

# Ethical Fundraising & Gift Acceptance Policy

## Introduction

The Board of Outhouse is committed to ensuring that fundraising activities are carried out in an ethical manner.

This policy statement applies to the board, casual, permanent and contract staff & volunteers and contracted third parties.

## Purpose

The purpose of this document is to identify Outhouse's position on fundraising practice and to document standards expected in raising funds in support of the organisation's mission from all sources.

This policy seeks to protect Outhouse's reputation and also the interests of donors. It also seeks to ensure transparency and due diligence in the management of gifts and to ensure best practice is followed.

## Policy Statement

Outhouse's guiding principle in fundraising is a simple one - fundraising activities must enable Outhouse to better achieve its mission, without compromising its principles.

In doing so, the organisation will adhere to the following standards:

- Fundraising activities carried out by Outhouse will comply with all relevant laws and the guidelines issued by the Charities Regulator.
- Any communications to the public made in the course of carrying out a fundraising activity shall be truthful and non-deceptive.

- All monies raised via fundraising activities will comply with the organisation's stated mission and purpose.
- Donors and prospective donors have the right to be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of the organisation or hired third party agents.
- Each appeal, or request for funds, shall carry a statement that the donor's donation may be used to support all areas of work undertaken by Outhouse and may not specifically be used to fund the area of work highlighted in the appeal messaging.
- All personal information collected by Outhouse is confidential, and will be held in accordance with the Data Protection Acts 1988-2018. Your data is not for sale, nor will it be given away or disclosed to any third party without consent or as provided for by our [privacy policy](#) or by law.
- Nobody directly or indirectly employed by or volunteering for Outhouse shall accept commissions, bonuses or payments for fundraising activities on behalf of the organisation outside of contractual salaries for fundraising staff.
- Fundraising activities should not be undertaken if, in the view of the Board, they may be detrimental to the good name or community standing of Outhouse.

## **Gift Acceptance**

Outhouse relies on donations and fundraising activities to carry out its objectives. Outhouse is committed to complying with the law and ensuring that any donations accepted are in the best interest of Outhouse. In certain situations, it may not be in the best interests of Outhouse or its beneficiaries to be associated with an individual or organisation.

Outhouse must act in the pursuit of its charitable purpose, and when deciding whether to refuse a donation, do so only if accepting it would be

more detrimental to the charity or contravene the attainment of its charitable purpose. This should involve a careful analysis of the extent to which the charity is likely to be harmed by accepting a donation and balancing that against the benefit to be obtained by accepting it.

The decision on the potential risks of accepting the gift will be made on a case-by-case basis by the Marketing and Fundraising Committee using the grounds and guiding principles set out in this policy.

Donations to charities can, and should, only be rejected in exceptional circumstances, and this policy states Outhouse's position is to only turn down donations for defined reasons.

## 1. Grounds for refusing a donation

Donations will be refused where:

- a. it would be unlawful to accept it (e.g. the organisation knows that the gift comprises the proceeds of crime).
- b. accepting the donation would be detrimental to the achievement of the purposes of the organisation, as set out in its constitution. Such detrimental or anticipated detriment must be set against the benefit of having the funds from the donor, which enables the organisation to pursue its purposes.
- c. to do so would compromise the values of the organisation to a material degree.

## 2. Guiding principles

Any donation should be accepted provided that:

- It is legitimately given.
- It does not interfere with, or is inimical to, our core purpose.
- It does not pose a significant reputational risk which could cause a financial loss greater than the value of the Donation.
- The donor is not in vulnerable circumstances.

- It does not place any requirements on Outhouse that causes a financial loss greater than the value of the Donation.
- Any conditions or restrictions to the donation meet Outhouse's needs to achieve its purpose.
- It has not directly or indirectly come from the tobacco industry, the arms trade, or the petrochemical industry.