

Supporting Organisations to Share Insights with Parliament and Government

Organisations' Feedback

January 2026



About the Approach

The Policy Academy was an idea inspired by the Young Foundation's work to amplify the voices of communities in decision making that affects them. The idea is a simple one. Corra identifies opportunities to influence decision making in areas where our grant holders have relevant insights but may lack staff capacity to respond individually. We facilitate a process to capture those insights, write up a collective response, and send that in on behalf of the collective.

This approach works well with Corra's light-touch reporting. It responds to grant holder feedback that they want to be involved and see Corra using their insights to advocate for change. It is limited in its potential impact as it relies on an external consultation process with no guarantee that the insights are incorporated.

How did the Policy Academy work?

We tested this approach in August and September 2025 with Henry Duncan Grant Holders for the Women and Girls Round. We thought this group of grant holders would have important insights into the Prevention of Domestic Abuse Bill out for consultation. We are aware that smaller organisations may struggle to find the time to respond individually, and we did not have any existing evidence to draw on from grant holder reports.

We approached 29 organisations funded through this round to ask if they'd like to participate in a collective response. 16 organisations expressed an interest in participating with 12 attending a focus group or interview. Participants were given the choice of a 1:1 session or group session, and alternatively could send over thoughts via an email.

Focus groups took up to 2 hours and were held online, interviews were 1 hour and were held online. Questions were sent in advance of the sessions and all participants had the opportunity to review the response before it was sent in.

Most organisations decided to participate in this collective response because they wanted the voices of their communities to be listened to in the decisions that affect them. Organisations wanted to work collectively to learn from each other, share insights, and understand the policy making process more fully.

Achieving Corra's Strategy

The Policy Academy is designed to contribute to Corra's strategy, and the three big changes we want to see:

- By amplifying the voices of grant holders in decision making spaces we shift power to people themselves.
- By convening organisations for a collective response, we support people to work together to create change.
- By creating shared spaces through a focus group approach, we support people to connect and share ideas and work.

How we evaluated what we did

Corra is a learning organisation which means we embed learning throughout our work and approach. To understand the difference made, and anything we should do differently in this approach, participants were asked to complete a survey before and after their participation.

This survey asked about their experience of engaging in policy making spaces, their perceived value of this, and anything practically that Corra should do differently. There were 3 opinion questions that remained the same in the pre and post survey to understand how individuals' feelings about this sort of work may have changed.

We had 13 responses to the pre-participation survey, and 7 for the post-participation survey so the results need to be viewed within this context.

What impact did the Policy Academy approach have?

In this section, you'll see the change we hoped to have in black bold text followed by a few sentences that explore organisations' feedback.

Increasing support for organisations to participate in activity that they would otherwise not have capacity to do.

The Policy Academy supported 46% of organisations to participate in a policy engagement-type space for the first time.

The biggest barrier for organisations prioritising policy engagement is staff capacity, with only 54% of participating organisations having a staff role with responsibility for policy engagement work.

Organisations told us that this approach supported them to have their voices heard when they otherwise wouldn't. We wanted to centre the voices of smaller groups who are not as well heard in decision making processes.

One participant shared:

"Some funders do not fully understand this process [involvement in consultations and decision making]. I have involved myself before with consultations that end up overlooking or dismissing our input in favour of the opinions of bigger and more established organisations but Corra do things different"

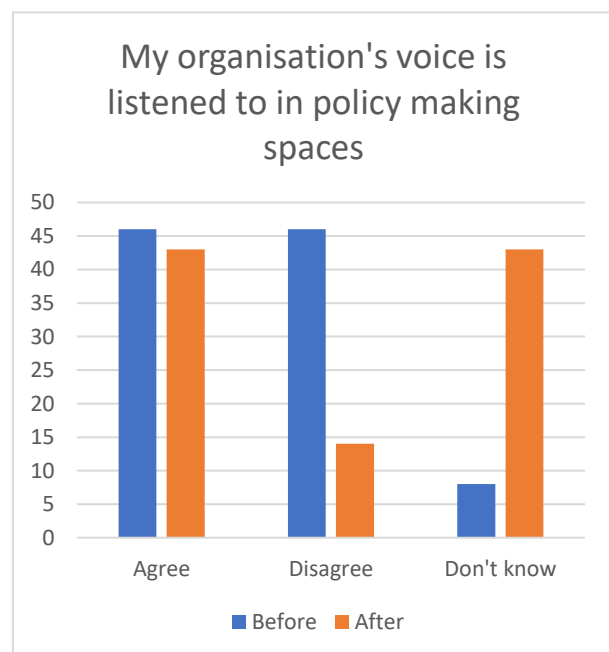
Another told us:

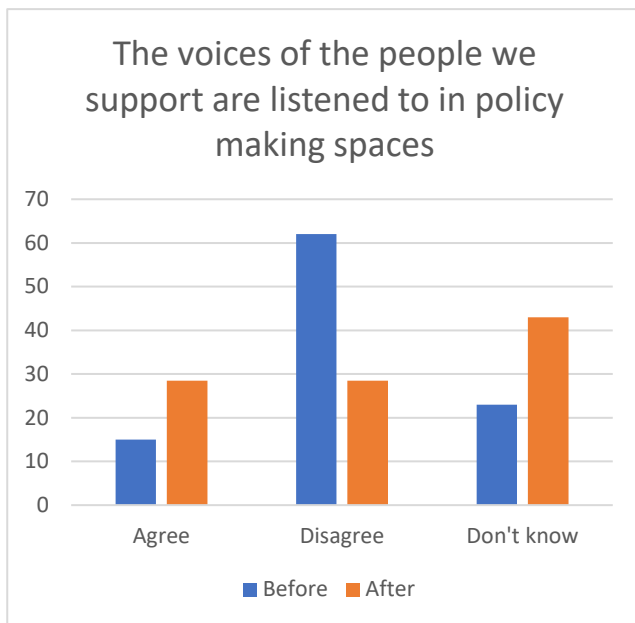
"We found it really informative. As a grassroots charity we have unique knowledge to share that's pertinent to our group members. It was good to be able to share this and we also gained knowledge from the other organisations who were taking part."

More organisations feeling their voice is listened to in decision making spaces.

Prior to participation, 46% of organisations felt their voice was not listened to in policy making spaces. Post-participation, 14% of organisations feel their voices are not listened to.

This does not mean that those who felt their voice wasn't listened to before participation now feel listened to. It appears that more organisations now seem unsure that they are listened to. Several shared that they are sceptical about the impact of this work.





More organisations feeling the voices of the people they support are listened to in decision making spaces.

Prior to participating, 62% of organisations felt the voices of the people they support are not listened to in policy making spaces.

Post-participation this reduced to 28.5% accompanied by an increase in organisations now feeling that the voices of people they support are listened to, alongside an increase in those who were now unsure.

One participant shared:

“Participating in the collective response was an extremely positive one. Was fantastic to hear about other organisations and the work they are doing. Was also incredible to be given the platform for our voice to be heard and more importantly the voices of the girls and women that we work with to be heard.”

People are connected and working together on the big challenges

Central to Corra’s strategy is the idea that meaningful change happens when people work together to tackle the big challenges affecting us. This was a key part to the Policy Academy creating space for people to connect, share, and reach consensus on what would work to tackle Domestic Abuse.

Participants valued the opportunity to share their views and work with other organisations – to find commonality but also where experiences were different.

“The opportunity to really think about the proposed bill and share experiences and knowledge with others was a great way to form a response. The size of the group was good, there were plenty opportunities to speak with others respecting all points of view. Had I completed on my own I would not have shared as much.” Participant

“On reflection I realised I had a lot of knowledge of the subject and enjoyed sharing this with the different organisations in the group. I also learned much about the

other services and their views on how things are for the women they support.”

Participant

“It was great to see how many similarities we are experiencing with other organizations in facing the same challenges, point of views and wishes to support the new proposal but with our practical experience in mind” Participant

Next steps and things to do differently

All respondents said they would take part in a similar process in future. They were enthusiastic about the approach, the process, and the opportunity to share learning and connect with other organisations through this approach. They told us it was a worthwhile use of their time and they appreciate the time and support that Corra had taken to facilitate their involvement.

We asked all participants what we should keep, and what we should do differently if we were to run the Policy Academy again.

Things to keep	Things to change
Group calls – described as “extremely insightful”	Add in person sessions
Small groups	Longer sessions to allow discussion
A facilitator keeping us on track and capturing our responses	Less targeted questions
Continue to give everyone participating a chance to share their insights	
Continue to have a diverse group of Corra staff present during the sessions with specific feedback <i>“You're the best at what you do in ensuring marginalised voices are heard. Please keep this up”</i>	

Throughout 2026, we intend to monitor the progress of this Bill and the evidence heard in Parliament to understand if the collective contribution has had any impact on the development of this Bill.

About Corra Foundation

Corra Foundation exists to make a difference to the lives of people and communities. It works with others to encourage positive change, opportunity, fairness and growth of aspirations which improve quality of life. Corra wants to see a society in which people create positive change and enjoy fulfilling lives.

In 2020 Corra launched a ten-year strategy. It is long term because making a difference on the big challenges will take time. At its heart is the strong belief that when people find their voice, they unlock the power to make change happen.

Our ways of working

At Corra we have a set of principles that we strive to put into practice across our roles as an employer, independent funder, charity and partner, as well as in our influencing activity.

We will:

- Listen and respond to people, communities and organisations and amplify voices that are less well heard – their wisdom is at the heart of Corra's approach.
- Build relationships, always working alongside others on the basis of shared power, mutual trust and shared learning.
- Pursue diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), trying to challenge structural discrimination and contribute to radical shifts in the funding sector.
- Be an open, trusting and flexible grant maker.
- Ensure we contribute to tackling climate change, through our investments, operations and grant making and encouraging others to take action alongside us.
- Be bold, taking considered risks and supporting others to do the same.

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