

# **Free Palestine Party Constitution**

June 2026

## **NAME**

The name of the organisation shall be "The Free Palestine Party".

The Free Palestine Party shall be an unincorporated Society operating as a political party for the purposes of the Electoral Act 1993.

## **2. PRINCIPLES**

The Free Palestine Party is committed to working with groups around New Zealand and internationally to build and strengthen campaigns for a free Palestine.

The Free Palestine Party aims to change public opinion and bring pressure on the New Zealand government to join the majority of the international community in requiring Israel to follow international law and United Nations resolutions.

The Free Palestine Party believes a just peace in Palestine depends upon the return of Palestinian refugees to their homeland and the dismantling of the apartheid structure of the state of Israel, recognizing that the further partitioning of Palestine in order to create the so-called Two-State Solution would only lead to further injustice and suffering.

The Free Palestine Party believes in the importance of the primacy of international law and United Nations resolutions as the basis for the ending of military occupation and all forms of ethnic discrimination in Israel.

The Free Palestine Party believes justice requires the establishment of a single secular, democratic state in Palestine with full and equal citizenship for all people whose ethnic and religious rights are protected through a democratic constitution.

## **3. OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the Free Palestine Party are:

To organise and fight for Free Palestine Party principles and policies in Parliamentary politics.

To stand Party List candidates and electorate candidates as approved under this constitution.

To contest Parliamentary elections as an independent party aiming to win support for Free Palestine Party principles and policies, and building a mass democratic party.

To encourage other political parties to adopt stronger policies in support of the liberation of Palestine.

To unite supporters of Palestine from all traditions, allowing different ideas and perspectives to be discussed within the Party in an environment of tolerance and respect.

To build links in solidarity with all those resisting inequality and injustice around the world.

## **4 MEMBERSHIP**

- 4.1 Any person of at least 18 years of age may make an application to join the Free Palestine Party.
- 4.2 Any person may be approved for membership by the Free Palestine Party Council who:
- 4.2.1 Acknowledges the founding principles of the Free Palestine Party
  - 4.2.2 Works to support the Free Palestine Party objectives
  - 4.2.3 Acts within the Free Palestine Party Constitution
  - 4.2.4 Abides by lawful Free Palestine Party decisions made in accordance with the Free Palestine Party Constitution
  - 4.2.5 Pays the appropriate annual membership fee
  - 4.2.6 and who is not a member of any political organisation deemed by the Free Palestine Party Council to be incompatible with the Free Palestine Party.
- 4.3 New members shall be advised in writing by the Free Palestine Party Council of the acceptance of their Free Palestine Party membership. Commencement of membership for the purpose of clause 3.5 and 3.6 and 3.7 shall take effect from the date of application.
- 4.4 On acceptance, financial members shall be entitled to attend and participate in Free Palestine Party membership meetings to stand for Free Palestine Party internal office-holders positions.
- 4.5 The voting rights of financial members is set out under 10.3 Voting Representation.
- 4.6 The eligibility to stand as a candidate for the Free Palestine Party—or to seek office within it—is set out under 10.3 Voting Representation.
- 4.7 The financial term of ordinary Free Palestine Party members is twelve months. Where a member is twelve months overdue they shall be deemed to be un-financial and shall lose membership rights.
- 4.8 Any person whose membership application is deferred will be advised in writing and given the right to petition the next meeting of the Free Palestine Party Council. The Council may decline a membership application that the Council believes does not meet the criteria outlined in 3.2. The applicant shall be advised in writing of the decision. The applicant may appeal that decision at the next Free Palestine Party Council meeting where the decision shall be final.

## **5 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

- 5.1 Disciplinary action may be brought against any member who:
- 5.1.1 Refuses to comply with the Constitution
  - 5.1.2 Improperly deals with any funds of the Free Palestine Party
  - 5.1.3 Breaches the Candidates Pledge
  - 5.1.4 Wilfully undermines the Free Palestine Party's objectives.

5.1.5 Has been found to be guilty of a harassment complaint against them through the Free Palestine Party Harassment Procedures

5.1.6 In any other way wilfully brings the Free Palestine Party or its members into public disrepute.

5.2 A complaint against a member for any of the above reasons shall first be communicated in writing to the President. The President shall, in the first instance, try to resolve the matter with the individuals concerned.

5.3 If this procedure is inappropriate, or has not resolved the matter, the President shall refer the complaint to the Free Palestine Party Council, which shall establish a grievance committee of three members.

5.4 Any grievance committee established shall, throughout an enquiry, observe the principles of natural justice, and in particular:

5.4.1 Must make available promptly to the parties involved full details of the nature of the enquiry and of allegations made; and

5.4.2 Must give any party against whom allegations are made notice of at least 14 days of a hearing. Any member being interviewed by the grievance committee shall be entitled to have a representative of their choosing present.

5.5 The Grievance Committee shall communicate its findings and reasons for them in writing to the parties. Where appropriate, the Grievance Committee may recommend a remedy, or in the case of serious matters, may recommend penalties, which may include censure, suspension, or expulsion from the Free Palestine Party.

5.6 Any party to the proceedings may within 7 days of being notified of such resolution appeal to the Free Palestine Party Council against the Grievance Committee's decision. The decision of the Council (or the Grievance Committee if not appealed) shall be final and binding on all members.

5.7 If a member facing a charge has to travel to appear before the Grievance Committee, he or she shall meet such costs. A member facing a charge will always have the option to join remotely via a web-conferencing platform.

5.8 If the Grievance Committee finds that any complaint or charge has been made maliciously, or that no case has been made out for it, the Committee may recommend to the Free Palestine Party Council that the member/s bringing such complaint or charge be held liable for all or part of the costs of the enquiry, including those of the member/s facing the charge, and if a majority of the members of the Council support such a recommendation, the Treasurer shall attempt to recover such costs.

5.9 The Free Palestine Party Council's decision on malicious complaints shall be final and binding.

## **6 AFFILIATED GROUPS/NETWORKS**

6.1 The Free Palestine Party Council on behalf of the Free Palestine Party may approve the formation and affiliation of sector groups and networks which the Council considers will further the objectives of the Free Palestine Party as a result of the co-ordination and organisation of such groups. Approval of affiliated groups and networks shall not be withheld without due cause.

6.2 Such affiliated groups and networks shall have such rights and responsibilities as may be determined by the Free Palestine Party Council on a case by case basis. Groups may petition the Free Palestine Party Council for specific rights and responsibilities as they see fit.

6.3 The Free Palestine Party Council shall annually review each group or network. Where the Council believes an affiliated group or network is unable to function effectively or further the objectives of the Free Palestine Party, the Council may make such recommendations as necessary up to and including the disbanding the affiliated group or network. Any such decision shall require a vote of the membership to be conducted online. The group or network in question will be given the opportunity to make their case to the membership before voting begins.

## **7 FREE PALESTINE PARTY BRANCHES**

7.1 A branch of the Free Palestine Party shall be approved by the Free Palestine Party Council. A Branch may represent members of a sector, or part of an electorate, and may cross electorate boundaries.

7.2 Branches shall elect annually, officers to fulfil the following functions:

7.2.1 Chairperson/Convenor

7.2.2 Secretary

7.2.3 Treasurer

7.2.4 Membership Secretary

No one person shall fulfil more than two of the above functions.

7.3 Branches shall give all financial members of the Branch at least seven days written or electronic notice of any Branch Annual General Meeting, candidate selection meeting, or delegate selection meeting for Free Palestine Party National Conference or list conferences.

7.4 Branches shall allow all financial members of the Branch to attend, vote and fully participate in discussions and decisions at Branch meetings. Authorised members of the Free Palestine Party Council have the right to attend and address Branch meetings.

7.5 Where there is more than one Branch in an electorate, each Branch will be represented on an Electorate Committee which will make any decisions required to be made on an electorate boundary basis.

7.6 Branches shall allow financial members from outside the Branch boundaries to be members of the Branch. Such members will have all the rights and responsibilities of a resident member except they may not vote in local candidate selections and may only vote at Branch Annual General Meetings if they have been a financial member of the Branch for the three months prior to the Annual General Meeting. No member shall be an officeholder in more than one Branch.

7.7 Branches shall, where practicable, hold monthly meetings open to all financial members from February to December. If a Branch does not meet for a three month period, the Free Palestine Party General Secretary may require the Branch to meet within 30 days of notification. If the branch fails to

meet within the 30 day period, The General Secretary, or their nominated representative, may organise a meeting of the Branch. The meeting must be notified in writing to all financial members at least seven days in advance.

7.8 Branches shall supply copies of meeting minutes, records and notices to Free Palestine Party General Secretary or their nominated agent upon request.

7.9 Branches shall regularly forward membership applications and fees to the national office, along with changes to current membership details.

7.10 Branches shall maintain an accurate record of Branch finances and meet their legal financial responsibilities and agreed financial responsibilities to the regional and national bodies of the Free Palestine Party.

7.11 Branches shall have the right to submit policy, constitutional and other remits from branch meetings, for consideration at Free Palestine Party National Conferences.

## **8 ROLE OF FREE PALESTINE PARTY CONFERENCE**

10.1 Authority of Conference:

10.1.1 The Free Palestine Party Conference decisions will be forwarded to the Free Palestine Party Council to consider and accept or reject as the Council deems appropriate.

10.1.2 Vote on policy remits

10.1.3 Vote on constitutional remits

10.1.4 Approve Council reports

10.1.5 Vote on party platform

10.1.6 Vote on any prospective electoral coalitions

10.1.7 Elect President

10.1.8 Elect Party leader

10.1.9 Elect Free Palestine Party spokespeople

10.1.10 Elect Free Palestine Party Council members

10.1.11 Approve Party List candidates

10.1.12 Any other matter as approved by the Free Palestine Party Council

10.2 The Free Palestine Party Annual Conference shall be held nationally at least once in each calendar year.

10.3 Voting Representation:

10.3.1 Any inaugural financial member—meaning the first 1000 financial members—or financial member who has been current for at least 3 months.

10.3.2 Financial members with voting representation shall be termed accredited member-electors.

#### 10.4 Decision Making:

10.4.1 All resolutions shall be determined by accredited member-electors, each of whom has one vote.

10.4.2 All Conference decisions shall be made by a simple majority vote of accredited member-electors.

10.4.3 Where required to elect national and local office holders a preferential voting system as set out under 10.5 shall be used.

10.4.4 The Free Palestine Party Conference agenda and proposals regarding decisions must be circulated no later than 4 weeks prior, with provisions for items of special business as approved by the Free Palestine Party Council.

10.4.5 Nominations for national party officers shall be closed and circulated 4 weeks prior to the conference, unless the Council or agrees to an alteration of the nomination deadline.

10.4.6 A quorum of the Conference shall be not less than 50 accredited member-electors.

10.5 Preferential voting in the form of instant run-off voting (IRV) shall be used where an election is only returning a single member (for instance, the President). Preferential voting in the form of proportional representation-single transferable vote (PR-STV) shall be used where an election is returning multiple members (for instance, membership representatives to the Council).

### **11 ROLE OF FREE PALESTINE PARTY COUNCIL**

#### 11.1 Authority of the Council:

11.1.1 Set the national budget

11.1.2 Set party, network, electorate, and membership fees

11.1.3 Confirm constitutional decisions

11.1.4 Establish and appoint members to Council sub-committees

11.1.5 Determine job description of President and other national officers

11.1.6 Approve reports and work of all Free Palestine Party bodies

11.1.7 Oversee the process of coalition negotiations and make recommendations to the Free Palestine Party Conference on coalition formation

11.1.8 Approve the formation of Free Palestine Party bodies

11.1.9 Suspend membership of individuals, Free Palestine Party bodies in accordance with the rules of the constitution

11.1.10 Oversee the selection of list candidates

11.1.11 Confirm any public-official appointments by secret ballot on nomination of the Free Palestine Party Leader.

11.1.12 Act in accordance with the Free Palestine Party constitution

11.2 Between Free Palestine Party Conferences the Free Palestine Party Council has delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of the Free Palestine Party organisation.

11.3 The Free Palestine Party Council shall meet at least 4 times per year in person or by telephone conference calls as determined by the Council no later than 31 January of each year.

11.4 Free Palestine Party Council membership shall be:

11.4.1 President

11.4.2 Party Leader

11.4.3 Three Policy Co-ordinators

11.4.4 Five Membership Representatives (representing the rank-and-file)

11.4.5 Members of Parliament who do not hold other positions on the Council (non-voting

11.4.6 General Secretary

11.5 Decision Making:

11.5.1 All Council members, except non-voting MPs shall have full participation and rights and receive one vote each.

11.5.2 Council decisions shall aim for consensus but, where appropriate, decisions shall be made by a majority vote of councillors present.

## **12 CAUCUS**

12.1 The parliamentary caucus shall determine the management of Free Palestine Party parliamentary work and activities to advance the Free Palestine Party Objectives in accordance with Free Palestine Party Council decisions.

12.2 The members of the parliamentary caucus shall include:

12.2.1 Free Palestine Party Party Leader who shall convene and chair caucus meetings

12.2.2 Free Palestine Party Members of Parliament

12.2.3 Free Palestine Party President

12.2.4 Free Palestine Party General Secretary

12.2.5 Two representatives elected by the Free Palestine Party Council

## **13 POLICY PROCESS**

13.1 Policy development is the purview of all interested Free Palestine Party members, and the responsibility of Free Palestine Party spokespeople who will work with reference groups comprised of Free Palestine Party members with expertise or special interests in the relevant area of policy.

13.2 Policy development will be co-ordinated by two Policy Representatives who shall be elected to the Free Palestine Party Council by the Free Palestine Party Conference.

13.3 New policies or changes to existing policy must be approved by Conference following discussion by members in branches and at regional conferences. The new policies or policy changes must have been previously circulated in accordance with CI 9.6.

## **14 CANDIDATE SELECTION**

### **14.1 List Selection process**

#### **14.1.2 Candidate Pool:**

14.1.3 As defined under Voting Representation 10.3.1, any accredited member-elect nominated by four other accredited member-electors of the Free Palestine Party may be nominated into the candidate pool.

14.1.4 A nominee is elected into the candidate pool by receiving a majority vote of Free Palestine Party Council members.

#### **14.2.1 National List Committee:**

14.2.2 The President shall chair the National List Committee (NLC).

14.2.3 The NLC shall be composed of five representatives, including the President.

14.2.4 The Free Palestine Party Council shall elect the four other representatives to the List Committee.

14.2.5 The NLC shall rank candidates based on merit. The NLC will be advised on any additional criteria when ranking candidates as set by the Free Palestine Party Council. These may include considerations of geographical and demographic representation.

14.2.6 All members on the NLC shall receive one vote each.

14.2.7 The NLC shall meet and complete its recommendations on a date determined by the Free Palestine Party Council.

14.2.8 The NLC may interview any candidate as appropriate.

The List Committee shall rank candidates taking into criteria set by the Free Palestine Party Council.

14.3 The NLC shall recommend a final Party List to the Free Palestine Party Council for ratification.

## **15 FREE PALESTINE PARTY LEADERSHIP AND OFFICERS**

15.1 If any extraordinary vacancy arises for the positions of Party Leader or President, then the Free Palestine Party Council shall fill the vacancy at its next meeting by a majority vote of council members until the following Free Palestine Party Conference.

15.2 The General Secretary shall circulate through all party organs, a call for nominations for the Free Palestine Party Council. Nominations shall be closed and circulated to all constituent bodies 4 weeks prior to the conference, unless the Council agrees to an extension of the nomination deadline.

15.3 All Council members shall be elected at the Free Palestine Party Conference by accredited member-electors.

## **16 DISSOLUTION CLAUSE**

16.1 The Free Palestine Party Council, at a meeting called in accordance with the Standing Orders, may resolve that the Free Palestine Party be dissolved as from the date to be named in the resolution, and may also by such resolution direct the method of disposing of the assets and property of the Free Palestine Party after its dissolution.

16.2 Upon the resolution being confirmed at a subsequent Free Palestine Party Conference meeting called for the purpose and held not earlier than thirty days after the date on which the first resolution was passed, the Free Palestine Party shall be dissolved. A notice of the resolution and its confirmation shall be sent to the Electoral Commission and the Commissioner of Inland Revenue.

16.3 The property of the Free Palestine Party shall upon dissolution be transferred to such political or other organisations having objects similar to those of the Free Palestine Party within New Zealand as the meeting of dissolution shall determine or in default as may be determined by the High Court of New Zealand on the application of the Free Palestine Party Council.

ENDS