

# CONSTITUTION OF THE BIRIFOR NATIONAL UNION OF TERTIARY STUDENTS (BNUTS)

## Preamble

We, the Birifor students of tertiary institutions in Ghana and beyond, united by our shared identity, language, and aspirations, hereby establish this Constitution to foster unity, promote academic excellence, preserve our cultural heritage, and advocate for the welfare of all Birifor students. Guided by the principles of integrity, inclusivity, and service, we commit to building a strong, representative, and sustainable student movement.

## ARTICLE I: NAME AND IDENTITY

Section 1. The name of the organization shall be the Birifor National Union of Tertiary Students, hereinafter referred to as “BNUTS”.

Section 2. BNUTS shall operate as a non-partisan, non-religious, and non-profit student organization.

Section 3. The official colors of BNUTS shall be Navy Blue (#001F3F) and Gold (#FFD700).  
The motto of BNUTS shall be: “Empowering Identity, Promoting Excellence.”

## ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES

The objectives of BNUTS shall be to:

Unite all Birifor-speaking students in tertiary institutions across Ghana and beyond.

Advocate for the academic, social, and welfare needs of Birifor students.

Promote and preserve the Birifor language, culture, and heritage.

Foster leadership development, mentorship, and peer support among members.

Encourage civic engagement, entrepreneurship, and community service.

Collaborate with educational institutions, government agencies, and NGOs to advance equity and opportunity in higher education.

## ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

### Section 1. Eligibility

Any student of Birifor origin currently enrolled in an accredited tertiary institution (university, college, technical school, etc.) is eligible for membership.

### Section 2. Rights of Members

All members shall have the right to:

Participate in BNUTS activities and events

Vote in elections and referenda

Stand for executive positions (subject to eligibility)

Access BNUTS resources and support services

### Section 3. Obligations

Members shall:

Uphold the values and reputation of BNUTS

Pay any approved membership dues (if applicable)

Respect the diversity and dignity of fellow members

### Section 4. Termination of Membership

Membership may be suspended or terminated by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee for misconduct, violation of this Constitution, or actions that bring BNUTS into disrepute.

## ARTICLE IV: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### Section 1. Composition

The Executive Committee shall consist of the following officers:

President

Vice President

General Secretary

Financial Secretary

Women's Commissioner

Organizing Secretary

Additional officers as deemed necessary (e.g., Public Relations Officer, Cultural Affairs Officer)

## Section 2. Tenure

All executive officers shall serve a term of one (1) academic year, from August 1 to July 31, and may serve a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms in the same office.

## Section 3. Duties

President: Overall leadership, representation, and coordination

Vice President: Support the President; act in their absence

General Secretary: Maintain records, manage correspondence, and organize meetings

Financial Secretary: Manage funds, keep accounts, and present financial reports

Women's Commissioner: Advocate for gender equity and female student welfare

Organizing Secretary: Plan events, mobilize members, and coordinate branches

## Section 4. Vacancies

A vacancy shall be filled by the Executive Committee through appointment or special election within 30 days.

# ARTICLE V: BRANCHES

## Section 1. Establishment

BNUTS may establish campus-based branches at any tertiary institution with a minimum of five (5) registered Birifor students.

## Section 2. Autonomy & Accountability

Branches shall operate under the BNUTS Constitution and report to the National Executive Committee. They may adopt supplementary bylaws, provided they do not conflict with this Constitution.

## Section 3. Branch Executives

Each branch shall elect its own leadership (Chairperson, Secretary, etc.) in accordance with BNUTS guidelines.

# ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

## Section 1. General Assembly

A National General Assembly shall be held at least once per academic year, where all members may attend, debate, and vote on key issues.

## Section 2. Executive Meetings

The Executive Committee shall meet at least once per month.

## Section 3. Quorum

A quorum for the General Assembly shall be 30% of registered members. For Executive meetings, it shall be two-thirds of officers.

## Section 4. Voting

Decisions shall be made by simple majority, except for constitutional amendments (see Article VIII).

## ARTICLE VII: FINANCES

### Section 1. Sources of Funds

BNUTS may raise funds through:

Membership dues (if approved by General Assembly)

Donations and grants

Fundraising events

Alumni contributions

### Section 2. Financial Oversight

All funds shall be managed transparently. The Financial Secretary shall present a quarterly report to the Executive Committee and an annual report to the General Assembly.

### Section 3. Audit

An independent audit may be conducted upon request by one-third of members.

## ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS


This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of members present and voting at a duly convened General Assembly, provided that proposed amendments are circulated to members at least 14 days in advance.

## ARTICLE IX: DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution, any remaining assets shall be transferred to a Ghanaian educational or cultural organization that promotes Birifor heritage, as decided by the General Assembly.

## ARTICLE X: COMMENCEMENT

This Constitution shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the founding members of BNUTS on February 10, 2023.

 Adopted this 10th day of February, 2023

By the Founding Members of the Birifor National Union of Tertiary Students (BNUTS)