



Code of Conduct  
for  
Political Parties  
Contesting the  
General & Regional Elections March 2020

February 2020

**THE ETHNIC RELATIONS COMMISSION**  
**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR POLITICAL PARTIES**  
**CONTESTING THE GENERAL AND REGIONAL ELECTIONS 2020**

The Leadership and membership of the *undersigned parties* agree to uphold the provisions of the Constitution of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, with specific reference to the following articles and Acts:-

- 38 G Public Service to be free from political influence,
- 146 Protection of the freedom of expression,
- 147 Protection of freedom of assembly, association and demonstration,
- 149 Protection from discrimination on the grounds of race etc,
- 160 A Political parties prohibited from causing ethnic division,
- The Racial Hostility Act and
- The Representation of the People Act

and recognises that peace and public order, freedom of political campaigning, and compliance with the Guyana Constitution, electoral laws and regulations are essential and of paramount importance to the conduct of free, fair and peaceful elections.

In furtherance of the objectives, we, the leadership and membership of the *parties* declare and affirm:

1. Our Party opposes and rejects the use of violence and intimidation or plans of this nature during the campaign, on election day and after the results are announced, and in doing so:-

- Forbids the use of threats, harassment or tendency to violence that might cause disruption whether at political rallies, meetings, gatherings or elsewhere, or any other form of intimidation, including the use of violence and intimidation while political parties are announcing their activities, holding their meetings, gatherings and rallies.
  - Forbids the use of threatening language, or language which incites people of one group to violence against any Candidate, Agent, member or supporter of any other group
  - Forbids all actions aimed at removing, defacing, besmirching, obscuring, destroying, damaging or altering any flag, banner, poster, notice or other campaign materials of other Political Parties.
  - Forbids the use of intimidating behavior or violence on Election Day to frighten people from going to the polls to vote, or whilst they are in the polling stations or leaving the polling stations.
2. Our Party respects the rights of each Political Party, its Candidates, Agents, members and supporters to express and demonstrate their political views and to conduct lawful, non-violent activities in support of their objectives.
  3. Our Party opposes and rejects any intimidation of media personnel while maintaining our Party's right to respond, in a factual manner, to any obvious and evident media transgressions.
  4. Our Party will insist that its candidate, Agents, members and supporters avoid behavior, including making speeches or statements that promote racial or ethnic

tension or incite people to violence, and to uphold the Racial Hostility Act and the Representation of the People Act.

5. Our Party members and supporters will be encouraged by senior party officials, both directly and indirectly, to refrain from any expression or action that may constitute hate speech or any form of racial or ethnic discrimination.
6. Our party will immediately condemn any form of hate speech by their own members or supporters and institute necessary sanctions.
7. Moderators of our party will remove immediately any form of hate speech, whether in shape of posts or comments of social media accounts used by the political party.
8. Our party will, individually and together, issue public service announcements condemning any form of hate speech.

In doing so we shall observe this Code of Conduct and report and bring to the attention of the *Ethnic Relations Commission* any such acts.

The Leadership and membership of *our parties* agrees that our failure to abide by any of the provisions of this Code of Conduct will render *our parties* liable for breach of Agreement and necessary actions and sanctions may be implemented against *our parties* by the Ethnic Relations Commission in the said circumstances.

We anticipate in good faith that the ERC in keeping with its constitutional mandate will act with alacrity and investigate with speed and intervene to prevent such acts, protect the citizens and ensure that the 2020 General and Regional Elections are safe, peaceful and free from fear.

We, the undersigned, on behalf of our political parties have hereto set our hands on this the 13<sup>th</sup> day of *February, 2020*, endorsing and affirming the provisions therein:-

Name of Party	Name of Person(s) Signing	Designation	Signature
A New and United Guyana (ANUG)	Mr. Hari N. Ramkarran <i>Mr. S. Yearwood</i>	Presidential Candidate	<i>Jonathan Yearwood</i>
A Partnership for National Unity + Alliance For Change (APNU+AFC)	Mr. Joseph Harmon	General Secretary	<i>Joseph Harmon</i>
Change Guyana	Ms. Mishka Puran	Prime Ministerial Candidate	<i>Mishka Puran</i>
Liberty & Justice Party (LJP)	Mr. Davon Van Veen	General Secretary	<i>Davon Van Veen</i>
Organisation for the Victory of the People (OVP)	Mr. Gerald A. Perreira	Presidential Candidate	<i>Gerald Perreira</i>
People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C)	Mr. Zulfikar Mustapha	Executive Secretary	<i>Zulfikar Mustapha</i>
People's Republic Party (PRP)	Mr. Timothy Norton <i>Ms. Phyllis Jordan</i>	Leader of the Party	<i>Phyllis Jordan</i>
The Citizenship Initiative (TCI)	Ms. Rondha Ann-Lam	Presidential Candidate	<i>Rondha Ann-Lam</i>
The Federal United Party (FED-UP)	Ms. Nyssa Sibdhanny	Executive Member	<i>Nyssa Sibdhanny</i>
The New Movement (TNT)	Mr. Latchman Dindayal	Executive Member	<i>Latchman Dindayal</i>
The United Republic Party (URP)	Dr. Vishnu Bandhu <i>Ms. Lewis</i>	Presidential Candidate	<i>Vishnu Bandhu</i>

In witness of

*John Smith*  
*Norman Williams*

On behalf of the Ethnic Relations Commission

