

EMDR ASSOCIATION

COMPANY NUMBER: 07428145
CHARITY NUMBER: 1140865

POLITICAL CAMPAIGNING POLICY

1. Who must comply with this policy?

This policy applies to trustees, volunteers and employees at all levels.

2. What are 'campaigning' and 'political activity'?

Campaigning means awareness-raising and efforts to educate or involve the public by mobilising their support on a particular issue, or to influence or change public attitudes. This includes campaigning activity which aims to ensure that existing laws are observed.

Political activity means activity which is aimed at securing, or opposing, any change in the law or in the policy or decisions of central government, local authorities or other public bodies, whether in this country or abroad. This includes activity to preserve an existing piece of legislation and could involve raising public support or seeking to influence political parties, independent candidates, decision-makers, politicians or public servants”.

3. EMDR Association's objects

EMDR Association's objects are set out in article 1 of its Memorandum and Articles Association as:

“The relief of sickness. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing to advance the theory and practice of Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing (EMDR); and

The relief of poverty and distress wherever it may arise by the provision of humanitarian aid.”

The trustees will ensure that the charity remains established for charitable purposes only and does not have any political purposes.

The trustees should take special care to ensure that the charity only ever engages in campaigning or political activity solely in order to support the delivery of the charity's objects, as stated in its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The activities carried out by the charity must be a legitimate and reasonable way for the trustees to further the charity's objects and must not be party political.

4. Carrying out campaigning and political activity

As long as the trustees ensure that it can be reasonably expected to support the delivery of its charitable objects, EMDR Association can:

- Support or oppose the passage of a Parliamentary Bill or Welsh Assembly Proposed Measure.
- Provide and publish comments on possible or proposed changes in the law or government policy, whether contained in a Green or White Paper, draft Parliamentary Bill or elsewhere.
- Supply to members of either House relevant information or briefing about the implications of a Parliamentary Bill, for use in debate.

- Seek to promote a change in legislation or public policy overseas.
- Carry out political activity to promote the need for a particular piece of legislation, where the charity opposes it being appealed or amended.
- Engage in campaigning to ensure that existing laws are observed.
- Persuade government departments to introduce or adopt legislation.
- Promote the need for a change in public policy.
- Seek to influence central or local government or public opinion issues relating to the charity's objects.
- Speak out on issues of relevance to the wider well-being of the charitable sector.

5. Working with political parties

EMDR Association can give support to a specific policy advocated by a political party if such support will further its charitable objects. However, the trustees must ensure that they do not support the political party itself, even if that party advocates a policy that the charity does support.

The trustees should consider the importance that the public attach to the independence of charities when engaging with political parties and their representatives and should avoid engaging with one political party repeatedly to the exclusion of the others.

The trustees should remain alert to the risk of exploitation by political parties and should be open and transparent about any engagement it has with political parties.

Special care should be taken in the event of an election and the trustees should ensure that the charity remains politically neutral.

6. Charity independence

The charity should always guard its independence and ensure that it remains independent. Should the trustees decide to support a policy that a political party also advocates, the trustees should ensure that they stress and make clear the charity's independence, both to its beneficiaries and those people whose views it is seeking to influence.

7. Charity resources

The trustees may, in support of that charity's objects, lawfully apply most or even all of the charity's resources to political activity. However the trustees must ensure that these situations apply only for a period in the overall life of a charity. In such a case, the trustees must have decided that for the time being the charity's objects are most effectively pursued through political activity.

8. What should the trustees take into consideration?

When deciding whether or not to undertake political activity, the trustees must consider whether there is a reasonable expectation that it will support the charity's objects and how effective the activity will be.

The trustees should, as with any activity, exercise their full discretion and consider the range of other activities open to them in furthering their objects.

As a part of the decision-making process the trustees should consider how the decision fits with the charity's overall mission and aims, whether any claims they intend to make are well founded and whether the likelihood of success is based on realistic expectations.

The trustees should consider the costs and benefits of engaging in a particular campaign, the different

ways of approaching and delivering the campaign and the risks attached to such a campaign.

The trustees should also take into account the impact of the proposed campaigning or political activity on the charity's reputation and the need to consult key stakeholders. The trustees should take special care when engaging in activities such as organised demonstrations and public petitions.

9. Reviews

The trustees should regularly review the effectiveness and impact of any campaign or political activity they decide to engage with as well as any potential major risks to which the charity is exposed. The trustees should put in place systems to mitigate any risks that are identified.

Date: 2019/03/23

Date of next review: 2022/03/23