

Diocesan Fundraising Policy April 2024

UK Fundraising:

Definition of fundraising – the act of collecting or producing money for a particular purpose, especially a charity. In law the Mothers' Union may fundraise for its own charitable works according to the Central Charity's and the Diocesan Charity's constitutions.

A gentle reminder about what our MU Constitution states:

- A Mothers' Union group may not be used as a channel for charitable appeals on behalf of other organisations, nor shall money be allocated to such organisations from any Mothers' Union funds.
- “For the avoidance of doubt, no part of charitable funds of the Charity, nor of any Mothers' Union organisation, shall be donated for a purpose that is not charitable in law.” (Regulation 11).

Please note this guidance is not ours but from the Charity Commission and we have to actively adhere to this law. By going against this law branches are putting the charitable status of the organisation in jeopardy.

There is nothing to stop branches giving gifts such as wine, plants etc. to speakers from other charities and travel expenses but not pre-paid cards or gift vouchers which are deemed to be cash instruments. This, of course, needs to be a reasonable amount and not a way of disguising the giving of money to the charity of the speaker.

If individual members wish to give a donation to a particular charity, then a collection may be done as long as it happens once the MU meeting has officially closed and all those members who make a donation have a full understanding this collection is not related to any Mothers' Union projects etc. This money should *not* go through your branch account.

Please also remember that Mothers' Union, the central charity and the central projects undertaken, are always in need of extra money and of course many branches do fantastic fundraising for these projects, so we have lots to celebrate.

If you are asked or if you know of any branches who have been giving money to other charities, this is going against the Charity Commission Charity Law and Mothers' Union Constitution. Please accept the ruling, even if you don't agree with it. You may have heard of other charitable bodies giving cash to other Charities, for example the Guides, but their Constitution is not the same as MU Constitution as above.

Branches should not be using money raised by Mothers' Union or money that is already in branch funds to give to other Charitable Organisations.

In conclusion, no fundraising on behalf of other organisations, nor no contributions to other charities are allowed to be given out of MU funds. The second any money is raised or donated to MU it becomes MU funds.

Fundraising for Overseas Projects:

Branches and all members need to ensure due process is followed at Diocesan level e.g. the DP is informed, and the project has Trustee Board approval.

All money for MU overseas is administered by the central charity and money should not be sent direct overseas but routed through MSH. If branches wish to raise money for a particular MU project, which is working overseas, when sending money to MSH and depending on the circumstances, they may need to add on a contribution to cover foreign exchange rates. This process ensures that monies do actually go to the specific project and is accounted for with an audit trail and correct banking procedures.

Created: April 2024

Date adopted: April 2024

Date to be reviewed: April 2025