowerment, justice, and mutual respect.

## Article III: Core Values

1. **Equity:** Ensuring access to opportunities and resources for all.
2. **Empowerment:** Helping individuals and communities take control of their futures.
3. **Justice:** Advocating for systemic changes that foster a just society.
4. **Collaboration:** Partnering with communities and organizations to achieve shared goals.
5. **Respect:** Valuing the dignity of every individual.

## Article IV: Membership

### Section 1: Eligibility

Membership is available to individuals and organizations that support Improving Lives' mission and values.

## **Section 2: Membership Rights**

Members may engage in all activities, vote on organizational matters, and receive updates on programs and initiatives.

## **Article V: Governance**

### **Section 1: Leadership Team**

- The Leadership Team will consist of **the CEO**, who oversees the overall strategy and operations.
- **Business Director**: Oversees finances, partnerships, and growth.
- **Director of Affairs**: Coordinates programs and outreach efforts.
- **Communications Manager**: Directs public relations and marketing efforts.
- **National Political Strategies**: Formulate advocacy strategies.
- **Legal Counsel**: Offers legal advice.

### **Section 2: Youth Leadership**

A Youth Council Committee will ensure that the voices of youth are included in decision-making.

## **Article VI: Meetings**

### **Section 1: Regular Meetings**

The organization shall hold regular meetings at least quarterly to discuss ongoing programs, financial status, and strategic planning.

### **Section 2: Special Meetings**

Special meetings may be called by the CEO or a majority of the Leadership Team as necessary.

## **Article VII: Financial Management**

### **Section 1: Revenue Streams**

The organization shall fund its programs through grants, donations, sponsorships, and merchandise sales.

### **Section 2: Fiscal Year**

The organization's fiscal year shall be from January 1 to December 31.

### **Section 3: Budget**

The Leadership Team shall prepare an annual budget to be approved by the membership.

## **Article VIII: Amendments**

### **Section 1: Procedure**

A two-thirds majority vote of the membership present at a regular meeting may amend these bylaws.

### **Section 2: Notification**

Members must be notified of proposed amendments at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

## **Article IX: Dissolution**

In the event of dissolution, any remaining assets shall be distributed to organizations with similar purposes, as determined by the Leadership Team.

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These bylaws are established to guide Improving Lives' operations and governance, ensuring alignment with our mission to empower Black and Brown communities.