


## The Harmony Project - Partner Policy

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<b>Signed by the Director</b>	
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### 1 Introduction

The Harmony Project works with a wide range of people and organisations, including students, teachers, universities, further education entities, educational visitor sites, NGOs, companies and funders.

We have adopted this partnerships policy because, whilst we believe in some cases engagement can be an important strategy to effect change – including with people or groups we may disagree with - there are several areas we see as fundamental barriers to achieving a more sustainable world. We will not partner with organisations whose core work is in these areas.

Supporting a partner that is actively working against our vision is counterproductive. As an education-led charity with a strong environmental focus it is important that we work with those who are leading by example and that all who we work with feel safe, especially marginalised groups. We are very conscious of the reputational risk some prospective partners could pose to us.

Our income comes from three main areas: external funding (grants and sponsorships); paid for programmes and resources; and individual donations.

For the purposes of this policy, a “partner” is a person or group that acts as one of our:

- funders, including grantors or sponsors<sup>1</sup>
- programme clients, or
- organisations in a joint project or campaign.

## 2 How do we decide who to work with and receive funding from?

Our partners are essential to the continuation of our work as an educational charity. However, as an organisation striving for environmental justice, we will not enter into any partnership without first considering the ethics of the prospective partner. Our assessment will include factors such as:

- the extent to which they align with The Harmony Project’s vision and values and/or those of other associated organisations and groups
- the sincerity of their proposal and the extent to which The Harmony Project’s involvement may be beneficial and not used to greenwash their activities
- the influence the partner will have over The Harmony Project, to include financially or in decision- making; and
- how dependent The Harmony Project will be on the partnership to meet The Harmony Project’s charitable objectives
- confirmation from potential partners of the return on investment we will receive from any pledge or monies spent.

Our “red lines” are summarised below including areas we believe are inherently unsustainable, though the list is not exhaustive. More detailed guidance will be used internally to support any ethical screenings.

<sup>1</sup> Does not include individual public donations that are freely given

We will not accept funds from or work with individuals or organisations whose core activity involves any of the below, **unless** an adequate<sup>2</sup> phase-out plan is in place:

- a) the extraction or production of **fossil fuels**
- b) the manufacturing or transfer of **weapons** or other equipment that is used in the violation of human rights or supplied to oppressive regimes
- c) **industrial agriculture**, including the production of crops or rearing of animals under such a system, or the manufacturing of chemicals used therein, unless the partnership will be specifically supporting a transition towards regenerative agriculture

- d) **animal cruelty**, including conducting animal testing for non-medical products
- e) a **financial institution** funding, or investing in, any of the above.
- f) Anyone who engages in human or workers' **rights abuses or exploitation**, including (but not limited to) incitement to hatred or discrimination against a person or group.

We will consider other areas on a case-by-case basis, such as mining; biodiversity loss; tax avoidance; irresponsible marketing; promoting consumerism; organisations operating zero-hours contracts; or the perpetuation of harm caused by the police, prisons or detention centres.

Our overarching regard will always be the extent to which the potential partner is contributing to environmental and other social injustices and the relative impact any partnership would have on perpetuating that.

### **3 What about existing partnerships?**

If we become aware of any issues with an existing partner, we will first engage with them constructively. If the situation cannot be resolved (to include them making the required changes within an appropriate timeframe), we will end the partnership as soon as legally possible.

### **4 Who are we keen to work with?**

The Harmony Project is privileged to work with countless inspiring partners who continue to support our work in different ways. We always welcome exploring new partnerships too, with individuals or organisations that are a good fit with our values.

Please do get in touch with our Head of Business Development and Operations if you feel you might like to support our work or should you have any general feedback on this policy.

<sup>2</sup> Quantified, dated, public and, where relevant, in line with the science. The Harmony Project reserves the right to be the sole judge of whether or not a phase-out plan is adequate and may consult with other partners and experts in determining its decision.