

## Article I - Name

The name of this non-profit corporation is Sociologists Without Borders-US (abbreviated as SSF-US).

## Article II - Purpose

SSF-US is a non-profit scientific, educational, and charitable organization of sociologists and others committed to:

- Supporting scientific research, educational outreach, and charitable endeavors that promote human rights and political, economic, social, environmental, and cognitive justice;
- Collaborating with other scientific organizations in marshalling scholarly research, teaching, and service for the public good;
- Enabling active validation of all voices in sociology as an academic discipline;
- Supporting the SSF-US list—a source of information on and forum for discussion of current events and issues related to the mission of SSF-US;
- Supporting and encouraging transdisciplinary knowledge, including Indigenous, feminist, anti-racist, decolonial, environmental, and queer epistemologies that are compatible with SSF objectives;
- Encouraging and facilitating the sharing of research;
- Supporting the peer-reviewed journal, *Societies Without Borders: Human Rights and the Social Sciences*;
- Supporting the Sociologists Without Borders Think Tank—a social-networking site for scholars committed to the values, objectives, and activities of SSF-US;
- Supporting and encouraging the development of campus chapters of SSF;
- Engaging in further activities as determined by the Council and Members,

provided that such activities are in accordance with the status of SSF-US as a non-profit corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

## **Article III - Members**

### **Section 1. Members**

- A. Regular Members
- B. Student Members
- C. Unemployed Members
- D. Members from low-income countries
- E. Emeriti and retired members

**Section 2. Qualifications/eligibility for Membership.** Any person who accepts and supports the purpose of SSF-US is eligible for membership.

**Section 3. Privileges of Membership.** Members in good standing shall have the right to vote and to hold office. "Good standing" is defined as being current in dues.

**Section 4. Fees and Dues.** Annual dues shall be determined by the Council. Uniform procedures for dues changes shall be set by the Council.

**Section 5. Resignation.** Any member in good standing may resign by submitting that resignation via e-mail to the Council.

**Section 6. Non-Payment.** If a member fails to pay dues within three months from the date they become due, s/he will no longer be in good standing. .

**Section 7. Reinstatement.** Any member having resigned from membership may be reinstated upon application to the Council. Any member who has fallen into

non-payment may be reinstated upon paying dues.

**Section 8. Suspension/Termination.** Membership in this organization may be suspended or terminated by the Council for just cause. The decision for suspension or termination shall be by a unanimous vote of the Council. Members shall have the right to due process and may appeal Council's decision.

**Section 9. Voting.** SSF-US shall engage in two types of voting. The first type will consist of the annual election for open seats on the Council. For this election, members will vote confidentially via e-mail *before* the General Meeting (held in August of every year at the Annual Meeting of the ASA). The second type will consist of voting on SSF policies, positions, and practices (as determined in the course of the year by the Council in consultation with the membership). Such voting will take place at the General Meeting. Members will be informed of the agenda for the General Meeting two weeks in advance. Members who cannot be present at the General Meeting will be allowed to vote confidentially via e-mail. If circumstances arise requiring a vote at another time of year, the Council will announce the vote on the SSF-US list.

## **Article IV - Officers**

**Section 1. Officers.** The voting officers of SSF-US shall be the President, Past President, Vice President, Past Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Graduate Student Representative, and Undergraduate Student Representative. The editors of *Societies Without Borders: Human Rights and the Social Sciences (SWB)* shall serve as non-voting members of the Council. The voting and non-voting officers shall constitute the Council.

**Section 3. Eligibility.** All officers shall be members in good standing.

**Section 4. Nominations.** Nominations for all elective offices will be made by a

Nominations Committee, chaired by the Past President and composed of four elected members. Members may nominate themselves or other members to serve as officers. It is the responsibility of the Nominations Committee to ensure that the candidates presented for election represent the diversity of the organization, are cognizant of and able to carry out the responsibilities of their office, and have agreed to serve.

**Section 5. Election.** Officers shall be elected via e-mail two weeks before the General Meeting (held in August at the Annual Meeting of the ASA). Every member in good standing shall be eligible to vote in the election.

**Section 6. Terms of Office.** In election years, the “past” President and Vice President will complete their service, the current President and Vice President will shift to “past” status, and the incoming President and Vice President will assume their posts at the end of the General Meeting. Similarly, in election years, the outgoing Graduate Student and Undergraduate Student representatives will complete their service, while the incoming Graduate Student and Undergraduate Student representatives will assume their posts at the end of the General Meeting. The terms of the President, Past President, Vice President, Past Vice President, Graduate Student Representative, and Undergraduate Student Representative shall be two years. The Treasurer, Secretary, and editors of *SWB* shall be appointed by the Council for two-year terms (with the possibility of renewal).

**Section 7. Limitations on Service.** No member shall hold more than one elected office at a time. While in office, the President and Vice President may not hold the position of Treasurer or Secretary. However, any officer—whether elected or appointed—may serve as an editor of *SWB*. The elected officers—the President, Vice President, Graduate Student Representative, and Undergraduate Student Representative—shall not be eligible for consecutive terms. The appointed officers—the Treasurer, the Secretary, and the editors of *SWB*—shall be eligible for consecutive terms. A member having served more than half a term in an office shall be deemed to have served a term.

**Section 8. Vacancies.** Should an office become vacant, the remaining voting officers shall appoint a member to serve the remainder of the absent officer's term. A replacement officer will be elected before the next General Meeting, according to the principles delineated in Sections 4 and 5 above.

## **Article V - Duties of Officers**

**Section 1. Officers.** Officers shall perform the duties as prescribed in these bylaws and such other duties applicable to the office as prescribed by the parliamentary authority adopted by SSF-US. All voting officers shall deliver annual reports at the General Meeting.

**Section 2. President.** The President shall serve as official spokesperson of the organization and represent SSF-US before the public, present resolutions on behalf of SSF-US to the ASA and other organizations, chair the General Meeting, prepare reports on progress toward organizational goals, and supervise the organization on behalf of the Council. The President shall serve as a voting member of the Council.

**Section 3. Past President.** The Past President shall serve as a voting member of the Council and preside over the Nominations Committee.

**Section 4. Vice President.** The Vice President shall serve as a voting member of the Council, preside over the SSF-US list, and assist the President in public outreach. In addition, the Vice President shall preside over the retention and recruitment of members. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall temporarily perform the functions of the President.

**Section 5. Past Vice President.** The Past Vice President shall serve as a voting member of the Council.

**Section 6. Secretary.** The Secretary shall record, report, and distribute minutes

of the General Meeting, collect SSF-US documents and correspondence, and distribute reports. The Secretary shall serve as a voting member of the Council.

**Section 7. Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall prepare the budget, monitor the collection of membership dues and renewals of said dues, oversee long and short-term investments, arrange for the payment for all operating outgoings for positions and services necessary to keep the organization running, and provide general oversight to the Council. The Treasurer shall serve as a voting member of the Council.

**Section 8. Graduate Student Representative.** The Graduate Student Representative shall articulate the concerns of graduate student members of SSF-US and serve as a voting member of the Council.

**Section 9. Undergraduate Student Representative.** The Undergraduate Student Representative shall articulate the concerns of undergraduate student members of SSF-US and serve as a voting member of the Council.

**Section 10. Editors of *SWB*.** The editors of *SWB* will serve as non-voting members of the Council.

## **Article VI – Meeting**

There will be one General Meeting each year. It will coincide with the Annual Meeting of the ASA in August. All members are welcome to attend the General Meeting and participate in decision-making processes.

## Article VII - Council

**Section 1. Composition.** The Council shall be composed of the officers, as delineated in Article V, Sections 2-9.

**Section 2. Powers.** The Council shall have full authority to conduct all business of the organization except that which is reserved to the members by these bylaws. In addition, the Council shall have the power to convene committees as necessary.

**Section 3. Duties.** The duties of the Council shall include: to provide for and maintain an office for the organization; to be responsible for all property, real and personal, owned or held by SSF-US; to adopt an annual budget for the organization; to adopt rules and regulations for the conduct of the affairs of the organization; to convene committees as necessary; and to appoint such agents, attorneys and others it deems necessary.

**Section 4. Meetings.** The Council shall meet immediately before the General Meeting each August. Five voting officers shall constitute a quorum.

## Article VIII - Participatory Democratic Procedures

For its undertakings, the Council will adhere to the principle of consensus decision-making wherever possible. The opinions of voting and non-voting officers alike will be considered. In cases where the Council is unable to reach a consensus, it will follow the principle of majority rule. Five voting officers shall constitute a quorum for the Council's decisions.

## **Article IX - Amendment of Bylaws**

**Section 1.** Amendments to these bylaws may be proposed by any two members in writing to the President, submitted to Council for its advice and recommendation, and by decision of Council or by majority vote at a General Meeting, submitted to the membership for decision.

**Section 2.** Amendments shall be voted upon by the members by e-mail and by a vote at a General Meeting. A three-fifths vote of those voting via e-mail and present at the meeting shall be necessary for adoption.

## **Article X - Committees**

**Section 1.** In election years, the Council shall convene the Nominations Committee in preparation for the election and the General Meeting. Each year, the Council shall convene the Awards Committee in preparation for the General Meeting. In addition, the Council shall have the authority to convene ad-hoc committees to address issues that may arise.

**Section 2.** Chaired by a Council Member and staffed by four members in good standing, the Nominations Committee shall solicit, receive, and announce nominations for the elected officers' positions.

**Section 3.** Chaired by a Council Member and staffed by four members in good standing, the Awards Committee shall preside over SSF-US awards.

**Section 4.** Chaired by a Council Member and staffed by four members in good standing, an ad hoc committee may be convened to handle a specific issue.