

EFA Ethical Standards

Introduction

Electronic Frontiers Australia (EFA) is a not-for-profit organisation, founded in Australia in 1994, that works to ensure technology makes our lives better, not worse.

As well as operating within the laws and regulations governing our organisation, EFA expects its representatives to make ethical decisions and conduct themselves in a responsible and ethical manner. This reflects the high standards EFA expects from the private and public entities we engage and partner with and is in line with similar international standards for civil society groups.

In advancing our objectives, we strive to embody the principles of transparency and responsibility in our efforts to promote and protect human rights in a digital context.

Standards for us all, individually:

1. Commitment to advancing ideas

EFA values lively debate with a focus on exchanging ideas and collaborating to advance our objectives. Individuals are expected to respect others' views and refrain from personal attacks. EFA prohibits bullying, discrimination¹, harassment, violence, or intimidation in any of our in person or online fora.

2. Clear identification and objectivity

EFA representatives clearly identify themselves and distinguish private opinions from those of the organisation on all platforms and engagements. Individuals will acknowledge the ideas, experiences, and work of others where appropriate, actively seeking other perspectives and awareness of their own objectivity.

3. Transparency of interests

EFA requires individuals to declare, record, and manage interests that could influence or be perceived to influence their decisions in order to maintain transparency and integrity of the organisation.

4. Confidentiality and privacy

Individuals representing EFA must maintain confidentiality of all organisational information, including intellectual property and information on individuals (e.g. members, staff, volunteers, whistleblowers, and contacts) they encounter while involved with the organisation.

¹[As defined by the Australian Human Rights Commission](#)

Organisational Standards:

1. Transparency in managing interests

EFA is thankful for its financial supporters and volunteers, without whom we would not be able to carry out our work. To maintain transparency in this work, corporate donors are disclosed on the EFA website, and sponsorship or advertising for events and other activities will contain explicit disclosures.

We carefully evaluate and record any financial support that may be perceived to impact EFA's integrity, and do not accept donations from organisations or individuals whose actions or ethos are inconsistent with our objectives or standards..

Any one-off endorsement by EFA does not signal ongoing endorsement unless explicitly specified.

2. Reliable and current information

EFA is dedicated to providing accurate and trustworthy information in its policy development and campaigns. The organisation and its representatives are committed to basing positions and viewpoints on reliable sources of evidence and analysis.

The organisation also recognizes the importance of staying informed on digital rights issues and continually improving its understanding of these matters in collaboration with external interest groups.

3. Expectation of partners:

EFA holds our partner organisations to similarly high standards. We do not accept donations or in kind support from organisations whose actions or ethos are inconsistent with our mission.

Maintaining our Standards

We all play a role in participating and governing adherence to these standards.

We encourage reporting any suspected violations of these standards either by EFA representatives, the organisation, partners, or attendees at EFA run events. By reporting concerns, EFA is better able to address any current or emerging issues without escalating conflict. Reports and feedback contribute to the review of policies, procedures, and training which improves the way we operate.

In cases involving substantiated serious misconduct or illegal activities, EFA will take appropriate steps, which may include expulsion from the board, membership, or restricting access to future events.

All reports will be addressed inline with natural justice and procedural fairness outlined in our Complaints and Feedback Management Policy. The policy and form to submit a concern are available on our website www.efa.org.au

For further information, please contact secretary@efa.org.au