

Political impartiality policy

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This policy is in place to assure charitable funders that any activity we conduct is not party-political and that no political allegiance influences our organization's work.

This policy is intended to address both influencing legislation (commonly known as lobbying) and election laws and regulations.

Due to legal and regulatory definitions being loosely defined, our organization errs on the side of caution when dealing with political matters.

Ensuring political impartiality

Our advocacy work is not party-political. No political allegiance influences our work. We are also not influenced by the political or policy views of any of our donors.

Employees should take all care to avoid inadvertently appearing party political. Caution should be taken in not praising political figures or parties on social media or adopting a particular policy position (e.g., welcoming the policy commitment rather than a broader endorsement of the candidate or party).

Do not engage in communications or activities that encourage a vote for or against a candidate for political office.

Be particularly cautious during pre-election periods where commenting on parties' positions on policies may indicate our organization is advocating or be seen to influence voters (which may then also have implications under electoral law).

Bear in mind that US restrictions apply to some of our funders, which means these restrictions also apply to us in terms of how we use their funds. For instance, US laws prohibit corporations from broadcasting, via television, radio, and satellite, any communication that simply mentions a candidate within 30 days of a primary and 60 days before a general election.

Any reference to political or government work should be cross-political. Content should not attempt to influence, only educate.

We must be sure to engage with a broad range of political parties and figures across the political spectrum in advocating for our policy goals. Exercise care with how such advocacy is undertaken (i.e., avoiding implying criticism of an entire political party's policy-based rather than constructive feedback on a specific policy relating to the charity's objectives). These risks are likely to be more acute in a pre-election period, as there is more risk of negative or positive public content mentioning or aimed at a political party being seen as attempting to influence electoral success.

The organization is to ensure that any education work is conducted in a neutral and balanced way. This means:

- Presenting information in a way that encourages awareness of different points of view, where appropriate.
- Basing our presentations on a credible evidence base (and not just opinion).
- For any public education, presenting the public with information permits them to form their own opinions.

Our education work can come from a particular starting point or point of view, provided this view is uncontroversial and generally accepted (e.g., pandemics are destructive, and we should mitigate their impact on humanity). However, education does not have to be value-free and completely neutral.