

RSA PARTNERSHIPS CHARTER

The RSA is an independent charity and we pride ourselves on the integrity of our work.

We are glad to have a reputation as a trusted and objective organisation and we will always strive to ensure our programmes serve public benefit and are protected from vested interests.

We want to share how we maintain independence across our programmes of work.

The RSA Group consists of:

- The Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufacture and Commerce (RSA): the registered charity
- Adelphi Enterprises Ltd.: the trading arm of the group.
- Shipley Enterprises Ltd.: the consultancy arm of the group

Any surplus generated through our commercial activities is gift-aided to the charity and used to deliver our charitable purpose.

You can read about all of our charitable activities in our annual report:

<https://www.thersa.org/about-us/governance/annual-reports>).

Our Work

Through powerful ideas, cutting-edge research and our 30,000-strong Fellowship, we're a global community of proactive problem solvers, uniting people and ideas to resolve the challenges of our time.

We do this by:

- Convening reasoned debate
- Enabling people to realise change
- Influencing key organisations
- Demonstrating practical solutions

Our values

We are open, optimistic, pioneering, rigorous and enabling.

- Open - always transparent and honest, we welcome new thinking and different perspectives
- Optimistic - we are confident that together, we can resolve the challenges of our time
- Pioneering - we champion curiosity, creativity and courage to inspire better ways of thinking and doing
- Rigorous - rooted in evidence-led thinking, we act with integrity and purpose
- Enabling - through generosity and collaboration, we help others succeed

Valuing diversity is essential to the RSA's work. We welcome new thinking and different perspectives and see these as key to our progress.

In this context, and in approach complex social challenges, the RSA purposefully seeks to bring diverse and cross-cutting partners together to support all aspects of our work. Partnerships may include grants, charitable contracts, sponsorships, joint ventures, consultancy, shared data and learning, project delivery partnerships, co-design and collaborative development of RSA programmes.

In order to work in this way, we seek to create the conditions in which we can build effective, trusting relationships with our partners.

Our partners:

- Are committed to supporting the ethos, values and interests of the RSA.
- Demonstrate the values of the Partnership Charter in their professional conduct.
- Have the potential to contribute to the development of the RSA in some way, either through actions within their organisations, thought leadership, or simply through supporting the RSA with their charitable donation.

Guiding principles

- **Preservation of independence**
The RSA is very careful when working with other organisations that its independent status is not compromised in any way. If there is a possibility that this may be placed in jeopardy, we will withdraw from any such initiative.
- **Mutual respect**
The RSA's partnerships are intended to generate shared learning and impact, as well as income. It is important that both parties respect the expertise and skills that the other brings – over and above any financial benefits.
- **Integrity and transparency**
The RSA is transparent in its relationships with other organisations. There must be strong grounds for believing a formal collaboration will result in public benefit. It should always be made explicit what each party is bringing and gaining from a formal relationship. The RSA will also be transparent about who it is working with and the nature of the relationship and work.
- **Shared goals**
The RSA will seek partners whose goals, values and actions promote our mission and values.

Each partner will be judged on a case by case basis.

Conflicts of interest

The RSA's mission, values and governance help to establish which partnerships are appropriate. Successful partnership requires mutual respect and transparency of benefits. When establishing a new partnership, both parties should endeavour to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest that cannot be safely managed.

To help ensure potential conflicts of interest are identified and managed appropriately:

- The RSA gives no warranty that the deliverables of a partnership will not contain any material that may be disadvantageous to its partner's business or area of work (for example, it will present research findings determined by objective analysis of available evidence regardless of whether they support a partner's work or position).
- Speaker places at the RSA events are determined by the RSA events team, entirely on merit, and cannot be determined by any formal partnership arrangements
- Sponsors will have no direct control over analysis, conclusions, positions or recommendations by RSA. In the case of partnership projects or joint ventures, the rules of engagement for establishing outcomes must be agreed beforehand and should be transparent.
- The RSA will be open about other collaborations with organisations working in the same areas or sectors and expects the same approach from its partners.
- The RSA will not allow direct access to its Fellows and contacts by third parties (other than those generated directly by collaboration).

Obligations of partners

- In the event of any matter arising which could significantly adversely affect the standing of the partner in the reasonable opinion of the partner, the partner must inform the RSA as soon as reasonably practical. The RSA also has a duty to keep the partner informed of relevant information. The RSA reserves the right to take appropriate action to ensure its reputation is not adversely affected in anyway as a result of such incidents.
- A formal collaboration is considered a business arrangement; therefore, all aspects must be clear and explicit to all parties involved. All agreements are exchanged in writing and partners are required to endorse and abide by the RSA's ethical partnership policy (below).
- At no time can the RSA's logo be used without express written permission for every occasion it is used.
- At no time can press releases be issued that refer to the RSA without our prior approval.
- Staff on both sides should beware the potential for bias generated through partnerships, where this might impinge on professional judgement and impartiality.
- Both parties always commit to confidentiality requirements .

RSA ETHICAL FUNDRAISING POLICY STATEMENT

The RSA seeks partnerships with funders and sponsors whose core business, mission or corporate responsibility work reflects the values and mission of the RSA including a commitment to transparency. We will not accept funds from individuals or organisations whose reputation or brand will adversely affect RSA's reputation and therefore undermine its work due to the nature of these businesses, such as arms manufacturers, tobacco companies, those associated with the sale of pornography or with criminal sources, or due to the tarnished reputations of these businesses.

We realise that we do not have the capacity to be able to research and monitor the complex relationships of our funders' subsidiaries, supply chains and investments and so accept funding and support from most funders unless there is a clear rationale for avoiding taking on such a partnership.

We adhere to the Institute of Fundraising Promise to ensure that the way we are funded is legal, open, honest and respectful.

The RSA would like to acknowledge that this policy draws on the King's Fund ethical collaboration policy.