

Ethical Fundraising Policy

Thanks go to the Bristol Cable, a co-operative newspaper in Bristol, for their advice in helping us to craft this policy. The policy is as follows:

1. Purpose

1.1. This document sets out the Great Central Gazette's Ethical Fundraising Policy. It is intended for our members, audience, current and prospective donors (both individual and organisational) and their advisers, to provide full transparency about the contributions we solicit, and those we accept (or decline), and our values and principles in our approach to fundraising.

1.2. The Great Central Gazette is an independent, not-for-profit local newspaper and legally registered as co-operative society. It operates with the support of member contributions and contributions from private individuals and foundations in Leicester, across the UK and internationally. The Gazette actively encourages philanthropic support, and considers securing such support as a key element in being able to fulfill its mission.

2. Fundraising principles

2.1. The policies outlined in this document apply to all solicited contributions and unsolicited contributions of £5,000 or more.

2.2. We will not solicit or accept contributions from individuals, governments or organisations that seek to influence the outcome of our investigations or other editorial, and compromise our independence.

2.3. We will not accept contributions from sources who may adversely impact our reputation for impartiality and independence. If we turn down a contribution or offer of support, we will explain why.

2.4. The Gazette will decide on what funding it seeks or accepts on a case by case basis, recognising the complexities of considerations in where funding has come from, and the association and interests of the donor.

2.5. The Gazette will avoid taking money from:

- any individual or organisation that has a proven (or strongly suspected) record of mistreating, or discriminating against, people based on protected characteristics such as: workers, LGBTQ+, people of colour, disabled people,

gender, language, ethnicity, class, religion, political beliefs, union membership. This list is not exhaustive.

- any individual or organisation who make their income from activity that abuses human rights, or causes environmental destruction or depend on the depletion of finite resources, or from any of these sources: gambling, defence, property speculation, tobacco, drugs, the sex industry, or any kind of criminal activity. This list is not exhaustive, but sets out the kinds of industries and practices The Gazette does not want to be associated with, and sources of money we do not want to accept.
- any registered or self-described political party or alliance of political parties

2.6. The Core Team team is responsible for decisions on accepting funding, and will consult with directors and members where needed. The team has a responsibility to conduct due diligence in understanding the suitability of potential donors, assessing the benefits and risks of accepting money on a case by case basis.

2.7. We will ensure that projects for which we raise funds reflect our mission and priorities. Neither the funding opportunities we pursue, or the requirements of funders, will deflect us from our strategic objectives.

2.8. We will not allow any funding relationship to constrain us from criticising that body or exposing any wrongdoing in which it may be involved.

2.9. To insulate against the end of a funding relationship for any reason, we will make all possible attempts to diversify our funding streams.

3. Transparency

3.1. We are honest and behave with integrity in all our fundraising, ensuring we comply with our fundraising principles and that these comply with UK regulation and legislation.

3.2. We are transparent about the funds we receive and will state all funding sources in our Annual Accounts in compliance with UK regulation and legislation.

3.3. For every donor which has given £5,000 or more in a year, we will list their name and funding given on our website, and the name of the specific project where relevant. Organisations are listed regardless of the amount their contribute. (This number is chosen to be in alignment with guidelines set out by Who Funds You?, a project that researches and promotes transparency of think tank funding sources.)

3.4. We remain accountable to our members on major funding questions, whose contributions enable The Gazette to inform and empower people in Leicester

through our journalism, and community engagement. Our finances are discussed transparently each year at our AGMs.

3.5. We use contributions in accordance with their intended causes and provide timely updates to our donors explaining how we have used their contributions.

3.6. This policy will be displayed on the The Gazette website on the Policies and Transparency pages.

3.7. Where funding has been accepted for a specific editorial project, the donor name will be listed alongside or in conjunction with funded content.

4. Responsibility

4.1. We put our donor's contributions to work as quickly as we can and do this wisely and responsibly.

4.2. We are modest and do not solicit more funds than we need to further our mission. We are grateful for all support, large and small.

4.3. We keep our operating costs at a minimum, so your support goes directly to our work, not to exorbitant salaries or fundraising campaigns.

5. Donor agreement

5.1. Donors accept and agree they will not have editorial influence, and that they do not have special or privileged access to The Gazette reporters or editors.

This policy was edited by Rhys Everquill (Managing Editor) and reviewed by Emma Guy (Commissioning Editor). This policy was approved by members on Thursday, 14 March 2024.

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