

## **SMK responds to Government's anti-advocacy clause.**

On Saturday 6 February the Cabinet Office announced plans to ban organisations from using public funding to lobby government and Parliament.

The Sheila McKechnie Foundation's (SMK) vision is that individuals, groups and communities have the skills and confidence to speak up and take effective action on issues that matter to them. We believe that the Cabinet Office plan reduces the ability of many groups to contribute to policy making on behalf of people whose voices often go unheard.

Commenting on the plans Sue Tibballs, the Chief Executive of SMK, said:

"The grant clause revealed over the weekend is yet another attempt to silence civil society from making a contribution to democracy. The rationale for it is based on no real evidence and ignores the valuable role of civil society in advocating for others. We will be pressing the Cabinet Office for more information on the rationale for the clause and to understand how it will work in practice. We strongly urge the government to reconsider the plans."

There is more information on the plans on the Cabinet Office website - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-new-clause-to-be-inserted-into-grant-agreements>.

We urge our supporters and partners to make their views known, using [#AntiAdvocacy](#) on social media and by contacting their MP or the Cabinet Office direct on [publiccorrespondence@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:publiccorrespondence@cabinetoffice.gov.uk) asking for proper scrutiny of the plan.

**Sheila McKechnie Foundation**  
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