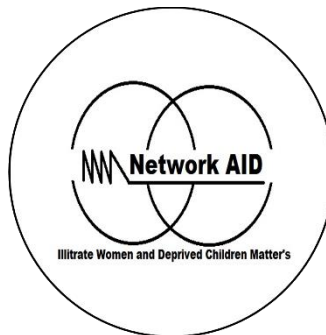




NETWORK AID NONPROFIT CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY 2023

Upholding A Transparent Charitable Norms



Network AID Nonprofit Conflict of Interest Policy 2023



NETWORK AID NONPROFIT CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY 2023

Article 1-INTRODUCTION:

Network AID “The Organization” is committed to observing the highest standards of ethical conduct in its operations and expects its coordinators, officers, interns, volunteers and employees to do the same. The Management (the "Advisors, "Coordinators, or singularly, "Coordinator") of the Organization has adopted this Nonprofit Conflict of Interest Policy (the "Policy") to ensure that the Organization remains committed to its charitable purpose.

Article 2-PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Policy is to protect the Organization's interest when it is considering a transaction that might privately benefit a coordinator, officer, or other senior decision-maker, as well as to avoid any excess benefit transactions.

This Policy is also intended to ensure that the Organization continues to operate as per its tax-exempt purpose

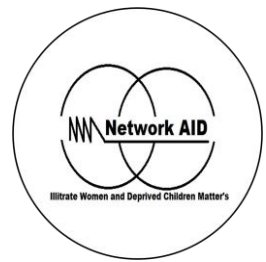
Article 3-DUTY OF LOYALTY:

Coordinators, officers, goodwill ambassadors, technical advisors, governing committee members, and certain senior management, including those acting as principals for the Organization (referred to as "Interested Parties or singularly, "Interested Party"), owe the Organization a duty of loyalty. Such duty of loyalty requires Interested Parties to avoid using their position with the Organization for personal advantage or gain. Interested Parties must also avoid any action, including voting, if applicable, where the Interested Party's interest, including financial interest, could conflict with the interests of the Organization

Article 4-DEFINITIONS:

1. Conflict of Interest: A conflict of interest occurs when an Interested Party has an interest in any matter involving the Organization that directly or indirectly conflicts with the interests of the Organization. Specifically, conflicts of interest can occur when interested Parties have competing financial interests or personal relationships in opposition to the Organization (referred to as 'Direct Conflicts of Interest), or are related to someone with a competing financial interest or opposing personal relationship (referred to as "Indirect Conflicts of Interest) The Interested Party may be related by blood, marriage, or business affiliation. Conflicts of interest may also arise where an interested Party has decision-making authority in an entity that may be involved in a business relationship or financial transaction with the Organization

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The following examples of potential conflicts of interest are to be considered illustrative, but non-exhaustive

- a. When an Interested Party stands to personally benefit financially through a transaction the Organization may be involved with
 - b. When an interested Party has an ownership interest, including through investment, in another entity with which the Organization intends to transact or do business
 - c. When an interested Party enters or maintains an agreement to be compensated by the Organization (for this clause, Coordinators who are also employees of the Organization may have a conflict in certain situations, such as vating on compensation).
 - d. When an Interested Party joins or creates a competing organization,
 - e. When an interested Party or an entity in which an interested Party has an ownership interest competes with the Organization in a purchase, sale, contract bid, or other interest or service
 - f. When an interested Party utilizes confidential information belonging to the Organization for any reason that is not related to the Interested Party's work for the Organization, such as personal profit or for the benefit of another entity;
 - g. When an interested Party uses the Organization's resources for any competing interest, or
 - h. When an interested Party participates in decision-making or negotiations for the Organization in a matter in which the Interested Party, a person related to the Interested Party, or an entity in which the Interested Party has an ownership interest is also involved.
2. Potential Conflict of Interest: A potential conflict of interest occurs when an interested Party recognizes that a conflict of interest may take place if ameliorating action is not taken. Potential conflicts of interest do not always lead to actual conflicts of interest. Interested parties that have a potential conflict of Interest will need to follow the procedures outlined in the Conflict Disclosure section below. The Organization seeks to avoid the appearance of impropriety, as even potential conflicts of interest can be damaging to the Organization's reputation. Therefore, all potential conflicts of interest must be treated with due care and disclosed according to the procedures outlined here.

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Article 5-CONFLICT PROCEDURES:

- a. Interested Parties shall disclose potential conflicts of interest to the management (Chief Country Coordinator or Country Coordinator) as soon as is practicable after becoming aware of the potential conflict, as described above. Interested Parties are also required to complete an annual disclosure form to describe any ongoing interest that may create a conflict.
- b. Evaluation. After the Management receives any potential conflict or conflict disclosure from an interested Party, the Management may request follow-up discussions or additional information. At this point, the Management will decide whether an actual conflict exists and whether it involves financial interest, material competition, self-dealing, or any other type of conflict. The Interested Party shall be screened from any discussions or voting regarding the conflict. The Management may fully determine the issue on a vote or may refer it to a specialized committee for additional investigation. Evaluation of conflicts is made on a case-by-case basis.
- c. Factors for consideration. The Management may consider any factor it wishes in determining whether a conflict exists. Some of the factors for consideration may include:
 - I. Whether the Interested Party's financial interest is minimal, to the transaction
 - II. How involved the Interested Party is with the other entity involved in any transaction with the Organization
 - III. The degree to which the Interested Party could personally benefit from the transaction or relationship at issue
- d. Determination of self-dealing. If the Management or committee determines that an actual conflict exists, the Management or committee must also determine whether a self-dealing transaction is at issue. If so, the entirety of the Management must decide on whether to approve the transaction, and the transaction must be approved by a greater Management action. Approval of compensation for a Coordinator acting as Coordinator or officer shall not be considered a self-dealing transaction.
- e. Determination of transactional conflict. If the Management or committee determines that an actual conflict exists involving a financial transaction or arrangement, but it is not self-dealing the Management will consider alternative scenarios that would not present a conflict, if the Management determines an appropriate alternative exists, the Management shall pursue that avenue. If an appropriate alternative does not exist, the Management shall determine whether the original proposed course of action is in the Organization's best interest and decide on such issue, in which a majority is required

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- f. Determination of other conflict, in any other scenario in which the Management or committee determines a conflict exists, the Management or committee shall recommend a reasonable and appropriate course of action to protect the Organization. The governing body shall discuss the issue and determine how best to proceed forward.

Article 6-POLICY VIOLATIONS

If an interested Party fails to disclose any potential or actual conflict, the Management shall first request an explanation from the Interested Party. The Management may then determine appropriate action, including disciplinary action if required

Article 7-RECORDS

The Management or relevant committee shall retain all records of discussions and decisions regarding any presented conflict or potential conflict. The records must specifically include

- a. The name of the interested Party or Parties
- b. How the conflict was brought to the attention of the Management (whether disclosed or found out)
- c. The nature of the possible conflict including financial interest involved
- d. The Management or committee's actions regarding fact-finding and investigation on the conflict or potential conflict
- e. The Management or committee's discussions and decisions
- f. The names of all parties present for any discussion and decisions

Article 8-ABSTENTION FROM VOTES ON COMPENSATION:

No Management member who is compensated for their services towards the Organization may vote on their compensation.

Article 9-ANNUAL STATEMENTS:

All individuals required to abide by this Policy must sign a statement each year attesting that they have received a copy of the Policy, they read and understand the Policy, they agree to comply with the Policy and they understand the Organization's maintenance of its charitable activities and tax exemption depends on its undertaking primarily of activities that support its charitable purpose.

Any Individual who believes they have ongoing relationships or interests that may present a conflict must also make an annual disclosure, as described above, and is responsible for updating such disclosure upon the occurrence of any material change

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Article 10-REVIEWS

The Organization will periodically review certain subjects to maintain alignment with its charitable purposes. The review shall include at least

- a. Compensation and benefit arrangements, to ensure they are reasonable and formalized through arm's length bargaining
- b. Transactional arrangements, including partnerships or joint ventures, to ensure they are in line with the Organization's policies and do not confer a private benefit on any party or result in an excess benefit transaction, and
- c. Compensation reviews of the Chief Country Coordinators, Chief Coordinators, County Coordinators, Goodwill Ambassadors, Technical Advisors of the Organization
- d. The Organization may utilize its advisors and or ambassadors to conduct the above reviews, but responsibility for the reviews ultimately lies with the Management

This Policy is intended to supplement but not replace any state and federal laws governing conflicts of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable organizations

ANNUAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORM

The undersigned, as a committee member, or key employee) of (director, officer position, manager, or principal, acknowledges:

1. he or she has received a copy of the Organization's Conflict of Interest Policy,
2. he or she has read and understands the Policy,
3. he or she has agreed to comply with the Policy,
4. he or she understands the Organization's maintenance of its charitable activities and federal tax exemption depends on its undertaking primarily of activities that support its charitable purpose, and
5. The following ongoing relationships and interests may present a conflict of interest (please describe if not applicable write "N/A or leave blank):

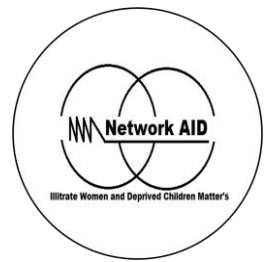
Signature

Name

Title

Date

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PERSONS OTHER THAN THE ORGANISATION EMPLOYEES

Responsible business units must ensure all agreements for or with all agency staff, seconded personnel, contractors, consultants or any other person as defined in this policy or related policies that has a business involvement with the Organisation, contain an express obligation on them to understand and comply with this policy and related policies.

Related Policies and Procedures

- i. Network AID Code of Conduct
- ii. Protected Disclosures Policy 2023
- iii. Safeguarding and Procedure Policy 2023
- iv. Confidentiality Policy 2023
- v. Sponsorship Policy 2023
- vi. Fundraising Policy 2023
- vii. Partnership Policy 2023
- viii. Remote Work Policy 2023
- ix. Internet Policy 2023
- x. Disciplinary Process Policy 2023
- xi. Nonprofit Conflict of Interest Policy and Declaration Form 2023 (this document)
- xii. Gifts Policy 2023
- xiii. Social Media Policy 2023
- xiv. Human Resource Policy 2023
- xv. Expenses Reimbursement Policy 2023
- xvi. Finance and Administrative Procedure 2020
- xvii. Gender Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion Policy 2023