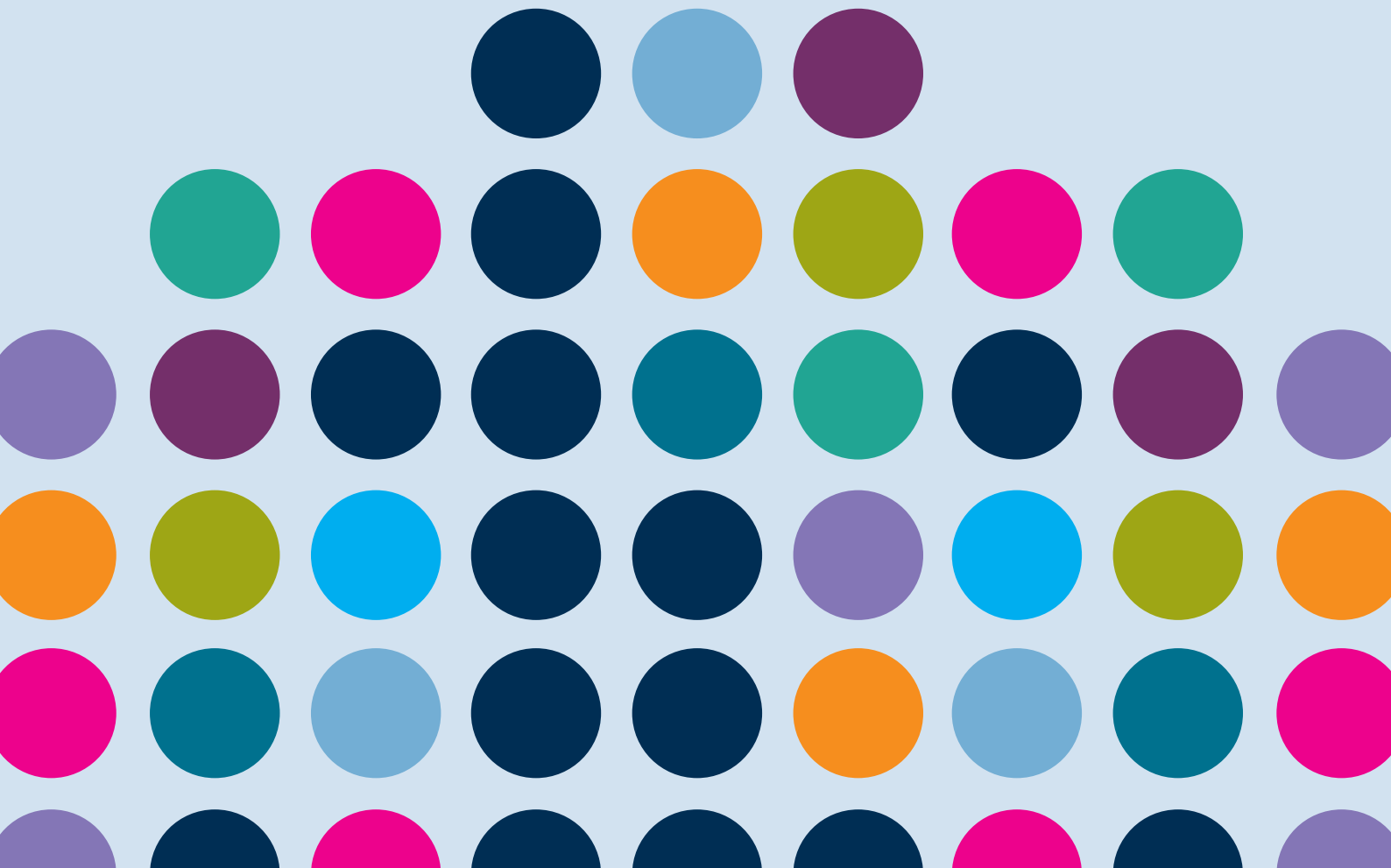




**Political Studies**  
Association

# STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2028

**FOR CONSULTATION**





# Strategic Plan 2025-2028 for Consultation

The Political Studies Association (PSA) is the UK's learned society for political science and the home of Political Studies more broadly. We are a charitable body that promotes the research, teaching, and study of Politics and related disciplines. Our work is predominantly carried out by academics within UK higher education institutions. It involves and includes the work of international scholars and analysts and practitioners within policy institutes and government bodies. We also work to advance education in Government and Politics as provided by schools and further education colleges.

**This strategic plan consultation document (which has been informed by previous strategies and the views of our members) sets out the PSA's proposed vision, mission, and goals for the next three years as a learned society, charity, and membership body.**



**Please give us your feedback:**

- **By completing our [feedback form](#)**
- **By emailing us at [strategy@psa.ac.uk](mailto:strategy@psa.ac.uk)**

## Our charitable purpose:

To promote the development of political studies and to encourage education and the advancement of learning in the art and science of government and in the other branches of the political sciences.

## What do we mean by Political Studies?

The **PSA** takes a broad and inclusive approach to its understanding of **Political Studies**. This may include the study of government, public policy, political institutions, political conflict, political science and behaviour, international relations, foreign policy, international security, climate change and the environment, political theory, comparative politics and research methods, as well as many other discrete areas and fields of study – in a global as well as UK context.

Although the PSA has traditionally supported those in UK university Politics and International Relations departments, we also welcome Political Studies scholars from other departments and schools including Geography, Economics, History, Psychology, Sociology, Communications and Law into our association. We are global in make-up and outlook and benefit greatly from the scholarship of those based outside of the UK playing an active part in our community.

## Our vision:

Our vision is for the PSA to play a leading role in enabling the research, teaching, and study of politics and related disciplines in the UK to:



As the **home of Political Studies**, the PSA will be a vibrant community where everyone is welcome to join its membership and feel supported to give their best towards this vision.

**i** Do you agree with this vision? Any suggestions? [FEEDBACK HERE](#)

## Who are we?

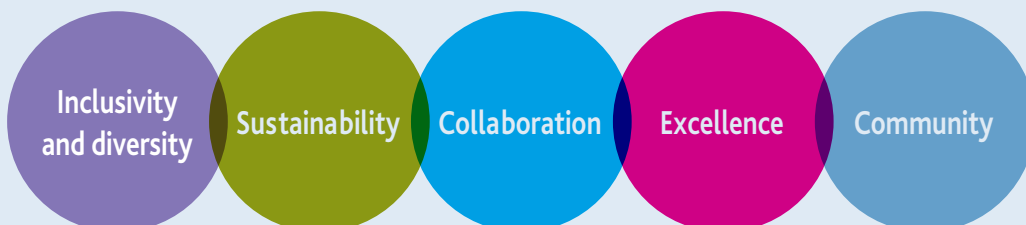
- A registered charity which exists to benefit the public and society at large.
- A learned society dedicated to promoting the development of Political Studies - supporting a large network of academics and practitioners.
- A membership body which supports, and advocates for, our discipline and for those who research, teach and study Politics.
- An academic publisher of a suite of esteemed journals.

## We do this through:

- **Our members:** who run, and participate in, specialist research and interest groups, contribute to, and edit, our journals, convene and present at our conferences and events, mentor and coach colleagues and students, and lead our Early Career and Teaching and Learning networks, and working groups.
- **Our trustees:** who have stepped forward to set the Association's strategic direction, ensure it is well-governed and retains its ability to achieve our goals.
- **Our staff:** who ensure that members have a professional experience, that the charity's strategy is delivered operationally, and that community-led activities are supported.
- **Our partnerships:** with other learned societies, academies, or consortia at home or internationally as well as with funding, publishing, commercial, civil society, government or academic partners and other stakeholders.

## Our values:

How we work and what we achieve will be shaped by the values of:



## Our strategic goals:

Over the next three years, we will dedicate our resources to meet our charitable purpose and work towards the following strategic goals. We have also identified the activities we need focus on immediately to determine a way forward and achieve this strategy:

1

### We will advocate for Political Studies and represent those who study, teach, and research Politics, International Relations, and related disciplines by:

- Building relationships with and supporting academic departments in Higher Education across the UK
- Responding to government and other consultations on behalf of members
- Being active in the wider stakeholder community and building alliances at home and internationally; especially with parliaments, other learned societies, the British Academy, and the Academy of Social Sciences
- Providing oversight and guidance in regulatory matters, curriculum matters and professional standards.

#### Our immediate focus will be:

- Undertaking a thorough analysis of the state and make-up of the discipline which will allow us to advocate more proactively
- Engaging with the government's Research Excellence Framework process (known as REF29) on behalf of members to help achieve high quality education and research opportunities
- Hosting Heads of Department/School gatherings and open forum sessions for departmental colleagues.



2

### We will support our members as they proceed through their careers and sustain the discipline, by:

- Supporting PhD students and those early in their careers especially through our Early Career Network
- Developing programmes to support mid-career academics and those in senior positions
- Supporting those teaching politics in higher education through our Teaching and Learning Network
- Encouraging opportunities for high-quality mentoring in our association.

#### Our immediate focus will be:

- Reviewing our membership categories and benefits and assessing the potential of introducing a new affiliate category
- Researching and piloting programmes and networks to support mid-career scholars, in partnership with our specialist groups
- Exploring the potential for a new PSA Fellowship to recognise and harness the most experienced and esteemed members of our community.



3

### We will support and sustain a diverse community of students, scholars, and practitioners by:

- Bringing our member community together at our annual conference and other events to ensure research and practice is enhanced by diverse perspectives
- Supporting our specialist groups, networks, and journal teams to hold inclusive events and to provide opportunities for knowledge exchange; enabling members to engage with national and international networks beyond their own organisation/department/institution
- Being a hub for the latest news, research, blogs, and other content
- Collecting and publishing disciplinary and association EDI data, and resultant policies and activities to ensure EDI is core to everything we do
- Investing in programmes to support underrepresented scholars and students.

#### Our immediate focus will be:

- Delivering and evaluating a second round of the **Diverse Voices programme** to support PhD students from under-represented groups
- Reviewing and bolstering our array of specialist groups and how they can have even more impact
- Coming together to celebrate our 75th anniversary including at our annual conference, PSA25, in Birmingham.



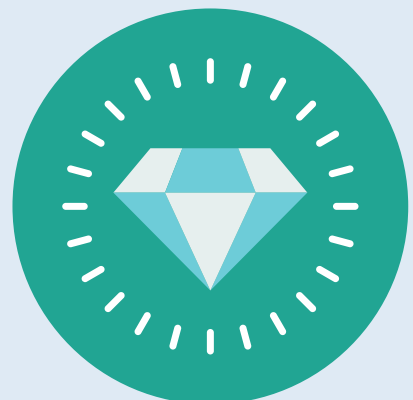
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### We will strive for excellence and impact in research and teaching by:

- Publishing impactful academic journals – ensuring that our content reflects the breadth of our association
- Showcasing our members research to enable knowledge exchange and inform policy and public discourse
- Raising the profile and standard of Political Studies teaching and scholarship in Higher Education
- Providing resources and development opportunities for 16-19 educators and their students
- Awarding academic prizes and providing other opportunities to recognise and celebrate excellence in research, teaching, learning and scholarship across the discipline.

#### Our immediate focus will be:

- Putting in place a new agreement with journal publishers to secure vital income and knowledge exchange opportunities to support our association
- Exploring and deciding how best the PSA can advance 16-19 Government and Politics education.



5

## We will ensure a confident and sustainable future for the Political Studies Association by:

- Ensuring our charity is governed by a skilled and experienced board of trustees; its activities informed and supported by our members
- Having the right staff team and external advisers in place and supporting them to execute this strategy
- Ensuring our infrastructure is fit for purpose and enables us to respond flexibly to future challenges
- Exploring opportunities for collaboration and partnership including through grant funding and sponsorship
- Maintaining a regular cycle of review of our policies and procedures.

### Our immediate focus will be:

- Determining a sustainable finance strategy for the association so we can continue to deliver our charitable aims long into the future
- Launch a new customer relationship management system (CRM) and website to provide additional benefits to our members and make everything we do more visible and accessible.



Do you agree with these goals and activities? Any further suggestions?

[Feedback here](#)

## We will measure our success, as a result of this strategy, by monitoring:



### Membership numbers.

We wish to see membership numbers increase.



### Member and stakeholder surveys.

We wish to see satisfaction and positive sentiment towards the PSA grow.



### Financial performance.

We wish to see growth in income from membership activities and from external funding.



### Engagement with events and communications.

We wish to see a greater engagement of key audiences.



### Evidence of impact in our own right and through partnerships.

We wish to make more of an impact in achieving our charitable goals.



### Representation of historically marginalised groups across all of the Association's activities.

We wish to see further evidence of greater diversity in our association.

These key performance indicators will be monitored alongside evaluating the outcomes from specific programmes, our academic publishing, and campaigns.

The PSA's Executive Committee will oversee the collection of baseline data in all these areas and subsequently set annual performance targets related to these priorities which will be included in the PSA's Annual Report & Accounts. We will conduct our next strategic review of this direction of travel in 2027 to 2028 in collaboration with our members and stakeholders.

**The PSA's team of trustees and staff look forward to working with you to achieve this strategy.**



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