

Fairtrade Australia & New Zealand

Separation of Development from Political and Religious Activities Policy

1. Purpose

Fairtrade Australia and New Zealand (Fairtrade ANZ) is committed to ensuring that we accurately represent our activities to the people we work with, our donors, and the public.

The purpose of this policy is to guide Fairtrade ANZ and our partners to make a clear separation between aid and development and religious or political objectives and activities. This policy addresses our ACFID and CID compliance obligations in relation to clearly identifying and separating development and non-development activities. This policy reflects Fairtrade ANZ's position as a secular, non-partisan organisation that does not engage in or provide support for any evangelical activities and or partisan political activities

2. Related Policies

- Communications, Campaigns and Advocacy Protocol
- Complaints Handling
- Code of Conduct
- Control of Funds
- Counter Terrorism
- Locally Led
- Partnerships
- Procurement
- Whistleblowing

3. Related Legislation

Australia: Charities Act 2013

New Zealand: Charities Act 2005

4. Scope

This Policy applies to all Fairtrade ANZ activities.

The policy is applicable to:

- Fairtrade ANZ employees, contractors, volunteers and Board and Committee members; and
- Fairtrade ANZ's partners and stakeholders, who are directly or indirectly engaged with Fairtrade ANZ's work both domestically and internationally.

5. Policy

Definition of Aid and Development Activities

Aid and development activities are activities undertaken in order to reduce poverty and inequality, and address global justice issues. Fairtrade ANZ's aid and development activities include partnering with farmers and workers in the Global South by providing technical and professional resources as well as engagement with community and business projects, education and advocacy to promote and protect human rights, make trade fair, reduce poverty and inequality, and address global justice issues.

Definition of Non-Development Activities

Political and religious activities are activities that fall outside aid and development objectives and include evangelical activities and partisan political activities.

Evangelical activities are those that promote a specific religious adherence or are undertaken with the intention of converting individuals or groups from one faith and/or denominational affiliation to another.

Partisan political activities are those associated with facilitating or supporting specific political individuals or parties to gain power. This does not include advocacy aimed at persuading and influencing decision makers and opinion leaders where such advocacy is not in support of a political party or candidate.

Guiding Principles and Compliance

Fairtrade ANZ is a secular, non-partisan organisation and does not engage in or provide support for any evangelical activities and or partisan political activities.

Fairtrade ANZ is committed to ensuring that funds and other resources designated for the purpose of aid and development are used only for those purposes.

Fairtrade ANZ supports and is committed to abiding by the following principles:

- to ensure accurate representation of our activities to the people we work with, donors and the public; and
- to ensure that funds raised for aid and development purposes are not used to exploit people and communities who are vulnerable and do not place any conditions or obligations on partners and communities in terms of religious or political outcomes that would affect their access to services being offered.

In some instances, Fairtrade ANZ may partner with faith-based organisations, however this work is on the basis that that organisation's delivery is without evangelising or making participation conditional on conversion or adherence to a particular religious denomination. Fairtrade ANZ may also partner with advocacy organisations from time to time on the basis that their activities are not in support of a political party or candidate.

Where any component of a partner's program involves evangelical or partisan political activities, these components must be clearly identified and accounted for separately to the work supported by Fairtrade ANZ.

6. Control Procedures

Fairtrade ANZ has established internal control procedures, contained in Fairtrade ANZ's Partnership Policy and Procedures, to ensure compliance with this policy across all levels of the organisation.

Staff, contractors, volunteers, and Board/Committee members are required to act in alignment with this policy. Breaches will be managed under Fairtrade ANZ's Code of Conduct, HR policies, or relevant Board governance processes.

Partner organisations must also comply with this policy. Compliance is monitored through due diligence processes, partnership agreements, and ongoing oversight.

These procedures ensure that both Fairtrade ANZ personnel and external partners understand and uphold the separation of development activities from political and religious activities.

7. For More Information

For more information or to report any concerns/violations, please contact info@fairtrade.com.au or info@fairtrade.org.nz

8. Approval and Review

This policy will be reviewed once every 3 years.

Board Approval Date	Version	Notes
23 October 2014	v.1	
31 August 2019	v.2	Updated to reflect procedures are now contained in separate Partnerships Procedures document
September 2025	v.3.0	Updated to clarify separation of development from political and religious activities, including not supporting specific political parties