



studentorgs.gwu.edu/warchild

War Child GWU Constitution

Article 1: Name (Not negotiable)

War Child GWU – pending recognition – will be a chapter of War Child Canada at The George Washington University

War Child Canada is a registered Canadian charity (#87237446RR0001) that provides urgently needed humanitarian assistance for the young victims of war around the world. The organization not only provides emergency relief but also spearheads development projects for education and health care. Domestically, the organization reaches out to youth and encourages and empowers them to build communities, build awareness, and take action!

No War Zone (www.nowarzone.org) – an online forum for action, discussion, creative expression, and learning – is an important part of War Child Canada's youth program. Here, over 400 young people from over 25 countries form communities; share their observations, experiences, and opinions; showcase their art, writing, and music; initiate their own awareness raising and fund-raising projects; and learn about the issues.

What makes War Child Canada unique? Music. The organization uses music as a means to reach people locally, nationally, and internationally. Over the years, many musical artists, such as Chantal Kreviazuk, Our Lady Peace, David Usher, and Rascaz, have given their time and talent to the War Child Canada cause through concerts, documentaries, and contributions to CD compilations. Keep The Beat is War Child Canada's Music Fundraiser. Individuals, schools, businesses, and entire communities keep the music going for 3, 6, or 12 hours. Participants raise money through admission fees, pledges, or other creative means. Whether they turn Keep The Beat into games, contests, dances, or talent shows, all the money helps war-affected children through War Child Canada's international initiatives.

Article 2: Purpose (Not negotiable)

War Child GWU will bridge and serve the interests of two groups: War Child Canada and The George Washington University community.

For War Child Canada, War Child GWU will do four main things. First, it will communicate War Child Canada's mission, activities, and achievements. Second, it will build awareness for the issues around war-affected children. Third, it will raise funds for War Child Canada's international projects, for example, through Keep The Beat. Fourth and finally, it will facilitate interaction with War Child Canada's online community of youth, No War Zone.

For The George Washington University, War Child GWU will promote (inter-college) and interdepartmental communication and attract and involve diverse student interests. The elements of music, international development, and youth outreach and education will attract people from the arts, life sciences, and social sciences, aspiring teachers, doctors, musicians, and those who take an active interest in international relations, international development, and peace and conflict studies. War Child GWU will provide all club members opportunities to organize events and activities and will provide all non-club members events and activities in which they can take part.



Article 3: Membership

There will be no special requirements to become a War Child GWU member, and there will be no membership fees. Interest, enthusiasm, and dedication are the only prerequisites! To become War Child GWU members, students will attend the first general meeting, any subsequent meeting, or be elected as executive members at election time.

War Child GWU members, under the guidance of six executive members, will work to achieve the purposes and aims outlined in Article 2. Club members will attend meetings; publicize the presence and activities of the club by way of posters, in-class announcements, flyer distribution, and / or radio interviews; and take part in the planning organization, and execution of club events. Executive roles are detailed below.

Article 4: Executive

The War Child GWU executive will comprise six roles, namely, President, Secretary, Treasurer, Events Coordinator, Publicity Coordinator, and Community Liaison. If the need arises for the re-distribution of tasks, position titles and roles may be changed, two people may serve co-executive roles, and / or additional titles and roles may be added. Any such changes would require proper Constitutional amendment, as outlined in Article 8. Executive titles and roles are detailed below.

President: The President will oversee the executive members and club activities; plan, organize, and conduct meetings; delegate tasks; and, in general, keep everything running smoothly.

Vice-President: The Vice-President – ideally not a graduating student and the president-intraining – will assist the president with his or her duties.

Secretary: The Secretary will attend all War Child GWU meetings, take attendance, meeting notes, compose and keep up-to-date minutes.

Treasurer: The Treasurer will collect, record, hold, and forward the charitable donations taken in by War Child GWU to War Child Canada and collect, record, distribute, and monitor club funds as needed.

Events Coordinator: The Events Coordinator will oversee awareness-raising activities, fundraising projects, and/or any other projects that War Child GWU wishes to undertake throughout the academic year.

Publicity Coordinator: The Publicity Coordinator will oversee and arrange means of publicity and publicize the presence and activities of the club by way of posters, in-class announcements, flyer distribution, and/or radio interviews.

Community Liaison: The Community Liaison will communicate, as needed, with War Child Canada, keep in touch with members of other War Child high school and university clubs, and other clubs with similar aims. This individual will also regularly update the War Child GWU homepage on No War Zone, and ensure that Activity Reports are filled out and sent to the National Office following each event.



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Article 5: Finances
(Not negotiable)

Each year, War Child GWU will approach (on-campus), non-corporate sources of funding, such as the [Student Association] (SA). In addition, the club may organize events, such as bake sales, to raise money for the club. In such instances, club members will make it absolutely clear to all contributors that the money raised will fund the expenses of War Child GWU and not the international projects of War Child Canada. In all cases, War Child GWU will not enter into any sort of corporate partnership.

War Child GWU will not open a bank account with the name War Child or War Child Canada.

War Child GWU will contact War Child Canada for approval prior to organizing a fundraiser for War Child Canada and will submit a full Activity Report with complete Financial Information after each event.

Article 6: Meetings

War Child GWU executive and members will meet at least once each month, September through April, for a minimum of eight meetings. Executive members may hold their own separate meetings if the need arises.

Article 7: Elections

The executive positions for the first year will be elected before the end of February of that year. In subsequent years, War Child GWU will hold executive elections each April for the following September. If only one student runs for any given position, he or she will be acclaimed. If multiple students run for any given position, then the present body will vote, and positions will be filled by majority vote.

Article 8: Amendment

It is expected that any amendment to the War Child GWU Constitution be in the best interest of the majority. Therefore, amendments to the War Child GWU Constitution require the favour of at least two-thirds of the executive, which, in the case of six executive members, are four.