

Public Benefit Activity Policy

(Development and Non-Development Activities)

Executive Summary

Conciliation Resources is committed to pursuing our objectives in line with best practice and accurately representing our activities to the people we work with, our donors and the public. Our activities are undertaken for the public benefit. We do not undertake non-development objectives and activities. We do not undertake evangelical or political advocacy activities.

Conciliation Resources is a secular organisation and does not engage in or support any evangelical activities and is not linked to any political party. In some instances Conciliation Resources may partner with faith-based organisations on the basis that their delivery is without evangelising or making participation conditional on conversion or adherence to a particular religious denomination. Conciliation Resources may partner with advocacy organisations from time to time on the basis that their activities are not directly in support of a political party or candidate.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to guide Conciliation Resources and our partners to clearly separate aid and development from non-development objectives and activities. This policy also addresses our obligations when communicating and fundraising.

This policy is guided and informed by regulations, guidance and best practice in the locations we work.

Scope

This Policy applies to all Conciliation Resources activities and to all Conciliation Resources employees, consultants and volunteers. The policy also extends to Conciliation Resources's partners where relevant, through our partnership agreements.

Definitions

Public Benefit, Aid and Development Activity

Our adherence to delivering public benefit through aid and development activities can be established through reference to our objectives, vision, mission, goals and values.

Conciliation Resources is an independent international organisation working with people in conflict to prevent violence, resolve conflicts and promote peaceful societies. We commit to providing our assistance, expertise and practical resources for the long-term. In addition, we take what we learn to government decision-makers and others working to end conflict, to improve policies and practice worldwide. Since 1996, Conciliation Resources has worked in partnership with local and international civil society actors, helping people work together to find their own solutions to the conflicts affecting them.

Our *vision* is a world where people work together to resolve conflicts and promote peaceful and inclusive societies.

Our *mission* is to provide practical support to help people affected by violent conflict achieve lasting peace. We draw on our shared experiences to improve peacebuilding policies and practice worldwide.

Our *objectives* are:

- To promote for the public benefit the provision of services and carrying out of activities directed towards conciliation, mediation, arbitration, conflict resolution, reconciliation, peacebuilding or reparation in disputes and conflicts between institutions, groups, persons or entities of any kind
- To advance public education and training in the subjects of conflict resolution, prevention and peace processes by carrying out research and disseminating the useful results of such research

In all respects, for the benefit of the public, and in accordance with the laws where we operate.

Our *ambition (impact)* is that we will make significant and documented contributions to preventing and transforming violent conflicts and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies.

Conciliation Resources' 2025 Strategic Plan, "Building Better Peace", sets out four goals with corresponding strategic outcomes:

- Goal 1: Adaptive and alternative paths to peace - Peacebuilding overcomes barriers to creating peaceful societies
- Goal 2: Connecting people and peace efforts - More coherent initiatives help prevent and reduce violent conflict
- Goal 3: Inclusion, gender and influence - Excluded groups influence approaches to building peace
- Goal 4: People centred policy - International peacebuilding support puts people first

Our organisational values both support and underpin everything we do and seek to achieve:

Collaboration: We believe that everybody affected by conflict has a stake in peace. We work to create peaceful and inclusive change within societies in partnership with local people, to respond to violence, inequality, injustice and exclusion.

Challenge: We believe that peace can only come about if people have a chance to better understand their conflict and if difficult conversations are held between allies and adversaries. We stand alongside those who, with courage and integrity, reach out across conflict divides.

Creativity: We believe that peacebuilding needs to be flexible and adaptive to the specific and evolving realities of each conflict context. We support innovative ways to influence change, and we share insights from people's lived experience globally to build collective knowledge and expertise.

Commitment: We believe that building sustainable peace takes time. That's why we make long-term commitments to support just and resilient transitions from protracted conflict to lasting peace.

Non-Development Activity

Non-Development Activity includes activity undertaken to promote a particular religious adherence or to support a particular party, candidate or organisation affiliated to a political party.

Evangelical activities

Evangelical activities are those activities that promote a particular religious adherence or are undertaken with the intention of converting individuals or groups from one faith and/or denominational affiliation to another.

Partisan political activities

Partisan political activities are those that are associated with facilitating or supporting specific political individuals to gain power. This does not include advocacy which is aimed at persuading and influencing decision makers and opinion leaders and is not aimed at promoting partisan political objectives.

Policy Statement

Conciliation Resources is a secular organisation, and does not provide support for non-development activities, including evangelical activities or partisan political activities. Conciliation Resources is committed to ensuring that funds and other resources designated for the purpose of public benefit, aid and development are used only for those purposes.

Our commitment will be clear in all fundraising, programme designs and related activities in public communications and in all reporting including annual reports.

Funds raised for aid and development purposes will not be used to exploit people and communities and will not place any conditions or obligations on recipients in terms of non-development, religious or political outcomes.

Should there be any components of partner programs which involve evangelical or partisan political activities, these will be promoted and accounted for separately.

Partner agreements will require the partner to agree that Conciliation Resources funds designated for aid and development purposes will not be used to fund any non-development activity. Ongoing dialogue between Conciliation Resources and its partners will reinforce the above definitions of development and non-development activity and the need for separation between development and non-development activity.

Policy in Practice

1. The relevant Department Director will appraise all project proposals to determine whether they include non-development components.
2. Any issues will be noted and then be followed up to ensure that the policy requirements are satisfied before the project is approved.
3. Department Directors record any aspects of the project that should be closely monitored over the life of the project to ensure compliance with this policy.
4. Partner due diligence and capacity assessment processes require Conciliation Resources to identify whether the partner is engaged in non-development activities, and if so, how it is able to manage and account for them separately to aid and development activity.
5. In-country project monitoring will include, where relevant, monitoring of the separation of non-development activities from aid and development activities.
6. Conciliation Resources's Communications Policy will address appropriate reporting in organisational promotional materials.
7. Communication with new partners will state Conciliation Resources's position on support for non-development activity.
8. Conciliation Resources's partners will receive a copy of this policy, where they would not reasonably be believed to already be committed to the same or equivalent principles and procedures.
9. Confirmation of internal compliance with this policy will be undertaken at least once annually.

10. Introduction of this policy will be included in the induction process and will be read by all new staff.

Version 1.0

Tim Hansen, Chief Operating Officer

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