The Constitution
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PREAMBLE

The founders of Bright Future Transitional Home, here in referred to as the “organization”, together with the executive committee who are the board of trustees of the said organization, collaborating for the purpose of providing a transitional home and rehoming services for orphans and other vulnerable children in Mbarara district and surrounding western Uganda regions. We believe that every child deserves to have a loving home, a family and caretakers that cater to the child’s physical and emotional well-being and development.

Realizing the need for a transitional home with rehoming services with the best interest of the child, this organization is determined to provide emergency protective care resettlement opportunities for vulnerable children within the community. This organization shall not discriminate on grounds of one’s race, color, language, religion, sex and/or age, considering that all human beings are created in the image of God.

Therefore, as members of Bright Future Transitional Home, we do hereby proclaim this constitution as a guiding document to all present and future members. All members shall abide and keep due to this constitution in the process of executing the objectives of organization.

We do hereby resolve that we adopt this constitution of Bright Future Transitional Home, this 6th day of October 2014, for ourselves and others to come.
ARTICLE 1: NAME, NATURE, ADDRESS, REGISTERED OFFICE AND REGION OF OPERATION

Name
The name of the organization shall be Bright Future Transitional Home.

Nature of the organization
The organization shall be a private, non-profit, non-tribal, non-political, non-sectarian and non-government organization, a body corporate with a common seal, perpetual succession with capacity to sue or to be sued.

The Registered Office
The registered office of the organization shall be located in the Republic of Uganda, in Mbarara district with its headquarters in Mbaguta cell, Mbarara.

Region of operation
The organization shall exercise its obligations in western Uganda as the base while doing various activities countrywide as far as our aims/objectives are concerned.

Address
The address of the organization shall be P.O. Box 600, Mbarara, Uganda.
ARTICLE 2: VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

Vision
Our vision is to ensure that no child suffers or perishes from neglect, abuse or deprivation and that every child grows up in a loving home.

Mission statement
Our mission is to provide emergency protective care, a transitional home and community resettlement services for orphans and other vulnerable children in western Uganda.

Our values
We believe that every child deserves a loving home, a family and parents or caretakers who cater to the child’s physical and emotional well-being and development. We believe that children belong in homes and families and not in institutions. Among our core values are love, care, compassion and philanthropy.

Our motivations
The idea of Bright Future Transitional Home was conceived by two women that are passionate about the well-being of children and that have over the years volunteered their time and given of themselves and their resources to children in various orphanages and babies’ homes. It is our conviction that children should grow up fully integrated into the community. A babies’ or children’s home should be a temporary place of transition to resettlement into permanent homes. Currently, community resettlement services for orphans and other vulnerable children are non-existent in Mbarara.

Our board is comprised of board members who share the same vision and passion for the well-being of children. From children, we derive joy and we are convinced that it is our duty to give that same joy back to children that need it.

The National Strategic Programme Plan of Interventions (NSPPI 2011/12 – 2015/16) for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children (OVC) estimated that there are 2.4 million orphans in Uganda and 8.1 million children in need of external support. We anticipate that that number has risen over the past two years. Furthermore, Ugandan media is circulated with stories of desperate mothers who have dumped babies in latrines, bushes and other very unpleasant places. Such stories and statistics break our hearts and challenge us to do something.

Mbarara has a rapidly expanding population and one of the highest HIV rates in the country. These two reasons make the rate of baby abandonment higher than in other regions, leaving an unmet need for family resettlement in the region.
Through our interactions with Mbarara Police and Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital (MRRH), we came to learn that approximately 4 children need emergency protective care every month in the region. We also learned that police, the probation officer and the hospital are struggling to find protective care for such children since the only children’s home in the region is congested.
ARTICLE 3: OBJECTIVES / AIMS

Our objectives are in line with the National Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children Policy (NOOVCP) and are as follows:

1. To provide emergency protective care, a transitional home and community reintegration services for orphans and other vulnerable children.


3. To provide a safe shelter and family-like environment for orphans and other vulnerable children who have no one else to take care of them.

4. To provide children under our care with adequate diet, clothing, access to safe health-care, age-appropriate education and guidance, while protecting them from neglect, discrimination, violence and abuse.

5. To endeavour to reconnect with existing loving family members that can provide proper care for the children. Where a child is unable to return to his or her parents or extended family, to connect children under our care with loving foster and adoptive parents with whom they can experience one-on-one affection and close family relationships.

6. To reduce vulnerability by providing support for caretakers and the families of vulnerable children in fields such as education, health, family planning and resourcefulness.

7. To protect each child’s rights to heritage, religion and tribal linkage.
ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP

In order to streamline roles and responsibilities of members, the following titles and structures have been put in place.

1.0 Qualification of membership

i. **Founding members**; being the individuals bearing the vision of Bright Future Transitional Home and they to remain the vision bearers and founders/chairpersons of the organization.

1.1 Associate members, they shall consist of the following:

i. **Management Committee**; these being the members who operate and foresee the day-to-day running of the home. These will include a warden, a registered nurse, a social worker, a nursery teacher and three other officials elected by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development.

ii. **Board members**; these being members of the executive committee who provide advisory and oversight services to the organization.

iii. **Partners**; these being individuals who are not necessarily members of the Bright Future Transitional Home, but support the work of the organization, materially or financially.

iv. **Associates**; these being individual donors and charitable organizations whether local or foreign, who have been admitted to the organization by the executive committee.

2.0 Termination of membership

A member of the leadership team shall cease to be one under the following considerations:

i. He/she has died or becomes a person of unsound mind.

ii. He/she resigns is office in writing by giving a one-month’s notification to the founder or chairman of Bright Future Transitional Home.

iii. He/she has a proven reputation of being morally irresponsible.

iv. He/she is requested in writing to resign by the majority of the leadership team or the founder/chairman/vision bearer, in which case it must be stated clearly why the leader in question is being asked to resign.

v. He/she ceases to be an active member of Bright Future Transitional Home for a period of 24 months without any expressed or sound reason.

**NOTE:** If a resigned leader is to attend any Bright Future Transitional Home leadership meeting, he/she will do so as an ex-official and shall not vote or make any decision(s) in the proceedings.
ARTICLE 5: PROCEDURES FOR RECEIVING, CARING FOR AND RESETTLING BABIES

Bright Future Transitional Home will receive orphans and other vulnerable children in need of protective care from Mbarara and surrounding western districts. The children will only be received through the Probation and Social Welfare Office, the Police and by court order. Bright Future Transitional Home is committed to resettling these babies in safe, stable and loving families. The child care and resettlement procedures shall be detailed in the Resettlement and Care Plan standard operating procedures.

Upon receiving of the children, the organization will (with the help of the police and local residents) record the detailed profiles of the children, including the age (which may be estimated if records are unknown), gender, weight, health and family linkages.

The organization will keep the babies in a safe and caring environment with professional handling by our multi-disciplinary team, whilst transparent arrangements are made for the babies to be placed in their permanent homes.

Bright Future Transitional Home has a medical team consisting of a qualified professional nurse who will carry out regular health checks and deliver the standard vaccination programs to all of the resident babies. The nurse will have on-site support from pediatricians affiliated with Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital (MRRH).

The social worker, who is part of the management committee, will work closely with local authorities to locate any living relatives of the resident babies. He will ensure that family placements are facilitated where possible and be responsible for undertaking strict background checks in this event. When family placements are not found, the social worker will be key to facilitating fostering and adoption arrangements.
ARTICLE 6: MEETING OF THE ORGANIZATION

There shall be the following meetings:

6.1 The management committee meetings shall be held quarterly for the purposes of;
   I. Receiving communication from the executive committee of the organization pertaining to matters of policy, procedural issues, envisioning, and directions on goals of the organization.
   II. Receiving reports from every member of the executive committee on their areas of service.
   III. Incorporating the planned activities of the home into the agenda for the following year.
   IV. Receiving the annual accounts of the organization.
   V. Handling of any other business of which the executive committee may approve.

6.2 Board member meetings

These shall be held from time to time as deemed necessary but in any case at least two times a year. The chairperson shall chair the board meetings. During such meetings the chairperson of the organization shall present items for discussion by the executive committee. The chairperson shall continue to have interactive consultations with each board member as necessary. Board advisors will be free to advise the founders at any time.
ARTICLE 7: BOOKS OF RECORDS

The organization shall keep correct and complete books and records of:

I. Complete profiles of children including health records, family ties, religious affiliation and ethnic background.
II. A list of approved registered members including their addresses at the registered office of the organization.
III. Members of the executive committee with details of the trustees and addresses.
IV. The minutes of all meetings.
V. The inventory of all the property or assets both of movable and immovable nature.
VI. Books of accounts including support partners and donors with their names and addresses.
VII. The annual general assembly meetings delegates will approve other books of records from time to time when deemed necessary.
ARTICLE 8: FINANCES

8.1 The financial year
The Bright Future Transitional Home financial year shall start January 1st and end together with the fiscal year on 31st each year.

8.2 Funding
The funds of the organization shall be derived from;
   I. Personal funds of proprietors.
   II. Partner contributions through regular donations and gifts.
   III. Income generating projects such as agriculture.
   IV. Contributions from donor organizations (grants and gifts).
   V. Fundraising.

The organization shall receive from the above sources as specified and shall not hereby receive any funds with any strings attached and from any illegal sources such as funds received from corrupt sources.

8.3 Account Assignations
The founders shall be the principle signatories to the bank account. It will be the chairperson and treasurer to sigh the resolution defining the purpose for which the funds shall be withdrawn and that it is in realization of the objectives of the organization.

8.4 External audits
The organization’s financial reports, statements and operations shall be audited annually by appointed external auditors. The audited accounts shall be presented to the board for approval, given to the stake holders and presented in the annual general committee meetings. The audit shall be done in a period of two months after the closure of the financial year (that is within the first quarter of the next financial year.).
ARTICLE 9: BY LAWS

The annual general meeting of the delegates may make bylaws for the organization from time to time when need arises.

The minutes of the meetings of the annual general delegates shall have force of bylaws when they have been approved and signed.
ARTICLE 10: PROPERTY OF THE ORGANIZATION

The executive committee shall appoint three persons as trustees in whom shall be vested the custody of all land, building and other movable or immovable property and all investments and securities which shall be acquired by this organization.
ARTICLE 11: AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

Additions or alterations of any part of the foregoing articles including the name, objectives of the organization may be made from time to time by the resolution of the management committee provided that such resolution is passed by not less than 2/3 majority members present at the voting.
ARTICLE 12: DISSOLUTION

In case of the dissolution of Bright Future Transitional Home, the organization's assets/property will be transferred to organizations with the same aims and objectives as of the former. However, Bright Future Transitional Home has no intentions to dissolve, but rather to keep the vision and mission statement to accomplishment.
ARTICLE 13: DECLARATION STATEMENT

We, the undersigned members, appointed on behalf of Bright Future Transitional Home whose names appear below commit to continue in the formed constitution in pursuance of this formed organization’s aims and objectives.

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<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Sheila Tugume</td>
<td>Chairperson</td>
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<td>2. Anneloes Hannah Stoetman</td>
<td>Vice Chairperson</td>
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<td>3. Susan Natukunda Kateeba</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Brendah Katushabe</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Daniel Manano</td>
<td>Advisor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Mary Matsiko</td>
<td>Advisor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Apollo Balya</td>
<td>Advisor</td>
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Dated this …….. day of …….. In the year 2014.

WITNESS TO THE ABOVE SIGNATURES

NAME AND SIGNATURE ……………..  
OCCUPATION……………………..  
ADDRESS………………………….  

BEFORE ME  
COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS.