



Transgender
Equality
Network
Ireland

Fundraising Policy

Document Name	Fundraising Policy
Version	1.0
Document Owner	TENI Board
Approved By	TENI Board
Approved On	15 April 2026
Next Revision Due	April 2028

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Purpose

TENI fundraises through a range of sources to support our work. The Board of TENI is committed to ensuring that fundraising activities are carried out in an ethical manner. The purpose of this document is to govern TENI's fundraising activities by outlining our commitment to ethical fundraising practices, identifying fundraising activities and sources of fundraising, and documenting criteria for accepting or refusing donations. This document seeks to ensure clarity, fairness and transparency in TENI's fundraising activities and TENI's work with donors.

Scope

This policy applies to:

1. All TENI staff, the TENI Board, TENI volunteers, and contracted third parties;
2. All TENI projects, events, campaigns and other activities.

Roles and Responsibilities

The TENI Board of Directors is responsible for:

1. Upholding, reviewing and amending this policy;
2. Monitoring fundraising-related risks through TENI's risk management processes;
3. Establishing and maintaining subcommittees relevant to management of fundraising and related risks, e.g. Governance and Finance, Fundraising subcommittees, as necessary;
4. Through the Board or through relevant subcommittees, evaluating fundraising activities or monies that may create risks for the organisation, and upholding the standards outlined in this policy.

The Executive Director is responsible for:

1. Implementing this policy across the organisation;
2. Ensuring that fundraising activities are carried out in accordance with this policy, with relevant legislation, and with TENI's charitable status;
3. Analysing risks associated with fundraising and reporting these to the Board;
4. Implementing Board decisions in relation to fundraising.

Policy Statement

TENI is committed to ensuring that fundraising activities are carried out in an ethical manner, in accordance with TENI's values, and in compliance with the statutory and regulatory standards of charities in Ireland. Fundraising activities must support the advancement of TENI's charitable purpose, without compromising TENI's values, or breaching TENI's charitable standards.

Fundraising Principles and Standards

The following standards are applied to TENI's fundraising activities:

1. Fundraising must be carried out in compliance with all relevant laws and guidelines issued by the Charities Regulator.
2. All funds raised will be used to advance TENI's charitable purpose and the organisation's mission.
3. Fundraising activities must not be detrimental to TENI's reputation, charitable purpose or mission.
4. Communications in relation to fundraising activities will be truthful and non-deceptive.

5. Communications in relation to fundraising activities will be clear that the donation may be used to support all areas of work undertaken by TENI in accordance with our charitable purpose.
6. All personal information collected by TENI in the course of fundraising activities will be stored in accordance with relevant laws, with GDPR, and with TENI's Data Protection policy.
7. No TENI staff or volunteers will accept commissions, bonuses or other personal gains in relation to fundraising activities carried out on behalf of TENI.
8. TENI will aim to have a diverse pool of fundraising sources in order to ensure independence, financial sustainability and minimise risk to operational continuity.

Sources and Scope of Fundraising

TENI may raise or receive funds through:

1. Statutory funding;
2. Philanthropic funding;
3. Corporate partnerships and sponsorships;
4. Individual donations and membership;
5. Third-party fundraising events, drives or campaigns in support of TENI.

Statutory Funding

TENI may seek and receive statutory funding. TENI believes that this funding can advance the aim and purpose of the organisation, and can promote TENI's mission across statutory bodies, agencies and institutions. Funds sought and granted from statutory bodies will be subject to the same ethical considerations, including grounds for refusal, as all others.

Philanthropy

TENI may seek and receive funding from philanthropic organisations, trusts and foundations. The charitable status of a funder will not exempt the funder from the scope of this policy. A charitable or philanthropic organisation will be subject to the same ethical considerations, including grounds for refusal, as other funders.

Corporate Partnerships and Sponsorships

TENI may seek and receive funding from corporate partners or sponsors. TENI will aim to be in partnership with organisations that are working towards similar aims as ours, and with similar values. We recognise that social change is a journey of learning, and TENI may partner with organisations who are committed to learning and developing through the partnership. Partnerships and sponsorships with corporate (i.e. for-profit) bodies will be subject to sustainability considerations and may be refused or terminated in accordance with this policy.

TENI engages with corporate bodies and other organisations on a consultancy basis (through the provision of training, policy guidance or other expertise), for which work TENI may be paid. Payment for this work does not constitute fundraising and is not covered under this policy, however, TENI recognises the presence of reputational risk in relation to providing consultancy support, and will consider requests for consultancy in line with those risks.

Individual Donations and Membership

TENI is a membership organisation, driven by our members. Members pay an annual membership fee.

Individuals may also donate to TENI either driven by a fundraising campaign, or on an ad-hoc basis.

Both individual donations and membership fees are used to advance our charitable purpose, and may be used to support our work beyond the specific area highlighted in fundraising campaigns. This will be made clear to prospective donors in our campaigns.

Third-Party Fundraising Activities

Sometimes third parties fundraise on behalf of TENI. TENI's preference is to be notified when this will be taking place, but this is not always possible. The acceptance or refusal of these donations will be made in line with this policy and the grounds set out below.

Acceptance or Refusal of Funds

The acceptance or refusal of funds or gifts is governed by this policy, even where those funds are not solicited by TENI's fundraising activities.

The advancement of TENI's charitable purpose is reliant on the financial security of the organisation, the good community standing of the organisation, and the intact reputation of the organisation. Donations and gifts must be considered on that basis.

Acceptance of Funds

TENI will accept funds where:

1. The funds will benefit the advancement of our charitable purpose;
2. The funds do not meet the grounds for refusal outlined below.

Refusal of Donations

Grounds for refusal of funds include:

1. The organisation is aware that the donation comprises the proceeds of crime;
2. The funds are given by or otherwise linked to an organisation whose purpose is contrary to TENI's mission and charitable purpose;
3. Accepting the funds would compromise TENI's organisational values;
4. Accepting the funds may pose significant reputational risk or risk to TENI's community standing;
5. Accepting the funds may result in a financial loss greater than the value of the donation;
6. Accepting the funds would give rise to private benefit;
7. The funds are given with conditions or restrictions that may compromise the advancement of TENI's mission, TENI's reputation, or TENI's community standing;
8. The funds are given with requirements to advertise a company, organisation, product, or activity that is contrary to TENI's mission, charitable purpose, or values.

Assessment of Acceptance or Refusal

As a charity, TENI is reliant on donations and fundraising to continue our work. Refusals will only be made in exceptional circumstances relating to the grounds above. Decisions on refusal of funds will be made by the Board, or by a relevant Board subcommittee with notification to the Board. This responsibility will be established within the Terms of Reference of a relevant subcommittee.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years, or earlier if required due to legislative, regulatory or organisational changes.