

PRINCIPLES FOR A SAFER SPACE

It is important that everyone taking part in any activities by Rainbow Families Finland has the opportunity to feel comfortable and welcomed as themselves. The responsibility for the creation of a safer space falls on everyone collectively. This is why we have developed the following principles to be followed at all moments of coming together.



Act with sensitivity

There are many kinds of people, families, and relationships. Don't assume the gender of another participant, or their family member, based on their appearance or name. Make a choice to not call children boys or girls, and don't try to guess what a parent wants to be called. Don't make assumptions or generalisations about the sexual orientation, family and love relationships, parenthood, bodies, or backgrounds of others. Respect everyone's right to self-determination and indeterminacy, meaning the right to decide and share with others who and what they are.



Be trustworthy

Everything that is shared in a meeting is absolutely confidential. It is also confidential who is in a meeting at a certain moment. Don't take or publish photos without the permission of everyone visible in the picture.

Listen

Give everyone an equal chance to use their voice, or to remain in the background if they choose to. Everyone can only ever speak for themselves. We learn from one another by truly listening.

Give and receive feedback

Some individuals may have practised sensitive ways of talking and actions for quite some time, while others are only at the beginning of this journey. Attitude is key, along with a desire to learn to act sensitively. If someone uses a term that is offensive, or which misrepresents a certain situation, correct it matter-of-factly. When making a mistake, take in the feedback. You can say, for instance: "Sorry. Thank you for correcting me."

You can participate according to your own needs

Feel free to share as much or as little about things important to you as you wish. You do not need to share anything. Remember to take your own wellbeing into account.

Get involved

We do not tolerate harassment, racism, or discrimination. If you notice some form of harassment or other inappropriate conduct taking place, don't remain a silent bystander. Go to the person experiencing the harassment for support, and inform the harasser of the reason: "What you just did is not ok", for example. If you are unable to intervene in the situation yourself, please inform the event organisers immediately.

Be respectful and friendly

Show respect to others and to their experiences. Value the borders set by others. Please don't touch another person without their consent, for example.

If you experience or witness harassment, discrimination, or inappropriate behaviour, please inform the event organisers. If you want to get in touch about a situation later, please get in touch with Rainbow Families Finland's equality coordinators R Rähkä and Sanna Metsäpuu. You can reach them via email yhdenvertaisuus@sateenkaariperheet.fi.

