



TCEN Membership Criteria

V.2 - May 2026

Please take into account the following criteria when deciding if to apply for membership of The Commonwealth Equality Network. Please also note that compliance with the criteria does not guarantee that your application will be successful as the Network has limits on how many new members can be accepted each year.

Your organisation:

1. Must have its headquarters based in a Commonwealth member state country¹ and work on LGBTI+ issues as part of the remit of its work.
2. Can provide the names of two organisations that can act as a referee. One must be a [current TCEN member](#) and the other must be from the country in which you are based. The second referee may be contacted should your application be shortlisted.
3. Must have been in operation for at least one year.
4. Must not be listed on the UN list of sanctioned organisations or appear on any international terrorism lists.
5. Can demonstrate some basic governance structure - i.e. evidence of a board of other oversight mechanisms that act as a check and balance to management.²
6. Can demonstrate some financial controls - i.e. adequate and transparent processes for handling money.³
7. Stands in solidarity with the entire LGBTI+ community, even if they do not directly serve all sections of the community.
8. Commits to making a demonstrable contribution to achieving TCEN's vision and will abide by [TCEN's Code of Conduct](#).

¹ A list of Commonwealth countries can be found [here](#). We are unable to accept applications from organisations who are based in British Overseas Territories or Crown Dependencies, even if you have operations in Commonwealth countries.

² This includes a constitution, articles of association, certificate of incorporation or organisational strategy

³ This includes a financial policy or manual that outlines what processes are in place.