

# Coodal

## Campaigning and Political Activity Policy & Procedures

### 1. Purpose

This policy sets out how Coodal engages in campaigning and political activity, ensuring all actions are consistent with our charitable purposes, values, and the requirements of UK charity law.

### 2. Scope

This policy applies to trustees, staff, volunteers, and anyone acting on behalf of Coodal.

### 3. Principles

- **Charitable focus:** All campaigning and political activities must further Coodal's charitable purposes.
- **Independence:** Coodal is strictly independent of political parties and will not support or oppose any political party, candidate, or elected representative.
- **Transparency:** Activities must be open, honest, and accountable.
- **Proportionality:** Activities must be reasonable, balanced, and not the sole or continuing activity of the charity.
- **Compliance:** All campaigning and political activity will comply with Charity Commission guidance (CC9), electoral law, and relevant legislation.

### 4. Definitions

- **Campaigning:** Awareness-raising, influencing public attitudes, or seeking to secure or oppose a change in law or policy that furthers our charitable objectives.
- **Political Activity:** Specific activity aimed at securing or opposing a change in the law, policy, or decisions of central government, local authorities, or other public bodies in the UK or abroad.
- **Party-Political Activity:** Any activity that supports or opposes a political party or candidate. *This is prohibited.*

### 5. Permitted Activities

Coodal may:

- Campaign to raise awareness of issues relevant to our beneficiaries.
- Seek to influence government policy or legislation in line with our charitable purposes.
- Publish research, reports, and evidence to inform public debate.

- Work with political parties and politicians on issues relevant to our mission, provided we remain strictly independent.
- Join coalitions or networks that campaign on relevant issues, provided we maintain our independence.

## 6. Prohibited Activities

Coodal will not:

- Endorse, fund, or oppose any political party, elected representative, or candidate.
- Allow the charity's name, funds, or resources to be used for party-political purposes.
- Permit staff, trustees, or volunteers to express personal political views in a way that could be seen as representing the charity.

## 7. Procedures

### 7.1 Approval

- All campaigning or political activity proposals must be approved by the Board of Trustees (or a delegated sub-committee).
- Activities must include a clear statement of how they further Coodal's charitable objects.
- Risk assessments must be undertaken for significant campaigns.

### 7.2 Conduct

- Staff and volunteers must act in a way that upholds Coodal's independence and reputation.
- All communications must be balanced, evidence-based, and respectful.
- Media statements on political issues must be cleared by the Chair or CEO.

### 7.3 Monitoring

- The Board will receive regular updates on campaigning and political activity.
- Activities will be reviewed annually to ensure compliance with charity law.

## 8. Responsibilities

- **Trustees:** Ensure compliance with Charity Commission guidance.
- **Senior Management:** Implement policy and monitor risks.
- **Staff & Volunteers:** Follow the policy and report concerns.

## **9. Breaches**

Any breach of this policy may lead to disciplinary action and, if necessary, reporting to the Charity Commission.

## **10. Review**

This policy will be reviewed every two years or sooner if legislation or Charity Commission guidance changes.