



UNITED GRAND LODGE
OF ENGLAND

Guidance on the use of Masonic Centres by Women Freemasons

October 2018

The Board of General Purposes has updated its guidance on the use of Masonic Centres by Women Freemasons. The updated guidance is intended to assist individual Provincial and District Grand Masters in exercising their discretion, and is not binding.

The Board considers that it is no longer necessary to require that women Freemasons have sole occupancy of the whole of a Masonic Hall and so its guidance has been amended to permit UGLE Lodges and women Freemasons' Lodges to use Masonic Halls simultaneously if they wish. The guidance is as follows and replaces the guidance issued by the Board in 2000 on this topic:

“Provided the Provincial or District Grand Master has no objection, Lodges of women Freemasons may be permitted to meet in Masonic Halls, and to use the Lodge Room or Rooms for that purpose, subject to the following conditions:

(a) The women Freemasons must during their Lodge meetings and all related after-proceedings which they restrict to women Freemasons have sole occupancy of the areas of the Masonic Hall which they use for those purposes, and no male Freemason may therefore be admitted to those areas of the premises for that period except in so far as he may be present in another capacity, such as caretaker or catering manager; and

(b) The women Masons, while they may use items of furniture, such as chairs, pedestals, candlesticks and wands, which are part of the standard fittings of the Lodge Room and are in communal use, may not borrow items which are the private property of an individual Lodge, such as bibles, working tools, collars and jewels.

For the avoidance of doubt there is no objection to the admission of our Brethren to a “white table” event held by women Freemasons but to which male non-Masons might legitimately be admitted. It would though be inappropriate for regalia to be worn other than by members of the obedience under whose auspices the white table event is taking place.

This guidance only applies to Lodges of women Freemasons under the jurisdiction of The Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Freemasons or The Order of Women Freemasons. Those organisations may impose their own conditions and in particular it is the Board’s current understanding that The Order of Women Freemasons requires its Lodges which meet at a UGLE Masonic Hall to have exclusive use of that Hall. The relaxation of policy contained in this guidance does not apply to co-masonry or other organisations imitative of or incompatible with regular Freemasonry.”