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Partisan politics

Definition

Partisan politics means support for a particular party, candidate or organisation affiliated to a political party in Australia or an overseas country where a project is held. This includes: being involved in party political activities; using funds or resources to facilitate or support a specific political party, candidate, or party political organisation in a local, regional or general/national election; using funds or resources to facilitate or support a particular politician or faction to gain power within a government or within a party political structure.

The need

Company officers, coordinators and partners come into contact with government officials.

Prudent guidance needs to be provided when contact with political officers occurs through activities in overseas developing countries.

Reledev and Partisan Politics

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT – Australian Aid): Australian Aid funded projects do not support partisan political activities. Australian Aid funds are not used for political activities overseas.

Reledev: Reledev is non-government and has no political agenda of its own. Reledev projects, their activities and budgets are well documented. No project funds are allocated for the support of political parties or labour union movements.

Partners: Reledev enters into agreements with Australian partners and overseas entities for the implementation of project activities. The obligations of Reledev and partners are detailed in Agreements. Reledev acknowledges that partner entities may need to make contact with government officials and may need to work within the administrative requirements of the government to the day (e.g. the implementation of activities might require registration with government agencies). These are not political activities.

Impact on Procedures

Agreements between Reledev and Partners cover the delivery of activities that are in line with their non-political orientation.

Project cycle:

Proposals: potential partner NGO's are to present proposals in order for Reledev to ascertain:

1. Nature of potential partner: Potential partner must be non-political and a non-government entity.
2. Activities proposed do not in any way relate to a political party or labour unions.
3. Budgets do not in any way provide support for political parties or labour unions.

Use of money: Reledev does not fund activities that support political parties in developing countries or other movements that are politically motivated.

Rules regarding partisan politics

In accordance with the Australian Council for International Development's (ACFID) code of conduct and Reledev's partisan policy, anyone connected with Reledev, their project partners, or affiliates – be they individuals or groups – must observe the following rules:

- When endorsing or opposing a candidate for political office or taking a position on an issue for the purpose of assisting or opposing a candidate, individuals and or groups should undertake to make it clear that they are speaking only for themselves and not stating a position on behalf of Reledev, their project partners or affiliates.
- Employees/individuals/groups may take part in partisan political activities freely on their own time but they must not do so at the expense of their responsibilities to their normal work.
- Reledev/DFAT–Australian Aid/partners' names or logos must not be used on advertising/promotional material intended for political purposes
- Funds or other contributions may not be solicited in the name of Reledev/their project partners/affiliates for political support or carrying on a political campaign
- Reledev/their partner employees may not and should not be asked to perform tasks related to partisan political activities during working hours
- There should not be any communication disseminated from the Reledev email system that could be interpreted as relating to political activity.

Note:

This policy is not intended to infringe in any way an individual's right to support a particular political candidate/party. Each individual remains free to become

involved in political parties/election processes as long as it is carried out in a way that does not imply or involve Reledev, its partners or affiliates.