

Open Party

Candidates Code of Conduct

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1. Need for code of conduct

Candidates, by virtue of their position, are subject to a heightened level of scrutiny compared to ordinary members of the public. Candidates should be aware that their conduct in both public and private spheres has the potential to affect the reputation of themselves, fellow candidates and the Open Party. We therefore ask all candidates to approach their conduct with the necessary diligence.

2. Risk areas of conduct

Any behaviour that is unlawful, deceitful, dishonest, violent, or threatening — whether in public or private life — may be deemed to bring the Party into disrepute. Such conduct may result in termination of your candidacy...

3. Core principles underpinning the code of conduct

- Integrity – Act with honesty and transparency in all dealings.
- Respect – Treat others with courtesy and dignity at all times.
- Responsibility – Take ownership of your actions and their consequences.
- Accountability – Be answerable for your conduct and decisions.

4. Expected standards of behaviour

Anti-discrimination

In compliance with the Equality Act 2010, the Party requires all Candidates to refrain from engaging in discrimination, bullying, harassment, or victimisation against any person on the basis of protected characteristics. The protected characteristics include age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation

Anti-bullying and harassment

Candidates are required to treat all individuals with dignity, courtesy, and respect. Bullying and intimidation are unacceptable behaviours and are strictly prohibited.

Tolerance and respect of others

Candidates are required to tolerate and respect others, even when strongly disagreeing with their expressed opinions..

Promote Party Values

You must conduct yourself at all times in a manner that upholds and actively promotes the core values and principles of the Open Party. You must not engage in any behaviour, whether in public or private, spoken or written, or through print or digital forms, that is contrary to the interests, reputation, or values of the Open Party.

Language and Content

You must not use language: whether spoken or written or imagery, that is unlawful, dishonest, deceitful, violent, threatening, discriminatory, or offensive.

Endorsement

You must be careful not to endorse the words or actions of others that could be interpreted as you endorsing those expressions. This is particularly applicable to social media such as reposts, retweets, etc.

Undermining the Open Party

You must engage in any activity that undermines the interests of the Open Party.

Audit and Compliance

You must consent for the Party to audit your social media profiles when requested. You must provide access details promptly and cooperate fully with any investigation.

Personal vs. Official Capacity

As a candidate your actions when in a personal context provide risk, as well as those directly in your capacity as a candidate. The Code of Conduct applies to all behaviour; whether related to the Open Party or not.

Bringing the Open Party into disrepute

Any behaviour that risks bringing the Party into disrepute will be subject to sanction.

Inaccurate statements and disclosures

Our relationship is based on trust. The provision of inaccurate statements or disclosures may result in sanction.

Declarations of Interest

You must fully disclose all private interests upon application and, if elected, complete the Senedd Register of Interests and any Electoral Commission declarations.

Compliance with Election Law

You must at all times comply with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, Representation of the People Act 1983, Welsh election law, and provide full transparency on expenses and donations.

Data Protection & Security

You must comply with UK GDPR when handling voter, primary, or campaign data.

Financial Transparency (if elected)

You will provide cooperation with the Open Party in reporting all campaign and similar spending to the Electoral Commission

5. Sanction

The response of Open Party will be proportionate to the offences. The Open Party may provide you a warning, or may take stronger action. Before general election campaign the party may terminate your candidacy. During the general election campaign you may be removed from the Open Party list of candidate nominees for election. After election The Open Party may publicly state that it no longer endorses you. You may be prohibited from standing in future elections as a candidate for the Open Party.

6. Disciplinary process

Any allegations will be assessed in a systematic process which will include written allegations, fair opportunity for response, explanation of findings by the Open Party, opportunity to appeal.