

CAMPAIGNING AND POLITICAL ACTIVITY

COSRT POLICY

OVERVIEW

COSRT trustees are sometimes approached with requests to lobby or campaign on a range of issues of interest to members. As a UK Charity, COSRT is governed by the Charity Commission and must comply with key legal requirements and with Charity Commission guidance when it comes to political campaigning and lobbying.

Specifically, there is a legal requirement on charities to ensure that any political campaigning must only be undertaken in the context of supporting the delivery of its charitable purposes.

Trustees must ensure that the charity is not used for the expression of the political views (whether personal or party political) of any individual trustee or staff member.

Trustees must also consider the impact of the proposed campaigning on the charity's reputation, ensuring that the charity's independence is maintained. For more information on what is permitted by the Charity Commission, see [Campaigning and political activity guidance for charities](#).

COSRT's charitable aims are set out in our Articles of Association.

In line with COSRT's charitable aims, COSRT can and will campaign on matters of policy that directly impact on research, standards and delivery in the fields of Psychosexual and Relationship Therapies. COSRT seeks to ensure that the importance of Psychosexual and Relationship therapies as disciplines are well-articulated and defended, as part of wider campaigning in promotion of the professions. COSRT also campaigns where therapists or those working in and around Psychosexual and Relationship Therapy might face serious threats to their safety, for example, if they are targeted by hostile actors when undertaking research in the field.

COSRT has to walk a very cautious line on political matters beyond the scope of its stated charitable mission. For example, when an international political crisis emerges, COSRT cannot assume that all of its members will be of one voice, and therefore, campaigning would both be outside of COSRT's primary purposes, but may also alienate members of the COSRT community, and would therefore undermine our reputation and independence.

Similarly, where members may be involved in industrial relations disputes, whether local or national, COSRT cannot assume that all of its members are either implicated or united, and must, therefore, maintain a neutral position.

Trustees welcome suggestions for matters about which COSRT might usefully campaign, provided that these are directly related to COSRT's charitable aims, and do not put our reputation and independence at risk.



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