

CAMPAIGNS AND POLITICAL ACTIVITY POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Introduction

1. CRESS UK recognises that campaigning and political activity can be legitimate and effective tools to further its charitable purposes. This policy sets out the legal and regulatory framework within which campaigning and political activities may be conducted, and provides procedures to ensure compliance.

Purpose

2. The purpose of this policy is to:
- a. Ensure that all campaigning and political activity is lawful and in line with our charitable objectives
 - b. Provide clear guidance to trustees, staff, and volunteers
 - c. Uphold the charity's independence and reputation
 - d. Ensure compliance with Charity Commission guidance ([CC9](#))

Scope

3. This policy applies to all trustees, staff, and volunteers involved in campaigning or political activity, including public statements, publications, media engagement, partnerships, and lobbying efforts.

Definitions

4. **Campaigning:** Activities intended to raise awareness or influence public attitudes and behaviour to further the charity's aims.
5. **Political Activity:** Actions aimed at securing or opposing changes in law or policy at local, national, or international level.
6. **Party Political Activity:** Activity that explicitly supports or opposes a political party or candidate.

Principles and Legal Context

7. CRESS UK complies with:
- a. Charity Commission guidance CC9: Speaking out – Guidance on campaigning and political activity
 - b. The Charities Act 2011

- c. Electoral Commission regulations (where applicable)

8. The charity must:

- a. Always act in pursuit of its charitable objects
- b. Remain politically neutral and independent
- c. Not give support to any political party or candidate
- d. Ensure all activities are proportionate and evidence-based

Types of Permissible Activity

9. The charity may undertake the following activities if they align with its charitable purposes:

- a. Educating the public or stakeholders on issues relevant to its work
- b. Lobbying government or public bodies on relevant policy or legislative changes
- c. Public campaigns to raise awareness or influence public opinion
- d. Responding to consultations or public inquiries
- e. Trustees must ensure that these activities do not become the dominant focus of the charity.

Approval and Oversight

10. All political or campaigning activities must be approved in advance by the board of trustees or a delegated committee.

- a. A risk assessment should be conducted for major campaigns.
- b. Activities must be documented and reviewed for compliance and effectiveness.

Communications and Branding

11. Public statements must reflect the charity's neutral and evidence-based stance.

12. Branding and messaging should be clear, accurate, and non-partisan.

13. Trustees and staff must not express political opinions on behalf of the charity.

Partnerships and Coalitions

14. CRESS UK may join coalitions or partnerships with other organisations provided:

- a. The goals align with the charity's objects
- b. Political neutrality is maintained
- c. The charity's role and independence are clearly defined

Breaches and Complaints

15. Any breach of this policy must be reported to the Chair of Trustees. A formal review will be conducted, and appropriate action taken. The charity will cooperate with any investigation by the Charity Commission or other relevant authorities.

Policy Review

16. This policy will be reviewed annually or in response to changes in law, guidance, or the charity's strategic direction.

CONTACT DETAILS

This policy has been approved and authorised by the Trustees:

Name:	Jeremy Metcalfe OBE
Position:	Chair of the Trustees
Date:	1 June 2025
Signature:	
Policy version:	June 2025
Date of Review:	June 2026
Contact:	info@CRESSUK.org