

The International Christian Church Network (TICCN)

International Partnerships Policy

Approved by: Trustees / Governing Council of TICCN

Applies to: All TICCN international partners, affiliated churches, ministries, NGOs, projects, leaders, staff, volunteers, and representatives operating outside the UK or in cross-border activity

Review cycle: Every 3 years or sooner if required by law, safeguarding guidance, or best practice

Version: 1

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1. Purpose of this Policy

The International Christian Church Network (TICCN) works in partnership with churches, ministries, and organisations around the world to advance its charitable, faith-based, humanitarian, educational, and community purposes.

This policy sets out the principles, expectations, and safeguards that govern TICCN's international partnerships to ensure integrity, accountability, safeguarding, and compliance across diverse legal and cultural contexts.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- Overseas churches and ministries affiliated with TICCN
- International NGOs and community organisations
- Mission, humanitarian, education, sports, and outreach projects
- Cross-border events, visits, exchanges, and funding

It applies to both formal and informal partnerships, whether funded or unfunded.

Nothing in this policy creates a legal agency, employment, or liability relationship between TICCN as a United Kingdom based charity and international partners.

See our UK and International Legal Structure statement for governance and legal responsibilities.

3. Partnership Principles

TICCN international partnerships are guided by the following principles:

- Christian integrity and shared values

- Respect for human dignity and rights
- Lawful, ethical, and transparent operation
- Safeguarding of children and adults at risk
- Mutual accountability and trust
- Cultural sensitivity without compromising safety or integrity

4. Legal and Regulatory Compliance

International partners are expected to:

- Operate lawfully within their own country
- Comply with all applicable local laws and regulations
- Maintain appropriate registration, governance, and accountability structures

Where TICCEN activities involve UK charity funds or oversight, UK charity law expectations apply.

5. Safeguarding Requirements

Safeguarding is a non-negotiable requirement for all international partnerships.

Partners must:

- Have safeguarding policies and procedures appropriate to their context
- Protect children, young people, and adults at risk from harm, abuse, or exploitation
- Ensure safer recruitment and appropriate supervision
- Report safeguarding concerns promptly

Where local safeguarding standards are lower, TICCEN safeguarding standards apply.

6. Equality, Dignity, and Respect

International partners must:

- Treat all people with dignity and respect
- Avoid unlawful discrimination, abuse, or exploitation
- Promote inclusion while respecting cultural context

No cultural or religious practice may be used to justify abuse or serious harm.

7. Financial Integrity and Use of Funds

Where TICCEN provides funding or resources, partners must:

- Use funds solely for agreed charitable purposes
- Maintain accurate financial records
- Allow reasonable monitoring or reporting
- Avoid fraud, corruption, or misuse of resources

TICCEN reserves the right to suspend or withdraw funding if concerns arise.

8. Governance and Accountability

International partners are expected to:

- Have identifiable leadership and accountability structures
- Cooperate with TICCEN oversight where appropriate
- Provide information reasonably requested to support accountability

TICCEN respects local governance autonomy while maintaining overarching standards.

9. Reputation and Public Representation

Partners must:

- Act in a manner that upholds the reputation and witness of TICCEN
- Avoid conduct that could bring TICCEN into disrepute
- Seek permission before using TICCEN's name, branding, or logos publicly

10. Reporting Concerns

Concerns relating to international partners may include:

- Safeguarding failures
- Serious misconduct or abuse of power
- Financial mismanagement
- Reputational risk

Concerns should be raised through:

- Local leadership structures, and/or
- TICCEN national leadership or trustees

Whistleblowing protections apply where concerns are raised in good faith.

11. Suspension or Termination of Partnerships

TICCEN reserves the right to suspend or terminate partnerships where:

- Safeguarding standards are breached
- Serious misconduct or illegality is identified
- There is a failure to cooperate with accountability processes
- Continued association presents unacceptable risk

Decisions will be taken proportionately and documented appropriately.

12. Review and Due Diligence

TICCEN may:

- Carry out proportionate due diligence on partners
- Review partnerships periodically
- Update requirements in response to risk or regulatory change

13. International Context and Local Policies

International partners are expected to:

- Follow their own local safeguarding, complaints, and governance policies
- Ensure those policies meet or exceed TICCEN standards

Where there is conflict between local practice and TICCEN standards, **TICCEN standards take precedence** in matters of safeguarding, integrity, and accountability.

14. Declaration

TICCEN affirms its commitment to working internationally in a manner that is ethical, accountable, culturally respectful, and consistent with Christian faith and charitable responsibility.

This policy forms part of the governance framework of The International Christian Church Network (TICCN).