

Cork International Film Festival Ethical Fundraising Policy

Context

Cork International Film Festival is committed to the highest standards of transparency, integrity, and accountability in all of its fundraising activities. This Fundraising Policy has been developed in accordance with guidance from The Charities Regulator in Ireland. It reflects the organisation's ongoing commitment to compliance with its obligations as a registered charity. This policy connects with other policies within the organisation's governance framework, including:

- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Donor Charter
- Artistic Policy
- Child Protection Safeguarding Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Website Privacy Policy
- Code of Conduct

As part of its mission, Cork International Film Festival seeks financial support from both public and private sources. These funds, alongside revenue-generating activities, are essential to sustaining the organisation's activities, strengthening its infrastructure, and enhancing its national and international reputation. Through this support, the Festival aims to ensure its long-term sustainability and continued cultural impact.

Cork International Film Festival places strong emphasis on building long-term, strategic partnerships that align with its core values and uphold the principles of ethical engagement. The organisation is dedicated to conducting all fundraising and revenue-generating activities in a responsible manner, guided by the values and standards set out in this Policy.

Purpose

This policy aims to ensure clarity and openness to all our stakeholders and to ensure that all our donations and partnerships fit with Cork International Film Festival's vision and ethical considerations, as well as the organisation's legal obligations.

This objective will be achieved by providing flexible and meaningful opportunities for donation and partnership to appropriate individuals, philanthropic foundations, corporate partners, and other organisations, domestic and international..

Scope

This policy relates to all forms of fundraising, including:

- Individual giving and major gifts

- Corporate sponsorship and partnerships
- Trusts and foundations
- Government funding
- Events and campaigns
- Donations in-kind
- Legacy and planned giving.

The policy applies to all Board members, all staff, contractors, partners and volunteers of the organisation.

Principles

Fundraising activities, including the development of relationships with sponsors, donors, and grant-giving bodies, are undertaken by designated staff members who are committed to upholding principles of integrity, openness, accountability, and fairness. These activities are subject to oversight by the Board of Directors, with additional support from a dedicated Development Sub-Committee (DSC).

- Cork International Film Festival does not engage volunteers specifically for fundraising purposes.
- Financial support is pursued for both targeted initiatives and general operational costs.
- All donor information and details of contributions received in confidence will be treated as strictly confidential by fundraising personnel.
- Individuals involved in fundraising are also bound by the organisation's data protection policies. Further information on data protection is available in the Cork International Film Festival Privacy Statement.
- Where suitable and subject to mutual agreement, Cork International Film Festival will acknowledge donors and partners by featuring their support on its website and in associated materials, highlighting and celebrating these relationships in an appropriate and agreed manner.
- Donors may remain anonymous if they wish.

The organisation operates a strict zero-tolerance approach to any instances of theft or fraudulent behaviour by fundraising personnel. In addition to the principles outlined in Cork International Film Festival's Donor Charter, fundraisers are expected to adhere to the following standards:

- act reliably and professionally at all times, demonstrating integrity, honesty, and openness, and ensuring that donors are treated fairly and not misinformed
- conduct their activities in a way that supports and strengthens the charitable mission and public reputation of the organisation
- clearly communicate the intended use of any funds raised
- possess a thorough understanding of the charity's mission and objectives, and be able to direct donors to further relevant information where required
- avoid taking advantage of relationships with donors, volunteers, or staff for personal benefit, and not use their role for private gain

- refrain from knowingly or carelessly sharing inaccurate information in the course of their duties, or allowing others to do so
- respect the privacy of individuals and avoid unnecessary intrusion when seeking donations
- avoid excessive or persistent solicitation and never apply inappropriate pressure to secure contributions
- act consistently with these Guidelines and not encourage or permit others to act otherwise
- comply with all applicable legal and regulatory obligations related to their activities, and promote adherence to these standards within the organisation

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Donation Acceptance Criteria

The CEO & Festival Director and Board of Directors must ensure that the organisation complies with all relevant legislation and appropriate charity governance codes. Decisions on accepting a donation will be made by the CEO & Festival Director of the Cork International Film Festival, in consultation with the Head of Development and the Board of Directors, and in compliance with Irish legislation.

Cork International Film Festival considers each donation or sponsorship on its own merits, and it is committed to upholding ethical principles in fundraising and sponsorship activities. Specifically, Cork International Film Festival:

- Does not accept gifts or engage in partnerships that, in the judgement of the Board, may damage its reputation or relationship with stakeholders.
- Does not accept gifts or sponsorship with expectations of personal advancement or influence.
- Does not accept anonymous donations but respects donors' wishes for privacy.
- Only accepts donations that are in line with Cork International Film Festival's Principles, mission, and operations, and accepting a donation should never jeopardise the reputation of the Cork International Film Festival or other donors.
- Does not accept gifts or enter into partnerships with donors/sponsors where there may be an unacceptable conflict of interest between Cork International Film Festival and the activities of the proposed individual or organisation.
- Does not enter into a partnership when there is evidence of a risk that a donor or sponsor may not be able to honour a donation or sponsorship in full or in part.
- Will not accept funding or donations from organisations/donors that are involved in activities that run contrary to its governing policies or the ethical principles of Cork International Film Festival. For example, it will not accept financial support from organisations associated with human rights abuses or illegal activities.
- Reserves the right to refuse a repeat donation from a donor where that donor has been associated with actions/activities that are contrary to Cork International Film Festival's vision and ethical considerations.

- Accepts philanthropic donations to support any and all activities, programmes and projects in the Cork International Film Festival. No benefits may be offered to donors for such donations.
- May offer, if appropriate, naming rights to recognise exceptional donations and corporate sponsorships. Naming rights require the approval of the Cork International Film Festival Board of Directors.

Due Diligence will be carried out on all forms of funds raised from all donors and businesses with which Cork International Film Festival is actively partnering. This Due Diligence may include checking donors and partners to ensure that there are no conflicts or potential conflicts of interest or conflicts of loyalty.

- The Due Diligence process will be applied to all donations and sponsorships. This consists of a rigorous research process with an additional risk assessment. Cork International Film Festival implements a tiered risk-assessment process to ensure consistent due diligence based on 1) source of wealth, 2) reputation, 3) conditions and 4) sector alignment. The main criteria for assessing reputational risk include potential harm to Cork International Film Festival's values, mission, or reputation.

Avoidance Criteria

Cork International Film Festival avoids engaging in relationships with individuals or companies directly involved in activities such as gambling, pornography, weapons systems manufacturing and other activities as assessed by the Board in line with ethical considerations.

Cork International Film Festival does not accept funding from governments under comprehensive EU or UN sanctions or those formally found by the International Court of Justice to violate international humanitarian law. This also applies to governments under ongoing ICJ proceedings with provisional measures, or which have been found by a UN Commission of Inquiry to be plausibly committing genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, or similar humanitarian violations. This policy applies to direct financial contributions from such governments to the Festival.

Additionally, Cork International Film Festival does not accept financial support that could compromise its identity or effectiveness in achieving its goals. All decisions made under this policy are made by the Executive, in consultation with the Board, with clear documentation and reference to the relevant sanction, proceedings, measures and/or inquiry justifying the decision.

Reporting of Donations

Cork International Film Festival reports on donations and corporate sponsorship arrangements and their usage, management, costs and returns in a precise and understandable manner. All donations made to the organisation are logged by the Head

of Development and circulated to the CEO & Festival Director, and Board of Directors regularly.

Responsibility

The Board of ClFF holds ultimate responsibility for ensuring ethical fundraising practices.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly (every **3 years**) to ensure that it reflects best practice and evolving regulatory standards.

Approval

Approved by the Board of Directors on 17th June, 2026

Signed by: Cian Blackwell
(Cian Blackwell, Chairperson)

Date adopted: 17th June 2026

Next review date: June 2029

If you would further information please do contact Michelle Reid, Head of Development or Fiona Clark, CEO & Festival Director