

Community Agreements

1. Choose to be present and engaged

We each agree to stay engaged and to stay present. We agree to actively participate.

2. Pay attention (to heart and meaning)

We agree to actively listen to each other. We listen to not only the content but the feeling tone of what is being shared.

3. Assume positive intent

When we disagree, we will express our views respectfully, acknowledging that EVERYONE is here to learn. We assume a positive intention, even when a dissenting view or challenging point is being shared.

4. Speak your truth (without blame or judgment)

It is important that we hear all voices. Share your truth, based on your experience and recognize that someone else's truth does not diminish or negate yours.

5. Watch your airtime

Be mindful of letting a variety of voices enter the conversation. Manage your sharing or question asking.



“Community isn’t always synonymous with warmth and harmony. Politeness, often a veneer for understanding, in reality it masks undiscovered territory, the unspeakable pit that we turn from because we know the pain and the anger that can dwell there.

It is important to remind ourselves that real community is forged out of struggle. This is the crucible from which a real community grows.”

- Linda Christensen

*Reading, Writing, and Rising Up:
Teaching about Social Justice and
the Power of the Written Word*