

NON-PARTISANSHIP POLICY

(Pending Membership Approval)

GENERAL

1.01 Purpose. The policy is intended to ensure the highest standards and maintenance of the integrity of the IIWR-MB. Directors shall act at all times in the best interests of the IIWR-MB. This means performing their duties and executing the affairs of the IIWR-MB in such a manner that promotes public confidence and trust in the integrity, objectivity, and impartiality of the Board. Thus, the policy provides guidance to the Board regarding issues of partisanship or perceived partisanship in order to enable public confidence within the organization.

1.02 Definitions.

- 1. IIWR-MB:** Abbreviation used throughout this document to reference the Institute for International Women's Rights - Manitoba.
- 2. Representative(s) of IIWR-MB:** Members and Directors/Officer(s) as understood within the IIWR-MB By-Laws
- 3. Political group or party:** as defined by Elections Canada as "an organization one of whose fundamental purposes is to participate in public affairs by endorsing one or more of its members as candidates and supporting their election."

1.03 Background. The Institute for International Women's Rights – Manitoba is a non-partisan, non-profit founded in Winnipeg, Manitoba. This means that the IIWR-MB is not a member of, or connected with, any one political group or party. This includes the representatives of the IIWR-MB when they are acting on behalf of the organization. Therefore, IIWR-MB is free to advocate on issues of concern with all levels of decision makers, without the restrictions that come with being a registered charity. Advocacy may include, but is not limited to, public protest, petition campaigns, letter writing, speaking with media, participation in round tables, drafting policy proposals and contributing to briefs to politicians.

NON-PARTISAN ACTS

2.01 The IIWR-MB does not consider the following actions to be of a partisan nature,

1. Acts of partisanship conducted by members of IIWR-MB when not acting on behalf of the organization. This includes on their personal social media pages and other public profiles.
2. Working with a political party to advance issues related to the mission, vision, and values of the organization.
3. Meeting with political parties should there be the opportunity, to advance the mission, vision and values of the organization.
4. Advocating on an issue to a political party that is supported by another political party.
5. Endorsing policy initiatives of political parties should they align with the mission, vision and values of the organization.
6. Partnering for an event with a member of a political organization for the purpose of advancing an issue related to the mission, vision and values of the organization.

2.02 The acts outlined in section 2.01 are considered non-partisan, provided that:

1. There was an attempt made to connect with all political parties to advance the issue and that decisions on working relationships are founded in what best advances the mission, vision, and values of the organization and not within partisan beliefs.
2. The IIWR-MB does not engage in political endorsements as a result or in search of support for this work.
3. The IIWR-MB and it's representatives do not engage in lobbying on behalf of any political party at any time.