

## The Rule Book – Section U Conduct

As a Party, our co-operative values should be reflected in our actions as well as our policies.

All members should feel welcome and encouraged to participate, in meetings, events and on social media. There is no place in the Co-operative Party for intolerance or abuse.

To enable this, we will:

- Make meetings and events accessible and welcoming, encouraging maximum attendance and participation
- Conduct all meetings in a friendly and co-operative way, in accordance with the rules & standing orders and in a manner that enables all views to be heard
- Not tolerate harassment or discrimination based on age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, colour, race, ethnic origins or religion, or any form of personal abuse in meetings or on-line.

### Statement on Social Media Conduct

1. The Co-operative Party recognises that social media and other forms of digital communications are a vital part of modern campaigning and communications.
2. We have an important part to play in political and public debates and a vital contribution to make in discussions about how to create a more co-operative United Kingdom. We should be loudly and proudly making the case for co-operation using all appropriate channels.
3. We are absolutely clear that the rules of the Co-operative Party apply just as much to activity that takes place on-line as it does to more traditional political activities like Party meetings.
4. Our co-operative values dictate that we will treat others with respect and not make personal attacks or abusive or intimidating remarks. Individual members not meeting these high standards in their conduct online may be subject to disciplinary action under the Party's Rule Book.
5. High-profile members of the Party and those holding official positions within the Party including Party Officers, NEC members and elected representatives should be particularly mindful that their conduct online has the potential to reflect on the Party. Views expressed could be interpreted as reflecting the view of the Party even where this is not the intention.
6. We increasingly encourage local Co-operative Parties and networks to use digital and social media to build support for the Party and our ideas. However, Party Officers responsible for placing such content online must ensure that content is relevant to the work of the Co-operative Party; and that no content is placed on an official Co-operative Party communications channel which could bring the Party into disrepute or that is not consistent with the policy of the Party.
7. Content on official Co-operative Party social media channels in particular during both internal and external elections and selections must comply with the rules of those elections and selections. Communications using these channels must not be used to promote candidates in internal Co-operative Party elections or to promote Co-operative Party candidates in Labour Party selections unless the individual has been formally nominated as the Co-operative Party's candidate.