

Code of Conduct for Conference Attendees

The Liberal Democrats exist to build and safeguard a fair, free and open society, in which we seek to balance the fundamental values of liberty, equality and community, and in which no-one shall be enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity.

Upholding these values of individual and social justice, we reject all prejudice and discrimination based upon race, ethnicity, caste, heritage, class, religion or belief, age, disability, sex, gender identity or sexual orientation' and oppose all forms of entrenched privilege and inequality.

This applies as much to the internal working of our party as to the type of society we wish to build and should always influence how we conduct ourselves in private, public and online.

We expect our conference attendees to behave lawfully, honestly and with integrity at all times. They should always act with respect towards each other and particularly towards staff, volunteers and people who interact with the Party in their professional capacity.

As a conference attendee, you have the right to be treated fairly, equally, and within the bounds of party rules. You also have a responsibility to help ensure that these rules are upheld, and that the party can abide by its external legal and regulatory obligations. We provide a range of pastoral support services to help when things are not going right - for members and supporters (www.libdems.org.uk/getting-support-when-you-need-it).

The Party reserves the right to refer any breach of this code of conduct which breaks the law to the police rather than/as well as dealing with it under this code of conduct.

Valuing Debate and Democracy

Liberal Democrats believe passionately in freedom of speech, diversity of thought and freedom of conscience and will always defend these principles in law. However every political party must have some shared values, and on joining our conference, they must acknowledge that they agree with the party's fundamental values and objectives as expressed in the preamble to our constitution, though this does not mean they must agree with every single party policy.

Within the bounds of these shared fundamental values and the desire for our party to be successful, we encourage robust and passionate debate on policy, strategy and the way in which the party functions. We also encourage our conference attendees to play the ball, not the person, and be measured in their criticism.

Whilst we should all treat each other with respect, nobody has the right not to be offended.

One of our fundamental values is to reject all prejudice and discrimination based upon race, ethnicity, caste, heritage, class, religion or belief, age, disability, sex, gender identity or sexual orientation. The party has adopted definitions of antisemitism, islamophobia and transphobia in order to help people understand how our values apply to our behaviour.

The Party has the absolute right to decide who attends their Federal Conferences. They also have the right to exclude those who, in their opinion, have breached the code of conduct. This may involve asking an attendee to leave the current conference, and/or exclusion from future conferences. Furthermore, breaches of this code of conduct or the Members Code of Conduct <https://www.libdems.org.uk/code-of-conduct> may result in a formal complaint being made to the Party's complaints system.