# **The Oxford RAG Charity Ballot**

### **The elected charities**

Each year, RAG supports four charities which are selected by the all-student RAG Charity Ballot in Hilary Term. Of these four charities, two are local charities, and two are national or international charities. Local charities are defined as those based in Oxfordshire and where the majority of their work is conducted in Oxfordshire. RAG charities elected in February 2024 will receive a share of the money RAG raise in the period August 2024 to July 2025. They will receive the funds after they have been audited, hopefully in October 2025.

### **The process**

In line with Oxford SU’s leadership elections, nominations for charities for Oxford RAG to support will open on the 12th January 2024. At this time, students will be able to outline the work of their preferred charity, how they would benefit from RAG’s support, and how the charity can support RAG’s growth and development.

Nominations will be open until 26th January 2024. When nominations close the RAG Shortlisting Committee convenes to shortlist nominated charities into a maximum of 6 local and 6 national/international charities.

Charities are then notified and given further time to campaign for student votes, which culminates in the RAG Charity Ballot. All students are able to vote on which charities RAG should support. Campaigning and voting dates can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/elections/). The [RAG Ballot](https://www.oxfordsu.org/get-involved/rag/ballot/) uses the Single Transferable Vote system, to ensure that the RAG Charity Ballot represents, as best it can, the student population’s charitable aims. All members of Oxford SU (I.e. current students who have not opted out of membership) can vote. Two local and two national/international charities will be elected, and are notified in writing of their success in being selected.

### **The requirements**

Nominated charities must be registered with an English and Welsh charity number and have a UK bank account. Charities will be given priority in the shortlisting process if they match any of the following criteria:

1. The charity has been recognised by an independent body for its cost effectiveness in delivering its work.
2. The charity can display significant benefits from obtaining RAG funding.
3. The charity has received multiple nominations in one year.

Please note that charities which display an overtly party political stance or a strong link to a religious movement cannot be supported by Oxford SU RAG.

Charities which were chosen to be a RAG charity for the 2023-2024 academic year will be excluded from the following year’s nominations.

Providing intentionally false information about a charity in the nomination form will result in said charity’s exclusion from consideration at the discretion of the Returning Officer.

***Endorsements:***

Charities may seek the endorsement of individual students. However, charities must not seek or claim the endorsement of Oxford SU employees, trustees (including Sabbatical Officers), Projects, Student Council, Target Schools, or the committee of Oxford RAG.

Charities may seek endorsements from Oxford SU Campaigns and non-Oxford SU organisations (e.g., clubs and societies), provided staff or volunteers of the charity do not take any part in the decision-making. Oxford SU Campaigns can only endorse charities in the RAG Ballot following a democratic vote in which all members of the Campaign can participate, and in which there is an option to make no endorsement. Anyone making endorsements may make as many endorsements as they wish (e.g., they may endorse multiple charities).