

CIVILITY AND RESPECT PROJECT



IN COLLABORATION WITH SLCC, NALC, OVW, COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS

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WELCOME TO
THE CIVILITY
AND RESPECT
PROJECT
NEWSLETTER

CIVILITY AND RESPECT - CAN YOU HELP?

How can we increase the number of councils signing up to the Civility and Respect Pledge?

18% of councils (1,832) have signed up to the Pledge! The Improvement and Development Board (IDB): Civility and Respect (C&R) Taskforce knows this is a significant achievement.

Work has started on promoting the Pledge to small and micro-councils which make up over 65% of all councils. Analysis to date has also shown that there are significant variations between different geographical areas and work is ongoing to understand why this is the case.

The taskforce wants to get the majority of the councils to sign up to the Pledge. To achieve this goal, they would like to get a much better understanding of why councils are not signing up.

Please email Hazel.Broatch@nalc.gov.uk with your suggestions about how you think the taskforce could help to significantly increase the number of councils signing up to the Pledge. Please ensure you give her your contact details as the taskforce may wish to talk with you about your suggestions.

Councillor's Statement of Assurance

The taskforce also wants to continuously improve civility and respect, and has learnt that research has identified a combination of individual and group pledges is ideal so that people can hold each other accountable while also taking personal responsibility.

IDB has recently approved the taskforce's recommendation that a 'Councillor's Statement of Assurance' be introduced. This has already been done in Cornwall.

The goal is that each councillor will be asked to sign up as an individual to the recommended 'Councillor's Statement of Assurance'.

By signing up, the councillor would take personal responsibility for C&R. This would be combined with the council signing up to the Pledge (if it has not already done so) and taking group responsibility.

Please look out for the launch of the 'Councillor's Statement of Assurance' in September 2025.

Governance Checklist

The taskforce wants to thank Linda Larter MBE FSLCC for the work she has put into producing the Governance Checklist. This will be available on the C&R pages on both the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) website and the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) website. The checklist will be a valuable resource that councils can use to ensure that they comply with governance requirements.

Sharing our experience

Steve Trice, Chair of the C&R Taskforce, has been sharing our sector's experience and learning with Compassion in Politics who are promoting a pledge for MPs in The House of Commons. He was delighted to be of help. It is very rewarding that our sector is leading the way in promoting C&R through asking councils to sign up to the C&R Pledge.

Continuous improvement

Please help the taskforce and email your thoughts and suggestions on how to increase the number of councils signing up to the Pledge. Also, please do not hesitate to send any other ideas you have to improve C&R to Hazel.Broatch@nalc.gov.uk and she will take them to the taskforce for their consideration.

Please visit our dedicated civility and respect pages for lots more information and support

[SLCC | Civility and Respect Project](#) and [NALC | Civility and Respect Project](#)