

Who might Raised Voices wish to sing for?

MOTION to the RAISED VOICES AGM

Raised Voices Constitution states our aim as "to promote the development of a society free from all forms of oppression and to support causes working towards that aim". In our agreed "Welcome to Raised Voices" document given to new choir members, we elaborate on this, saying that: "We sing a continually developing repertoire of left, environmental, anti-war, feminist, internationalist, anti-racist and other political songs, including songs from other cultures and languages. We sing for many causes and also for our own enjoyment".

Organizations sometimes write directly to the choir, asking us to sing in their support. Members too from time to time suggest a particular organization we might wish to sing for. We need criteria to help our decision-making in such cases.

I propose:

That Raised Voices, in line with our Constitution, will **be inclined to** sing in support of organizations and movements that are explicitly concerned with addressing some form of "oppression", **particularly but not only** the oppressions of poverty, inequality, exploitation, displacement, wrongful imprisonment, torture, sexism, racism and denial of justice and human rights. Put more positively, we will **be inclined to** sing, **particularly but not only**, for organizations and movements of socialist, environmentalist, feminist, anti-imperialist, anti-militarist, liberatory and human rights orientation.

Choir members may legitimately **argue the case** for or against choir support for specific causes and specific organizations within the political **spectrum envisioned** in the previous paragraph.

The choir will **not be inclined to** accede to requests to sing in support of organizations or movements that, though charitable and humanitarian, do not explicitly contribute to a political goal supported by us, as **framed** above. As an example, we would not sing for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (<http://www.mda.org>). We **might consider** singing for Disability Rights (<http://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/index.htm>) since it addresses a rights (political) issue and not just a medical condition.

In the case of disagreement among choir members concerning whether or not to sing in support of a given organization or movement, the case for both sides will be put forward and, after discussion, a vote taken. If the proportion disagreeing is **substantial**, the choir will not accede to the request. In the case of a small number of dissenters, the choir as a whole **may consider** acceding, while the dissenters **may consider** opting out of the event.

Cynthia
15.2.2013

This was agreed as RV policy by the Annual General Meeting, 7 March, 2013.