



Civil Society Organisations
Declaration

**CODE OF POLITICAL CONDUCT
FOR GRENADA 2017**

*Preamble of the
Constitution of Grenada*

Whereas the people of Grenada:

- a. have affirmed that their nation is founded upon principles that acknowledge the fatherhood and supremacy of God and man's duties toward his fellow man;*
- b. recognize that, inasmuch as spiritual development is of supreme importance to human existence, and the highest expression thereof, it is their aspiration to serve that end with all their strength and resources;*
- c. firmly believe in the dignity of human values and that all men are endowed by the Creator with equal and inalienable rights, reason, and conscience; that rights and duties are correlatives in every social and political activity of man; and that while rights exalt individual freedom, duties express the dignity of that freedom;*
- d. express their respect for the rule of law; and since moral conduct constitutes the noblest flowering of their culture and their plural heritage, regard it as the duty of every man always to hold it in high respect;*
- e. reiterate that the ideal of free men enjoying freedom from fear and want can be best achieved if conditions are created whereby everyone may enjoy his economic, social and political, civil and cultural rights;*
- f. desire that their constitution should reflect the above mentioned principles and beliefs which represent those high ideals upon which their nation is founded, and make provision for ensuring the protection in Grenada of fundamental rights and freedoms.*

Preamble of the Civil Society Declaration

WHEREAS the Preamble of the Constitution of Grenada reflects the ideals and principles which the people of Grenada affirm;

WHEREAS Chapter 1, Section 1 of the Constitution of Grenada guarantees fundamental rights and freedoms to all citizens, including, in 1 (b): “Freedom of conscience, of expression and of assembly and association”;

AND WHEREAS Universal Adult Suffrage is a fundamental right enshrined in the Constitution of Grenada;

AND WHEREAS the attainment of this right enables the People of Grenada to decide for themselves in whom they wish to entrust the governing of the Nation;

AND WHEREAS candidates for elections must give the electorate the opportunity to fulfil its responsibility to make informed decisions when choosing a government for Grenada;

AND WHEREAS this Code of Political Conduct is in keeping with the CARICOM Charter of Civil Society to which Grenada became a signatory on February 19th, 1997;

AND WHEREAS Article XXIV of the Charter, **“Awareness and Responsibilities of the People”**, recognizes that “the people have an important role to play in the pursuit and maintenance of good governance”;

AND WHEREAS in recognition of the foregoing, the following non-partisan, non-political organisations (together hereinafter referred to as the **Civil Society**) have compiled this CIVIL SOCIETY DECLARATION - A CODE OF POLITICAL CONDUCT to be signed by the representatives of political parties and independent candidates listed in this Declaration.

Participating Civil Society Organisations are:

Conference of Churches, Grenada

Friends of the Earth-Grenada

Grenada Association of Retired Persons

Grenada Bar Association

Grenada Chamber of Industry and Commerce (GCIC)

Grenada Employers Federation

Grenada Human Rights Organisation

Grenada Trade Union Council (GTUC)

Grouping of Civil Society Organisations

Inter-Agency Group of Development Organisations

Media Workers Association of Grenada

National Initiative for Prolific Policies

North East Farmers Organisation

Southern Fishermen Association

St. David's Organisation for Development

The Willie Redhead Foundation (tWRF)

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY DECLARED AND AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. *GOAL*

The goal of this Civil Society Declaration of Code of Political Conduct is:

“To create a political environment within Grenada which promotes free and fair elections, upholds the fundamental rights and freedoms of all citizens, upholds the rule of law, and demonstrates respect for all citizens and observance of the democratic process.”

2. *OBJECTIVES*

This Code of Political Conduct is intended to achieve the following objectives:

- (i) Contribute to the holding of peaceful, free and fair elections.
- (ii) Ensure continuing respect for internationally recognised human, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.
- (iii) Foster and encourage people’s participation in the electoral process and uphold their right to make political choices.
- (iv) Promote public education on acceptable political conduct.
- (v) To facilitate civil society and the public at large in setting up systems and taking initiatives for monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the level of adherence to the Code of Political Conduct.
- (vi) Encourage sanctions by the public and other entities for non-compliance to this Code of Political Conduct.

3. *CODE OF POLITICAL CONDUCT*

Section 1

Political parties and candidates, including Independent Candidates, who are engaged in public political campaigns, rallies, meetings and other forms of political activities in connection with General Elections **AGREE TO:**

- (i) Uphold the Constitution and the spirit and letter of the laws relating to the holding of public activities and election campaigns.
- (ii) Address themselves to issues and principles dealing with national growth, sustainable socio-economic development and concerns of the people, including environmental issues.

- (iii) Maintain the highest moral principles and ethics with regards to the campaign, the general elections, and in the aftermath of the elections.
- (iv) Co-operate with the police in maintaining law and order during election campaigns.
- (v) Adhere to any laws applicable to the election campaign and to all other laws of the land.
- (vi) Do everything to promote respect, tolerance, harmony and peace amongst their supporters and the general public.
- (vii) Let their own behaviour be a positive example that promotes respect, tolerance, harmony and peace to supporters and the general public during the campaign, the general elections, and in the aftermath of the elections.
- (viii) Participate in at least one town hall meeting and/or debate organised and hosted by civil society organisations at the constituency level.
- (ix) Identify, and publish the name of a representative who will be responsible for all matters related to this code and who will liaise with the Watchdog Committee of Civil Society as established under this Code.

Section 2

Political parties and candidates, including Independent Candidates, who are engaged in public political campaigns, rallies, meetings and other forms of political activities in connection with the forthcoming General Elections **AGREE TO REFRAIN FROM:**

- (i) The use of half-truths, lies, innuendos, bribes and threats to gain political advantage.
- (ii) The use of race, country of origin, sex, gender, religion or class to mobilise support or to vilify any individual, family, professional groups or sections of the community.
- (iii) Engaging directly or indirectly in character assassination.
- (iv) Making derogatory and degrading comments about men and women holding public office or offering themselves for public office.
- (v) Saying or doing anything to invite, encourage or foster hatred, resentment or any form of violence.
- (vi) Disrupting religious services and other organised community activities.
- (vii) Defacing public and private property and structures.
- (viii) Using threats and all other forms of intimidation against members of the media.
- (ix) The inappropriate use of minors in the campaign process.
- (x) The use of State resources for political campaigns.

Section 3

Political parties and candidates, including Independent Candidates, who are engaged in public political campaigns, rallies, meetings and other forms of political activities in connection with the forthcoming General Elections, **AGREE TO ENSURE THAT:**

- (i) Chairpersons of all political campaign events appeal to supporters and the general public for peaceful behaviour.
- (ii) Whenever political activities are held at roadsides, there is no undue obstruction to road users or inconvenience to the general public.
- (iii) All private and public property rights are respected.
- (iv) Measures are taken to clean the environs immediately following the holding of these activities.
- (v) Measures are taken to reduce the carbon foot print of the campaign.
- (vi) The content of music played at political rallies and events is appropriate for families and children.

4. *WATCHDOG COMMITTEE*

A **Watchdog Committee** shall be set up to monitor and evaluate adherence to this Code of Political Conduct by parties and candidates during the campaign process.

The Committee shall be constituted upon signing of this Code and will be made up of not less than fifteen (15) but not more than twenty-one (21) persons recommended by members of the participating civil society organisations and selected by the Steering Committee of Civil Society Organisations of Grenada.

The public will be encouraged to report breaches of this Code to the Watch Dog Committee.

The functions of the Watchdog Committee will be to:

- (i) Set up a Public Education Sub-committee to conduct public education around the Code and issues that civil society wants politicians to address on the platform.
- (ii) Monitor the election campaign activities and conduct of candidates.
- (iii) Network with regional and international bodies who monitor elections in Grenada and who place good governance as an important objective; for example, the OAS.
- (iv) Actively engage different networks which can bring moral suasion to bear on the conduct of political parties.

- (v) Meet with political parties, as part of local networking to advocate for adherence to the Code of Political Conduct.
- (vi) Implement related activities consistent with the spirit of this Code as mandated by the broader body of Civil Society.
- (vii) Report to the broader body of Civil Society, and through it, to the public.

5. *AGREEMENT*

Now therefore all political parties and independent candidates who have affixed their signature hereto undertake to support and adopt the principles of this Code of Political Conduct as outlined herein.

For:

..... <i>Civil Society Representative</i> <i>Date</i>
..... <i>Good Old Democracy</i> <i>Date</i>
..... <i>Grenada Christian Political Party</i> <i>Date</i>
..... <i>Grenada Empowerment Movement</i> <i>Date</i>
..... <i>Grenada Freedom Party International</i> <i>Date</i>
..... <i>National Democratic Congress</i> <i>Date</i>
..... <i>New National Party</i> <i>Date</i>
..... <i>People Progressive Movement</i> <i>Date</i>

**CIVIL SOCIETY DECLARATION
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Progress Party *Date*

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The Liberal Party *Date*

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The New Beginning *Date*

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Tri-Island Freedom Party *Date*

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John R.A. Fletcher - Independent Candidate *Date*

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Civil Society Organisations
Initiating the Declaration of a Code of Political Conduct

<i>NAME OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION</i>	<i>CIVIL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVE</i>	<i>DATE</i>
Alliance of Evangelical Churches		
Conference of Churches, Grenada		
Friends of the Earth-Grenada		
Grenada Association of Retired Persons		
Grenada Bar Association		
Grenada Chamber of Industry and Commerce		
Grenada Employers Federation		
Grenada Federation of Agriculture and Fisheries Organisation		
Grenada Association of Poultry Producers		
Grenada Human Rights Organisation		
Grenada Trade Union Council		
Grouping of Civil Society Organisations		
Inter-Agency Group of Development Organisations		
Media Workers Association of Grenada		

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National Institute for Prolific Policies		
North East Farmers Organisation		
Southern Fishermen Association		
St. Andrew's Organisation for Development		
St. David's Organisation for Development		
St. John's Social and Cultural Organisation		
St. Mark's Development Organisation		
St. Patrick's Organisation for Development		
The Willie Redhead Foundation		

In consideration of our responsibility/obligation to ensure good governance.