

## BYLAWS OF [SATNAM RISING]

### ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

#### Section 1. Name

The name of the organization shall be Satnam Rising (hereinafter referred to as the “Organization”).

#### Section 2. Purpose/Mission

The Organization is a nonprofit entity formed for the purpose of providing legal advocacy and private housing services to victims of domestic violence. The Organization seeks to empower survivors by providing them with the tools necessary to achieve safety, stability, and independence. Immediate funding will provide the ability to hire legal advocates to support victims with knowledge of the legal system, accompanying the victim to court hearings, assistance with testifying, assistance with filing a report, and assistance with filling a personal protection order if needed. These services will be of no cost to the victim; however funds will be used to pay the advocates. Long term funding will be used to invest in a private home and transportation that can house up to 6 victims with no more than 2 victims in one room. The home will be a 3 month to 1 year rehabilitation stay that will include a safe place to sleep; individual therapy, group therapy, 3 meals a day and links to resources including: Human Services, transportation, job placement; and medical appointments. The stay will be subsidized; but not free.

### ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

#### Section 1. Membership

The Organization shall not have a membership structure. The Board of Directors will govern and manage the Organization’s affairs. Individuals and organizations may support the mission of the Organization through contributions, volunteerism, and advocacy, but they will not have voting rights unless they are members of the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE III: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Section 1. Powers and Responsibilities

The Board of Directors shall have the full power to govern and oversee the affairs of the Organization. The Board is responsible for ensuring the Organization fulfills its mission, oversees the management, approves the budget, and ensures legal and ethical compliance.

### Section 2. Number and Qualifications

The Board of Directors shall consist of no fewer than five (5) members and no more than fifteen (15) members. Board members shall be individuals who are dedicated to the mission of the Organization and who bring diverse skills, experiences, and perspectives. At least one (1) Board member must have expertise in domestic violence advocacy, law, or social services.

### Section 3. Term of Office

Board members shall serve a term of three (3) years, with the possibility of re-election for one additional term. Board members shall serve until their successors are elected.

### Section 4. Duties of Board Members

Each Board member shall:

- Attend regular Board meetings and participate actively in decision-making.
- Adhere to the policies and procedures of the Organization.
- Contribute to the fundraising efforts and provide financial support, as possible.
- Act in the best interest of the Organization, adhering to the highest ethical standards.

### Section 5. Meetings

The Board of Directors shall meet at least four (4) times a year. Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson or by any two (2) Board members. A quorum for Board meetings shall be a majority of the members.

## Section 6. Officers of the Board

The officers of the Board shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Director of Funding Chairperson, Community Outreach Chairperson. The officers shall be elected by the Board members annually.

- **Chairperson:** The Chairperson shall preside over all Board meetings and ensure the effective governance of the Organization.
- **Vice-Chairperson:** The Vice-Chairperson shall assist the Chairperson and preside in their absence.
- **Director of Fund Raising Development Chairperson:** Leads fundraising strategy, donor relations, and grant writing efforts. Oversees financial planning, budgeting, and financial reporting.
- **Community Outreach Chairperson:** Builds partnerships, organizes community education, and raises awareness.
- **Survivor Advocate / Lived Experience Advisor:** Offers lived experience insights to ensure services are trauma-informed and survivor-led.

**Legal Advisor:** Lawyer that provides guidance on legal matters and helps maintain ethical and lawful practices.

## Section 7. Vacancies

If a vacancy occurs on the Board, the remaining members may appoint a new director to serve the remainder of the term.

## ARTICLE IV: COMMITTEES

### Section 1. Standing Committees

The Board may establish committees to support the work of the Organization. Standing committees may include, but are not limited to:

- **Executive Committee:** Comprised of the Board officers, this committee shall handle urgent matters between full Board meetings. This will include the

development of the 501c-3 and development of a needs assessment through researching the local community to understand the needs and gaps in services for domestic violence survivors and recruitment of 5 board members.

- **Fundraising Committee:** Responsible for planning and overseeing fundraising efforts. Fundraising efforts will include grants, private donations, and private investors.
- **Advocacy Committee:** Focuses on legal and policy advocacy for victims of domestic violence. 3-5 members will be recruited to develop a legal and policy outline for victims of domestic violence. The committee will present the outline to community agencies: other domestic violence agencies, medical hospitals, mental health organizations (i.e. Easter Seals, Common Ground). The committee will also distribute flyers to local agencies.

## Section 2. Ad-Hoc Committees

The Board may establish ad-hoc committees as needed to address specific needs or initiatives of the Organization. One such committee will be developed to investigate a potential house to purchase for housing.

## ARTICLE V: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Section 1. Appointment and Role

The Board of Directors shall hire an Executive Director who shall be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Organization. The Executive Director shall report directly to the Board and be responsible for implementing the Board's policies, managing staff, and executing the strategic direction of the Organization.

### Section 2. Duties

The Executive Director shall:

- Lead the development and execution of the Organization's programs and services.

- Manage organizational operations, staff, and resources.
- Ensure compliance with all legal requirements and ethical standards.
- Provide regular reports to the Board regarding organizational activities, finances, and performance.

## ARTICLE VI: FINANCIAL MATTERS

### Section 1. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Organization shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31.

### Section 2. Financial Oversight

The Treasurer shall be responsible for overseeing the financial management of the Organization. The Board shall ensure that annual financial audits or reviews are conducted by an independent certified public accountant.

### Section 3. Funding

The Organization shall be funded through donations, grants, fundraising activities, and other appropriate means. The Organization may accept funds from government, private foundations, and individuals, provided that such funds are consistent with the mission of the Organization.

## ARTICLE VII: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

### Section 1. Conflict of Interest Policy

No member of the Board of Directors, staff, or volunteers may use their position for personal gain or to benefit from the Organization's resources. The Board shall adopt a conflict of interest policy, which must be signed by all Board members and staff annually.

## ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

### Section 1. Amendment of Bylaws

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors at any regular or special meeting, provided that written notice of the proposed amendment(s) is given to all Board members at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

## **ARTICLE IX: DISSOLUTION**

### **Section 1. Dissolution**

In the event of dissolution, any remaining assets of the Organization shall be distributed to one or more tax-exempt organizations that support similar causes, as determined by the Board of Directors.

This sample provides a foundational structure for governance and operations. Ensure that your bylaws are customized to your nonprofit's specific needs and comply with applicable state and federal laws. Additionally, consulting with an attorney familiar with nonprofit law is recommended to ensure compliance.