

Accountability and Transparency

Accountability

Buwan Kothi International Trust believes that poor and excluded people should take part directly in all processes of local programme decision-making. Poor and excluded people have a right to take part in decisions that affect them.

Buwan Kothi International Trust will work with poor and excluded people to facilitate their involvement, respecting and critically engaging with what comes out of it. It means that the priorities and perspectives of poor people must inform the decisions made at all levels by Buwan Kothi International Trust and its partners.

Buwan Kothi International Trust believes in working with poor and excluded people, their communities, movements and organisations to inform our decision-making, analysis and advocacy.

Women's Rights

Buwan Kothi International Trust projects, including those of funded partners, must have components to advance women's rights. Women must be centrally involved in decision-making.

Buwan Kothi International Trust and funded partners will seek to address women's rights and advance women's leadership within their own organisations.

Where women's involvement in decision-making is weak, there must be clear plans to strengthen these. Buwan Kothi International Trust will not fund partners who are not at least seeking to improve their work on gender and women's rights.

Buwan Kothi International Trust will actively seek to influence all allies and non-funded partners to take up stronger positions and actions in favour of women's rights.

Children / young people's rights

Every child and young person has rights, no matter who they are or where they live. These rights are enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Buwan Kothi International Trust recognises the Convention's aims, with the following statement:

We believe no child should suffer discrimination. This applies to every child, irrespective of the child's or the family's race, colour, gender, sexual orientation, language, religion, political, national, ethnic or social origin, disability, birth, caste or other status.

We recognise that children have a right to be safe and well, and have their views and wishes expressed and respected. Our activities will promote the best interests of children and this will be a primary consideration in all decisions we make.

We recognise that we also have a duty to protect children from harm, as well as ensure that they have the support necessary for their development. This development includes physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, cognitive, social and cultural development.

Buwan Kothi International Trust seeks to ensure that children / young people are included and involved in the planning and organising of its services. We seek actively to involve children's participation and opinion in the work we do, and to promote equality and justice for people of all ages.

Power

Power imbalances lie at the heart of poverty and injustice. Power refers to the degree of control over material, human, intellectual and financial resources exercised by different individuals, groups and institutions. It also means the power to make decisions and choices. Rights cannot be truly realised without changes in the structure and relationships of power.

Buwan Kothi International Trust will seek to use our financial power to advance equity and justice, particularly women's rights. All strategies, plans and decisions will have a consideration of our power and clear actions to address power imbalances.

Buwan Kothi International Trust commits to examining our power in relation to partners and communities. We must recognise the power we wield in our alliances to shape positions as we provide funding and technical advice. Similarly, when we are working with community-based organisations, we need to be aware of the power dynamics that we cause (through our relative wealth and status) and recognise how powerful groups often deny poor people the right to participate.

Buwan Kothi International Trust commits to create sustained spaces for poor people to do their own analysis of power. We must ensure that engagement in our decisions provides opportunities for poor and excluded people to challenge and hold us, as well as others, accountable.

Transparency

Buwan Kothi International Trust commits to ensuring that information, including appraisals, strategies, plans, budgets, reviews and reports are open to all stakeholders, especially poor and excluded people. We will promote such openness in an active way by requiring translations of key documents to local languages where appropriate and promoting visible public sharing of information as a right.