



## **PRCA Launches Global Ethics Council Led by Native Texan, Including Five North American-Based Public Relations Leaders**

London, U.K. – The Public Relations and Communications Association (PRCA) announced on May 20, 2020, the launch of its Global Ethics Council (PRCA GEC), to uphold and elevate ethical standards in the public relations and communications industry. Its inaugural Chairman is David Gallagher, International President of Omnicom, former Chairman of the PRCA, and former President of ICCO.

The PRCA GEC is composed of a small number of the world's most respected practitioners, alongside two external expert members.

Its launch reflects the PRCA's status as the world's largest PR professional body, and the organisation's actions in raising ethical standards in the industry over recent years, particularly since the expulsion of Bell Pottinger in 2017.

The PRCA GEC's inaugural membership includes:

### **Chairman:**

- David Gallagher. President, Growth and International Development of Omnicom Public Relations Group. Former Chairman of PRCA UK. Former President of ICCO.
  - A native of Texas, Gallagher is based in the U.K. (London).

### **Members:**

- Bob Pickard. Principal of Signal Communication Inc.
  - Pickard is based in Canada (Toronto).
- Bridget von Holdt. Business Director of BCW. President of ICCO Africa.
- Claire Walker. CEO of Firefly Communications Group. Chairman of PRCA UK Professional Practices Committee.
- Francis Ingham. Director General of PRCA. Chief Executive of ICCO
- Gustavo Averbuj. CEO and Regional Director Latin America of Ketchum. Chairman of PRCA Latin America.
- Kim Sample. President of PR Council.
  - Sample is based the United States (New York).
- Kiri Sinclair. Founder and CEO of Sinclair Comms. Former Chair of HKPR.
- Lee Nugent. Executive Vice President APAC of Archetype. Chairman of PRCA Southeast Asia.
- Mary Beth West. Senior Strategist of Fletcher Marketing PR.
  - West is based in the United States (Greater Knoxville, TN).
- Massimo Moriconi. General Manager & Amministratore Delegato of OmnicomPRGroup Italy.
- Matt Neale. Global CEO of Golin. Former Chairman of PRCA UK.
  - Neale is a native Briton but is now based in the United States (New York).
- Nitin Mantri. Group CEO of Avian WE. President of ICCO. President of PRCAI.
- Omar Qirem. CEO of Edelman Middle East. Chairman of PRCA Middle East and North Africa.

- Philippa Foster Back OBE. Former Director of the Institute for Business Ethics
- Rob Flaherty. Chairman of Ketchum.
  - **Flaherty is based in the United States (New York).**
- Simon Goldsworthy. Former Professor of Public Relations and co-author of the forthcoming *PR Ethics: The Real World Guide*
- Stephane Billet, President of We Agency. Former President of SCRP.

The GEC's formal remit is as follows:

*Aim*

- *To raise ethical standards around the world*

*Remit*

- *Provide advice to Associations on the content of their Codes; and offer practical suggestions for improvement*
- *Help Associations currently without Codes to create them*
- *Create an international forum for debating common ethical issues*

*Outputs*

- *Create a truly global annual ethics month, with social engagement and ideally events around the world*
- *Each Council member to take turns hosting a monthly twitter chat on topical ethical issues*
- *The oversight and collation of ethics thought leadership*
- *The publication of a global ethics newsletter every month*

*Meetings*

- *At least twice a year: at the PRCA International Summit, and at the ICCO Summit. With the expectation of other regional and remote supplementary events.*

PRCA Director General Francis Ingham MPRCA, said:

“The launch of the PRCA Global Ethics Council is a key moment for our industry. The creation of this global body will help us to set and then to raise even higher global standards of ethical behaviour. The seniority of the Council's membership is unparalleled, and we are grateful that such an esteemed figure as David Gallagher has agreed to be its Chairman.”

David Gallagher FPRCA, International President of Omnicom Public Relations Group and Global Ethics Council Chairman commented:

“As a professional community we have spoken for decades about the need to set and maintain higher ethical standards in communications around the world; now the time has come to act, and I cannot imagine a better place to start than with the people on this new council.”

## **About the PRCA**

The Public Relations and Communications Association (PRCA) is the world's largest professional PR body.

We represent more than 35,000 PR professionals in 66 countries worldwide. With offices in London, Singapore, Dubai, and Buenos Aires, we are a global advocate for excellence in public relations.

Our mission is to create a more professional, ethical, and prosperous PR industry. We champion - and enforce - professional standards in the UK and overseas through our Professional Charter and Code of Conduct. The Code compels members to adhere to the highest standards of ethical practice.

We deliver exceptional training, authoritative industry data, and global networking and development opportunities. We also manage the International Communications Consultancy Organisation (ICCO), the umbrella body for 40 PR associations across the world, and LG Comms – the UK's national body for authorities raising standards of local government communication.

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## **Further information available on request**

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