

PTC Ethical Fundraising and Investment Policy

Approved at the meeting of the Board of Trustees on 18 July 2023.

INTRODUCTION

The Poetry Translation Centre (registered charity 1123056) is the only UK organisation dedicated to translating and promoting contemporary poetry from Africa, Asia and Latin America. We publish books, organise events and deliver hands-on translation workshops that are open and inclusive to all. We also offer online resources including a weekly dual-language poetry podcast and an extensive web archive of poems in translation.

Central to our mission is exploring poetries from the home-cultures of the UK's diverse diaspora communities, working in partnership with those communities. We believe that the act of translating and sharing poetry breaks down barriers and offers a way to explore diverse heritages and identities with respect.

CONTEXT AND PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

The PTC's NPO grant from Arts Council England amounts to approximately 50% of our annual budget. In order to meet our charitable objectives, deliver our programme and ensure organisational resilience we need to maintain a broad base of different sources and types of funding. The PTC has a responsibility to our stakeholders to consider the ethical issues that may arise in working with or accepting funding from a company, state or individual and the associated risks. We have identified the following areas of risk, which this policy aims to mitigate:

- Reputational damage through association / perceived endorsement

- Attempts by an external company, state or individual to influence our programme
- The undermining of the values of the organisation
- Attempts by an external company, state or individual to access data which we hold

This policy sets out the decision-making course the PTC will follow when ethical dilemmas arise, and outlines the approach to relationships with investment partners to ensure clarity and openness.

POLICY POINTS

Overview

The PTC actively seeks opportunities to work together with external organisations and individuals to achieve shared objectives. However, it is vital that the PTC maintains its independence and does not allow any external partnership to bring the name of our organisation into disrepute.

The PTC therefore accepts financial support from companies, states and individuals on the following premises:

- There are strong grounds for believing that it will result in a benefit to the PTC's beneficiaries
- The Director (with delegated authority from the Trustees) is satisfied that no adverse publicity will result from accepting such support
- There is no attempt on the part of the company, state or individual to influence the PTC's policies or actions either explicitly or implicitly
- The support does not compromise the values or independent status of the PTC
- Only the PTC will have direct access to its database, audience data and beneficiaries

Avoidance criteria

The PTC will not accept any funding from companies directly involved in activities that run contrary to its overall charitable objectives or vision. We will therefore not accept financial support or partnerships with any private company who:

- Directly profits from conflict (e.g. arms dealing)
- Exploits people and land (e.g. fossil fuel energy, minerals and diamond mining, fast fashion)
- Is known to be associated with criminal sources and/or illegal activity
- Is known to be associated with historic abuses (e.g. the transatlantic slave trade) where they have not engaged with reparations or restorative justice

The above list of avoidance criteria also applies to potential individual donors (including anonymous donors) where the donation amount is above £1,000.

The PTC will not accept funding from countries where the following apply:

- They have an abuse score above 50 in the World Press Freedom Index
- They are not signatories of the 2015 UNFCCC Paris Agreement

Acceptance criteria

The PTC complies with all relevant legislation, including money laundering rules, the Bribery Act and Charity Commission guidance, including terrorism and political activity.

The PTC will not accept a donation/payment from a partner where this donation:

- Would help further a donor's personal objectives which conflict with those of the PTC
- Would lead to a possible decline in support for the PTC or damage its longer term fundraising prospects
- Leads to any kind of conflict with our standing agreement with Arts Council England
- Would otherwise impact adversely on the PTC's reputation

Mitigation and escalation

In the event of an existing or previous funder falling into scandal or disrepute, with attendant reputational risks for the PTC, an extraordinary meeting of the Trustees will be convened as soon as possible to discuss the best course of action.

FURTHER POINTS

The PTC recognises that, in accepting funding from statutory bodies, it must consider the policy implications and obligations that might be tied to it and ensure that these do not contravene the aims of our organisation.

The PTC will not accept money from any charitable Trust if it is a requirement of grant receipt to advertise any company or organisation whose activities run contrary to the PTC's aims.

The PTC will maintain accountability and open and honest relationships with all its partners, by regularly monitoring and evaluating its work.

This statement of policy is meant as a working guide. Any final decisions will be governed by the Board of Trustees. It is the duty of the Board to advise of any potential conflicts of interest with regards to funding or partnerships, and for the Board to act in the best interests of the PTC at all times.