

<b>Policy title:</b>	<b>Non-Development Activity Policy</b>	<b>Version 2</b>	<b>February 2018</b>
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## 1. PURPOSE

IWDA is committed to ensuring that we accurately represent our activities to the people we work with, our supporters, and the public. To that end, the purpose of this policy is to guide IWDA and our partners to make a clear separation between aid and development and non-aid and development objectives and activities. This policy addresses our ACFID compliance obligations when communicating with or soliciting donations from private donors and the public, including fundraising for restricted and unrestricted purposes from aid agencies, sponsors and supporters, and fundraising from the general public.

## 2. SCOPE

This policy is intended to apply to all IWDA activities, and is applicable to all IWDA employees and volunteers. The policy also extends to IWDA partners and associated implementing organisations.

## 3. POLICY

IWDA is the leading Australian agency entirely focused on women's rights and gender equality in the Asia Pacific region. We are a secular organisation and do not engage in or support any evangelical activities and are not linked to any political party. IWDA supports and is committed to abiding by the following principles:

- a. Ensuring accurate representation of our activities to the people we work with, our supporters and the public
- b. All funds raised are for gender and development purposes and
  - i.) are not used to exploit people and communities who are vulnerable and
  - ii) do not place any conditions or obligations on recipients in terms of non-development, religious or political outcomes that would affect their access to the services being offered.

IWDA does partner with local faith-based organisations in some instances on a case-by-case basis. Using the Partnership Selection and Assessment process however IWDA will only partner with women's led and women's groups within faith-based organisations (FBOs) who show evidence of a commitment to gender equality and promote women's rights. IWDA will not support programs or activities that *promote a particular religious adherence*.

From time to time we partner with advocacy organisations on the basis that their activities are not in support of partisan political activities, a political party or candidate. While IWDA is independent, we recognise that unequal representation and participation of women in institutional structures and decision-making processes is both a denial of women's democratic rights and a constraint on development. As such, development activity in this instance necessitates working to support increased participation of women in civil and political life.

#### **4. IMPLEMENTATION**

The Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the IWDA Leadership Team, is responsible for the administration, revision, interpretation, and application of this policy.

Underlying all of IWDA's work is a commitment to a world where every woman and man, girl and boy has equal rights and opportunities. IWDA will only support organisations, groups and programs that promote women's rights and work towards our long term goals:

1. Women equally participate in and influence decision-making
2. Women and men enjoy relationships based on equality and respect
3. Women live free from all forms of personal, state and structural violence
4. Women access legislation and policies that promote and protect their rights
5. Women have equal access to health and education.

And IWDA's program priorities:

1. Women's civil and political participation
2. Women's economic empowerment and sustainable livelihoods
3. Women's safety and security.

This policy provides a framework for IWDA's compliance with principle B.1.5 of the ACFID Code of Conduct. This principle outlines four obligations for signatories to the ACFID Code of Conduct:

- a. Signatory organisations will have a clear separation between aid and development and non-aid and development objectives and activities based on the definitions of aid and development and non-aid and development in section F (Definitions) of the Code
- b. This separation will be clear in all fundraising, programs and other activities, in public communications and in all reporting including annual reports
- c. Any fundraising solicitations that include references to both aid and development and non-development activities will provide donors with the choice of contributing to aid and development activity only
- d. Signatory organisations will ensure that any such separation in fundraising, programs and other activities, in public communications and in reporting, extends to partner and implementing organisations and is documented.

#### **5. REVIEW AND AMENDMENT**

This policy will be reviewed every three years and amended as needed, to ensure it remains compliant with law, relevant and effective. This policy may be amended at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer.

## 6. DEFINITIONS

Development activities: IWDA is a rights-based organisation focused on gender and development.

Non-development activities:

- a) Evangelical activities: 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
- b) Partisan political activities: those activities 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<sup>1</sup>, and is not aimed at promoting partisan political objectives.

## 7. REFERENCES/RELATED DOCUMENTS

ACFID Code of Conduct

ACFID Code of Conduct Implementation Guidance: Definitions

Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme (OAGDS)

IWDA Position Paper: *Working with Faith Based Organisations (FBOs), Christian groups and churches in PNG & Solomon Islands*

IWDA Partnership Assessment Criteria

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<sup>1</sup> In this case advocacy includes IWDA and our partners' work to support female candidates to run for political office in the countries we work in.