

RICHTLIJNEN SAFER SPACE

SAFER SPACE MANIFESTO

SAFERSPACEMANIFESO@GMAIL.COM

+32498047818

GENERAL

- Don't call a place SAFE space, but always a SAFER space. It is impossible to decide for everyone what safe means.
- Do you recognise and name the power dynamics in society, which are still hurting the queer community. Do this during your event but also your general work. Do you talk about privileges, the influences of them and how people can use them to do better?
- It is interesting to make a difference between *safer spaces* and *brave spaces*. In safer spaces, there is attention for just "being" with each other without being challenged in identity. In brave spaces there is attention for learning, questioning and talking about these things.
- Do you dismantle the fatphobia in our culture? Be sure you are against diet culture and make this visible in your policy and communication.
- Do you dismantle the colonisation mindset, still present in our society? Are you aware of the consequences of the colonisation?

GENDER

- Make sure you have gender inclusive toilets.
- Make sure your team uses gender inclusive communication, on and off stage.
- Provide the option of stickers (or something else) to make the pronouns of your visitors/audience visible (they/them, she/her, he/him and an open option).
- Inform the people of the organisation and the visitors/audience about these pronouns, preferably in different languages. It helps to make this visible too.

INTERN POLICY

- Make sure there are points of contact (people who are educated about this subject and not only white cis males) who are visible and named.
- Make sure there is a written down policy about what to do if an incident happens.
- Make sure there are reporting points in different ways (phone, online, at the event itself,...)
- Is there a written down consent policy? Is this also visible for the visitors/audience? For example: always ask the person before you touch them.
- If your event is about talking, information,... It is good to have a list of safe(r) services like psychologists, gynaecologists, doctors, hospitals,...) This means these places try to be gender

inclusive, dismantle fatphobia, have an option to speak to a person of the preferred gender/cultural background/language/... Different lists are possible.

- Is the diversity you want the reach also visible in your board?

COMMUNICATION

- Do you communicate clearly beforehand how accessible your event is? (wheelchair accessible? Sign language interpreter? Are there seats? Is there representation for minority groups?)

- Do you explain the safer space policy at the event itself (at the door or during presentation) and do the people who work know what to do when it gets violated?

- Are aware it's a privilege being able to use academic language. Make sure your communication is accessible for everyone.

- Language is important in accessibility. Make clear in which languages the communication will be done at the event. Besides this, you can make clear which languages are available at the contact points.

- If there will be sensitive subject present (on stage, visual,...) it's important to give content warnings. We prefer the term *content warnings* over *trigger warnings*, because it's impossible to decide which is triggering to someone.

- Is there a privacy policy about taking pictures? You can make this visible to provide stickers or ribbons for people who don't want to be photographed.

- To intercept social anxiety, it's good to provide a buddy system. Like this you can give people the option to send a message to the organisation or this person to meet up to go to the event together. Like this people experience less social pressure of going to an event alone.

ACCOMODATION

- Is there a chill room available for people to rest when there are too much stimulus?

- Provide free contraceptives and health care articles for menstruation at the toilets.

- Is there a special room to change? Some people have to conform to societal norms to be safe. An option to change clothes shows this is not necessary at your event and they can be fully themselves.

- Provide free water. Always.

FINANCIAL

- If you have to buy a ticket to enter the event, think about financial accessibility. Not everyone has money for these things. Is there a contact point for people who can't by the ticket, but would like to come?

- What about your prices of drinks or food? (Also there: financial accessibility)