

Protecting Vulnerable Persons in Fundraising

August 2021 – V1.1

We believe that supporting SU Scotland should be a joyous experience for all concerned.

1.0 Definition

A Vulnerable Person is an individual who will not always have the capacity to fully understand the nature of their donation and / or the consequences of that gift on their own circumstances.

Gifts from unsupported Vulnerable Persons may be considered unethical. There are many situations where this may arise, such as but not limited to, individuals with:

- learning difficulties or significant language barriers
- Dementia or other such conditions
- a recent bereavement
- undiagnosed mental health conditions.

It may also be the case that gifts made by Vulnerable Persons are made with full ethical agency.

2.0 Our Duty

We consider it the duty of SU Scotland to protect Vulnerable Persons. For more information, please access SU Scotland's safeguarding policy.

We respect the gift and the giver, seeking to maintain dignity and value for all parties involved. Where there is a suspicion of gifts being made due to unethical activities, where accepting a gift would in itself be considered unethical by fundraising standards or where accepting a gift would cause clear harm to the giver, we have set actions which come into effect, laid out below.

3.0 Our Actions

SU Scotland values our supporters and their acts of generosity. In this we make the following statements:

- We will adhere to the [Fundraising Code of Practice](#).
- We always make reasonable efforts to ensure each gift is the result of an informed decision and annually communicate with regular donors where permitted.
- Our fundraising methods will seek to inspire and not pressurise.
- We do not enter contracts with third-party fundraising agencies.
- Where we are clear that accepting a donation will be unethical, it will be declined.
- Where we discover that accepted donations are unethical, we will return them where possible.
- We will respect the rights of individuals, providing only general information for third party communication unless legal authority, i.e., power of attorney, can be demonstrated.