

The principles of Safer Space

The following principles have been created for the Association of Cortex to ensure each and everyone more comfortable stay in shared spaces and events. It is desired that each member has read these principles and strives to adhere by them – however, perfection is not demanded from anyone! The intention behind these principles is to guide the members towards more accepting and safer cooperation and to clarify how to act in a problem situation.

1. Everyone has their right for personal space and physical integrity. Respect fellow people's physical and other kinds of boundaries and require the same respect from others towards yourself as well.
2. Avoid drawing conclusions from looks, functioning or actions of another person. Question your assumptions regarding other people's sexuality, sex, gender, relationship preferences, nationality, culture, language, religion, values, health or ability. Strive for accepting differences in courses of action even when they differ from the norm.
3. Aim to talk about other groups of people in a respectful manner and do not use racist, sexist or other kinds of stereotyping talk.
4. It is acceptable and desirable to note about problematic speech or acting. If critique is aimed towards yourself, take it seriously and thrive towards better action in the future. If you see that someone else has made a mistake, notify the offender in a friendly manner and do not embarrass the person in question. A safe space is created with cooperation.
5. Create accepting discussion atmosphere which is open but not forcing. With your actions, strive for perceiving also e.g. people, who do not visit events so often. Be considerate and understanding towards others and pay attention how your words and acts may affect other people.
6. Do not pressure anyone to consume alcohol. Understand, that there are different kinds of attitudes towards consumption of alcohol. Remember to take care of your drunk fellow partygoers and that being drunk does not permit bad behaviour.
7. If you experience discrimination or harassment, contact the Harassment Contact Person of Cortex (*a.k.a. Social Policy organizer or events own Harassment Contact Person*) either personally or via harassment form found from the Cortex's website (Upper banner > Ota yhteyttä > Häirintälomake > Scroll down) You can also contact any member of Cortex's board or Harassment Contact People of TREY. In case of a crime, contact official authorities (112).