

Politics and Development Policy

Policy Title	Politics and Development Policy IPP005		
Unit	International Program, Habitat for Humanity Australia		
Version	Version 2.0		
Authorised by	Board of Directors		
Date endorsed	30 November 2007		
Re-ratified	27 June 2008		
Reviewed	16 April 2015	Re-ratified	10 August 2015

Introduction

This policy is to ensure that HFHA international program activities are guided by the principles of non-discrimination and impartiality to maintain our commitment to delivering development assistance to those most in need. HFHA is a signatory of the *Australian Council for International Development Code of Conduct (ACFID)* which acts as a guide for development organisations to improve international development outcomes and increase stakeholder trust by enhancing their transparency and accountability. This policy serves as a practical guide to HFHA staff in our professional relationships with partner organisations and the communities in which we work. This will ensure that our projects remain both neutral of potential political influence or divides within communities and respects the rights of all people to freedom of thought, conscience and political beliefs.

Policy Statement

HFHA is not, and will never be affiliated with any Australian or foreign political party or organisation. HFHA formulates its own policies autonomously of the Australian government and other foreign governments. It also endeavors to maintain its independence across all facets and functions of the organisation, including governance, management, programming, fundraising, communications, campaigning and financial management.

HFHA will not encourage, respond to or engage in initiatives that:

- Fund programs that are designed to convert people from one political persuasion to another.
- Fund the building of political structures, including infrastructure, training or organisational activities - with exception to circumstances where those structures are specifically designed to provide and /or contribute to relief and/or development assistance.
- Discriminate on the delivery of relief and development programs based on an individual's or community's particular political beliefs or membership of a

particular political group.

- Attempt to influence the delivery of aid to any area other than on a needs basis, including for political gain or bribery. [See also *HFHA Fraud Policy*].

Policy in Practice

HFHA will ensure that:

- Program staff, volunteers and local counterparts act within the politics and development policy, and understand and support the principles of non-discrimination on the basis of politics or political belief.
- Whilst HFHA program staff and volunteers are able to engage in political activities in their own right as individual persons, all program staff and volunteers must maintain impartiality by not engaging in political activities whilst representing an affiliation with HFH (for example whilst wearing a Habitat t-shirts, banners or other materials) unless otherwise advised.
- Funds and resources are used for the purpose of aid and development and will not be used to promote a particular political party, or to promote a candidate or organisation affiliation to a particular party.
- Project activities are identified and designed on the basis of need only, and do not support, include nor are influenced by any political party or candidate.
- The political preference of individuals and communities does not influence their participation in HFHA projects or as project beneficiaries.