



# Royal African Society Ethical Fundraising Policy

## 1. Introduction to the Royal African Society

### **Charitable Purpose**

As stated on our Royal Charter: The objects for which the Society is established and incorporated are to promote within Our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as in other countries, the spread and increase of knowledge of the peoples and countries of Africa; to foster and strengthen the relationships existing between Our said United Kingdom and the various countries and peoples of Africa; and to encourage the growth of interest in Africa among the people of Our said United Kingdom and among the people of other countries.

### **Vision and Mission**

We believe the world would be a more equal, just and interesting place if African perspectives had a central position in global conversations. Although progress has been made, the intellectual, cultural and socio-economic contributions of Africa's diverse countries and its diaspora are still inadequately recognised. Founded more than 100 years ago as a London-based membership charity, our mission has always been to facilitate mutual understanding and dialogue between people in the UK, Africa and the rest of the world, acting as a catalyst for positive change.

We work to amplify African voices and interests in academia, business, politics, the arts and education, fostering more informed and equitable relations between Africa and the UK. Through our events, publications and digital channels we share insight and instigate debate, reaching a network of over a million people globally.

### **Our Core Values:**

- **Collaborative**  
We work in partnership with organisations and individuals that share our vision
- **Transparent**  
We operate in an open manner and are clear about what we do and how we do it
- **Independent**  
We value our autonomy and freedom of thought in all our relationships and activities
- **Diverse**  
Our programmes, audiences, members and staff reflect a multiplicity of views and voices
- **Progressive**  
We champion innovative ideas and approaches to topical conversations and debates

## 2. Rationale and commitment

We foster partnerships with companies and organisations which share our values, in order to enhance our events and programmes, reach new audiences and networks, and share resources and expertise. Through our partnerships we also aim to develop research and insight, amplify ideas or campaigns, and achieve sustainability.

This policy focusses on our intentions in ethical fundraising and reflects our commitment to our values, as outlined above.

### Our commitment to our beneficiaries and participants

We are committed to our staff, members, followers and participants in our various programmes. The Ethical Fundraising Policy is made available on our website so all who engage in our work can read it. Staff members and freelance staff with whom we work are informed of the Ethical Fundraising Policy, and we will work with them to address any concerns that they or we have about particular funders.

### Our commitment to our funding and programme partners

Working in partnership is integral to our organisational strategy and future. As a charity, we foster partnerships with organisations in the UK, Africa and internationally, which share our values and objectives. We actively develop relationships with external organisations and individuals in order to achieve shared objectives. All major funding and programme partners will be informed of our Ethical Fundraising Policy, and we will work with them to address any concerns that they or we may have.

Our fundraising income and expenditure are monitored and reported in the published audited accounts, available on the Charity Commission website. We are committed to timely and accurate reporting, and to developing a positive relationship with donors.

## 3. How we make decisions

We follow an internal written ethical fundraising process that can be made available on request. We will decline a funding offer under certain circumstances, if:

- The donor's stated aims and values are opposed to our proclaimed values and aims.
- Receipt of funding may have a negative impact on our reputation or lead to a decrease in support of the organisation from significant other funding sources.
- The donation is from an unknown source that cannot be checked and verified.

## 4. Feedback

This policy has been developed over several months in consultation with RAS staff and council members. It will be reviewed annually by the Fundraising & Corporate Engagement Sub-Committee, made up of members of the RAS council.

Any questions should be directed to  
Caitlin Pearson, Fundraising Manager, [caitlin.pearson@soas.ac.uk](mailto:caitlin.pearson@soas.ac.uk)

**Last updated:** Wednesday, 14 July 2020