



# Civil Society Covenant

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# What is the Civil Society Covenant?

A national framework for government and VCSE sector to work in partnership within embedded principles of recognition, collaboration, inclusion and transparency.

# Previously...

- The Compact agreement was launched in 1998.
- It was refreshed in 2010.
- And forgotten in 2014 ...

# The new Civil Society Covenant

- **January 2024** - The concept was launched by DCMS and the Civil Society Advisory Group was formed
- **October - December 2024** - National consultation
- **December 2024** - RVS workshop
- **May 2025** - Draft Covenant published
- **July 2025** - Civil Society Covenant published

# The Principles

- **Recognition and Value:** Government commits to recognizing the essential role of civil society and acknowledging its independence and legitimacy in advocacy, campaigning, and lobbying.
- **Partnership and Collaboration:** Fostering proactive, early, and ongoing engagement between government and civil society, rather than transactional relationships. This includes joint policy development and shared long-term planning.
- **Participation and Inclusion:** Ensuring diverse groups are actively involved in policy-making and service design, aiming to amplify the voices of communities.
- **Transparency and Data:** Promoting open communication and sharing of information necessary to serve communities efficiently.
- **Shared Values and Protections:** The Covenant protects the right of charities to engage in peaceful protest and pledges that the government will not treat organizations less favourably due to disagreements.

# The Implementation Mechanisms

- Joint Civil Society Covenant Council
- Local Partnerships Programme
- VCSE-HM Treasury Forum
- Action-oriented Focus

# Next Steps

- Civil Society Covenant Council to launch
- National Focus Groups to be formed
- Develop 15 Local Partnerships
- RBC or North Hampshire?
- Hampshire & IoW ICB?



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