



National Women's Justice Coalition

Friends of the NWJC

A guidance document for organisations

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Defining a Friend of the NWJC

The National Women's Justice Coalition welcomes support and collaboration from wider organisations that share its values and aims. Such associates are recognised as **Friends of the NWJC**.

This group may include organisations that have previously been Organisational Partners, as well as charities, alliances, coalitions, academics and individuals who do not meet the full criteria for becoming an Organisational Partner but are recognised as women's and criminal justice specialists with established track records of high-quality service delivery or policy/research/campaigning work and can evidence ethical and transparent partnership working with women's specialist organisations.

Eligibility to become a Friend

To become a *Friend*, an organisation or individual must be able to demonstrate how their values, strategic aims and remit align with and support the NWJC's mission and messaging. *Friends* must also exercise a clear, confident and consistent understanding of how women and girls experience the inequalities and prejudices of the criminal justice system, why custodial sentencing for women should only be used as a last resort, and how women's centres and women's specialist organisations must be valued, resourced and protected, particularly with respect to supporting women on probation and serving community sentences.

Such evidence could be derived from multiple sources including but not limited to:

- the mission statement on an organisation's own website
- impact and annual reports outlining how an organisation operates and delivers impact.
- a demonstrable track record of facilitating or co-delivering women-centred support in partnership with other women's organisations.
- a reputation for conducting research, delivering policy recommendations and convening wider organisations through collaborative work within the women's sector and in the criminal justice space.

Collaboration

Friends may be invited to participate in and contribute to specific activities and pieces of work that progress the coalition's strategic objectives.

In turn, the coalition will aim to support, promote and advocate for policy, influencing and campaigning asks of *Friends* that align closely with the NWJC's strategic objectives, with the aim to increase influencing capacity, solidarity, synergy and impact.

Alignment of values

The NWJC commits to recognising and working with *Friends* that share and amplify their values, strategic aims and remit, and demonstrate a clear, confident and consistent understanding of how women and girls experience the criminal justice system.

In the unlikely instance whereby a *Friend* is seen to undertake actions or activities that undermine or challenge the NWJC's mission and messaging, and/or pose risk of reputational damage to the coalition, the NWJC reserves the right to review and/or revoke their status as a *Friend*.

Decisions to revoke *Friend* status will be taken by a quorate number of NWJC Partner Representatives¹ during a full coalition meeting. The NWJC Director of Strategic Development will then communicate any decision to revoke Friend status directly to

¹ An NWJC Partner Representative is a woman senior leader from within an NWJC partner organisation (CEO or Director level) who attends coalition meetings and contributes to decision-making.

agreed contacts and individuals from interested *Friends* organisations within 10 business days.

Making an Expression of Interest

The NWJC's Director of Strategic Development is responsible for developing relationships with external stakeholders from across the criminal justice and women's sectors, including identifying and onboarding *Friends* by mutual agreement.

There is no formal recruitment or application process for *Friends*. Instead, organisations are invited to submit an expression of interest to the NWJC's Director of Strategic Development by [email](#), outlining in brief why they would like to become a *Friend* and how they meet the eligibility criteria.

Reviewing Expressions of Interest

All EOIs received from organisations wishing to be recognised as a *Friend* will either be reviewed during a full coalition meeting, or by a quorate number of NWJC Partner Representatives². Each EOI will be considered with respect to the organisation or individual's eligibility, suitability, credibility and the value they can add to progressing the coalition's strategic objectives.

The review process also provides opportunities for any conflicts of interest or potential risks or issues to be identified and considered.

The NWJC Director of Strategic Development will communicate outcomes of these decisions directly to agreed contacts and individuals from interested *Friend* organisations within 10 business days.

Onboarding new Friends

In preparation for onboarding new *Friends*, organisations and individuals will be asked to provide a short introductory blurb about their aims, objectives and remit along with a high-res copy of their organisational logo (where applicable). This blurb and logo will be added to the NWJC's website here: [Friends of the NWJC](#) and will include a link to the organisation's website.

Friends will also receive a copy of the NWJC logo and are encouraged to include a link to the NWJC's website from their own website alongside a brief explanation about the collaborative relationship between themselves and the NWJC.

The NWJC Director of Strategic Development will regularly update a lead contact from all *Friend* organisations on the coalition's priority work streams, progress, campaigning and influencing efforts, and wider news. A quarterly newsletter for all *Friends* is currently in development.

Friends are invited to follow the NWJC [website](#) and social media channels on [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#) for real time updates.

Contact

For any queries, information requests and collaboration opportunities moving forward, please contact:

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