



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion POLICY

Version	Date
1	18 th January 2024 – next review due January 2026

Rhino Ark UK Registered Charity No 1047083

Registered Office – Acorn Wood , Swan Lane , Edenbridge , Kent TN8 6AH



RHINO ARK UK

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY and INCLUSION POLICY

Rhino Ark UK is committed to encouraging equality, diversity and inclusion among its Trustees , patrons , ambassadors , staff and volunteers , and eliminating unlawful discrimination.

The aim is for all our personnel to be truly representative of all sections of society and our donors and customers, and for each person to feel respected and able to give their best.

The organisation - in providing goods and/or services and/or facilities - is also committed against unlawful discrimination of donors and customers or the public

This policy's purpose is to:

1. Provide equality, fairness and respect for all on our Board , associated personnel and those in our employment, whether temporary, part-time or full-time

Rhino Ark UK Registered Charity No 1047083

Registered Office – Acorn Wood , Swan Lane , Edenbridge , Kent TN8 6AH

2. Not unlawfully discriminate because of the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics of:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity
- race (including colour, nationality, and ethnic or national origin)
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

3. Oppose and avoid all forms of unlawful discrimination. This includes in:

- pay and benefits
- terms and conditions of employment
- dealing with grievances and discipline
- dismissal
- redundancy
- leave for parents
- requests for flexible working
- selection for employment, promotion, training or other developmental opportunities

The organisation commits to:

1. Encourage equality, diversity and inclusion in the workplace as they are good practice and make business sense
2. Create a working environment free of bullying, harassment, victimisation and unlawful discrimination, promoting dignity and respect for all, and where individual differences and the contributions of all persons are recognised and valued.

This commitment includes training managers and all other employees about their rights and responsibilities under the equality, diversity and inclusion policy. Responsibilities include staff conducting themselves to help the

organisation provide equal opportunities in employment, and prevent bullying, harassment, victimisation and unlawful discrimination.

All persons should understand they, as well as their employer, can be held liable for acts of bullying, harassment, victimisation and unlawful discrimination, in the course of their employment, against fellow employees, customers, suppliers and the public

3. Take seriously complaints of bullying, harassment, victimisation and unlawful discrimination by fellow employees, customers, suppliers, visitors, donors ,the public and any others in the course of the organisation's activities. Such acts will be dealt with as misconduct under the organisation's grievance and/or disciplinary procedures, and appropriate action will be taken.

Particularly serious complaints could amount to gross misconduct and lead to dismissal without notice.

Further, sexual harassment may amount to both an employment rights matter and a criminal matter, such as in sexual assault allegations. In addition, harassment under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 – which is not limited to circumstances where harassment relates to a protected characteristic – is a criminal offence.

4. Make opportunities for training, development and progress available to all persons , who will be helped and encouraged to develop their full potential, so their talents and resources can be fully utilised to maximise the efficiency of the organisation.

5. Make decisions concerning staff being based on merit (apart from in any necessary and limited exemptions and exceptions allowed under the Equality Act).

6. Review operational and employment practices and procedures when necessary to ensure fairness, and also update them and the policy to take account of changes in the law.

7. Monitor the make-up of the workforce regarding information such as age, sex, ethnic background, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and disability in encouraging equality, diversity and inclusion, and in meeting the aims and commitments set out in the equality, diversity and inclusion policy.

Monitoring will also include assessing how the equality, diversity and inclusion policy, and any supporting action plan, are working in practice, reviewing them annually, and considering and taking action to address any issues.

Agreement to follow this policy

The equality, diversity and inclusion policy is fully supported by all trustees and is advised to all patrons, ambassadors, volunteers and staff and persons with whom we deal.

Our disciplinary procedure

Details of the charity's volunteer disciplinary procedure is available through any of our Trustees. This includes with whom a volunteer should raise a grievance.

Use of the charity's disciplinary procedures does not affect an employee's right to make a claim to an employment tribunal within three months of the alleged discrimination.

Approved by the Board of Rhino Ark UK 18th January 2024