

# DONATIONS

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## 1. Introduction

Donations assist Transparency Legal Advice Centre (“TLAC”) in achieving its mission. TLAC must secure the necessary funding to undertake its vital work. Secure and diverse funding will enable TLAC to maintain its independence and operate effectively.

It is TLAC's policy to accept funding from any donor, in any amount and whether monetary or in kind, provided that acceptance does not impair TLAC's independence to pursue its mission or endanger its integrity and reputation.

## 2. Background

TLAC aims to be funded from diverse sources (such as civil society, governments, foundations, the private sector and individuals). Relying on many sources will help TLAC maintain its independence. TLAC is transparent about its donors, which are listed in its accounts. We will publish annually our sources of funding exceeding €1,000.

TLAC must not jeopardise its reputation for honesty, openness and integrity by receiving funding from sources which are perceived to be pursuing activities inconsistent with TLAC's mission.

## 3. Scope

This policy applies to all fundraising for TLAC, regardless of the type of donor or amount involved. It is to be applied to all new funding from existing donors and to all new donors in the future.

## 4. Guidelines

Funding to enable TLAC to carry out its work should be sought from a wide range of sources. Subject to maintaining TLAC's independence and reputation, TLAC accepts funding from all kinds of sources. If a particular source of funding would impair TLAC's independence or if there is significant risk to TLAC from public association with the donor, then that source of funding will not be accepted by TLAC. Any donation to TLAC must be able to stand up to public scrutiny. TLAC's independence requires that a donor may be subject to the same criticism by TLAC as any other organisation or individual in a comparable situation.

TLAC may work with the private sector in order to promote supportive working environments to those reporting wrongdoing. This does not imply any endorsement of a donating company's policies or record. If any corporate donor is accused of having been involved in penalising a worker for having made a disclosure of wrongdoing, the donor can expect no protection from TLAC. TLAC will not accept a donation from a company that is found to have engaged in penalising such a worker unless the company can demonstrate that (i) this was a violation of the company's policies and (ii) breach of these policies is being addressed in an appropriate manner.

## **5. Procedure**

It is the responsibility of TLAC's Board of Directors, managers, other staff and volunteers to ensure that TLAC's independence and reputation are not jeopardised by receiving inappropriate funding. If any such individual is concerned that there is a threat to TLAC's independence or reputation from donations already received, or about to be accepted, he or she should immediately draw this to the attention of the Managing Solicitor. If necessary, the Managing Solicitor will consult with the Board of Directors and seek their guidance on whether to accept funding from a specific donor.

If TLAC proposes to accept more than €100,000 from any company in a year, this will be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors for their guidance.

**Approved by the Board of Directors,                      2016.**