“Unchained OSU” Student Group Constitution and Bylaws

*Article I – Name, Purpose, and Non-Discrimination Policy of the Organization*

Section 1-- Name: Unchained OSU

Section 2-- Purpose: The purpose of Unchained OSU is to raise awareness of human trafficking by utilizing fashion and other forms of artistic expression. We also work towards prevention of human trafficking through education, volunteering, and fundraising. As a student organization, our goal is to partner with other student organizations and community organizations with the mission to spread as much awareness about this issue as possible. Our general body meetings include trainings, speakers, and activities. We put on an annual fashion show that tells the story of a survivor of human trafficking through the arts. The purpose of this event is to raise awareness, hear from local survivors and organizations, and fundraise for a scholarship fund that assists survivors who are going back to school.

Section 3-- Non-Discrimination Policy:  "This organization does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, programs, admission, and employment."

*Article II: Membership, Qualifications and categories of membership*

Membership of this student organization is limited to current Ohio State students. Other such as faculty, alumni, professionals, and others are encouraged to become members but as non-voting associates or honorary members. Members are also required to pay semester membership dues to show commitment and contribute to the funds of the student organization. These membership dues are currently $5.00 per semester.

*Article III: Organizational Leadership—Titles, terms of office, type of selection, and duties of the leaders*

Section 1—Terms of office: Organizational leaders represent the Executive Committee and general membership and are elected or appointed from the ranks of the organization’s voting membership. The leadership positions that are appointed at the end of Spring semester of each academic year are entitled one full year or leadership responsibility unless outside intervention is needed.

Section 2—Titles and Duties of leaders of the Executive Board:

**President:** This position is responsible for the oversight of the entire student organization, executive board, and collaborations. The President initiates and maintains the organization of the annual fashion show in addition to general body meetings and other events held throughout the year. Finally, this role serves as the organization’s spokesperson while regularly checking and responding to the general Unchained OSU email address.

**Vice President:** This position is responsible for overseeing the tasks and deadlines for the executive board members and for collaborating with other relevant student organizations. They also create and organize meetings along with the President.

**Treasurer:** This position is in charge of all financial aspects of Unchained OSU including but not limited to: membership dues, donations to the organization, fashion show expenses, general assembly expenses, fundraisers, and marketing expenses. The Treasurer will be the main point of contact for financial questions and membership dues.

**Director of Fashion Show:** This position is responsible for communicating and finding designers, models, speakers, videographers, hair and makeup artists and the whole fashion show overall.

**Marketing Director:** This position is in charge of the marketing strategy of Unchained OSU. The Media Director will be responsible for social media postings, flyers, poster hanging, photography, and more.

**Logistics Chair:** This position is in charge of scheduling events, making slide shows for meetings, and planning out timings and details for events.

*Article V: Method of Selecting and/or Removing Officers and Members*

Section 1—Selecting and Removing Officers

Potential officer (executive board) candidates will annually declare interest in obtaining a leadership position in the Spring semester by completing an application to be reviewed by all executive members, and then voted on. Eligibility criteria is based off of the Ohio State Student Organization standards that at least a 2.50 GPA must be held, and each officer must be enrolled as a full time student at The Ohio State University.

Elected leaders should be expected to act in a professional manner and conduct themselves in a way that is sensitive to the topic of human trafficking. Elected leaders need to take into consideration any possible confidentiality issues related to working with survivors of human trafficking while marketing events and meetings. In the event that a leader does not meet these expectations, the organization will follow the demerit system for review, on the path toward removal of the officer if necessary. The executive board is responsible for holding each other accountable in this process.

Elected Leader Demerit System for Removal Process: It is to be noted that the organization’s non-discrimination policy will protect members from removal based on those listed statuses.

The following are examples (but not limited to) instances that would qualify for an officer to receive a single demerit:

* Consistently non-responsive to emails and contact
* Missed more than 2 executive board meetings in a single semester without valid reason
* Disrespectful to student organization members, advisor, or other executive board members
* Has conducted “business” involving the student organization that was not approved by the executive board or student organization advisor
* Has missed a major deadline regarding the fate of the student organization that falls under this particular leader’s position description
* Has violated the confidentiality of a client, survivor, or collaborating student or non-student organization.

In the event that an officer or leader receives one or more demerits, the following actions will be taken:

One Demerit: Executive board meets with the leader in violation, and leader receives a serious warning regarding his/her position and why the demerit was given.

Two Demerits: Leader in violation is to meet with the student organization advisor regarding both the first and second demerit. The advisor is responsible for determining whether or not the leader is suitable to continue in this position for the rest of the term, but until a decision is made, the leader will be on probationary status.

Three Demerits: Leader in violation has a final meeting with the combined executive board and student organization advisor to clarify the three demerits given, and officially demote the leader in violation from their current executive board position and possibly be removed from the organization entirely.

Section 2—Member selection and removal

All students at The Ohio State University have the opportunity to become involved in Unchained OSU at the start of every Fall and Spring semester. There is absolutely no restriction on who is able to become a member of this student organization based on the student organization’s non-discrimination policy. In order to become a member, each student must pay $5.00 per semester (Fall and Spring). If this sum is not paid halfway into the semester, the individuals that have not paid will be cut off from student organization emails.

Members of Unchained OSU must conduct themselves in a professional way that reflects the student organization well. In an event that a member is potentially harmful to the organization, the general member must sit down with the Executive Board for membership probation. If the member continues to be a problem, the member will be removed from the organization, based on the advice and guidance of the student organization advisor.

*Article VI: Advisor Qualification Criteria*

The advisor of Unchained OSU must be a member of the University faculty or Administrative & Professional staff. Responsibilities of the advisor is to be “on call” as needed for the student organization as needed, as well as in attendance to the organization’s main events. Other expectations of the student organization’s advisor are as follows:

* Available for meeting with the Executive Board on an “as needed” basis
* Completes all appropriate approvals or paperwork for the student organization
* Able to commit to the student organization’s major events, as well as student organizations general meetings as needed.

*Article VIII—Method of Amending Constitution: Proposals, notice, and voting requirements:*

Proposed amendments should be in writing, should not be acted upon but read in the general meeting in which they are proposed, should be read again at a specified number of subsequent general meetings and the general meeting in which the votes will be taken. Approval should require at least two-thirds of voting members present (and to conduct any business an organization should have quorum present at a business meeting, which is at minimum 50% + 1 of total organization members). The constitution should not be amended easily or frequently, but reviewed annually.