

Common Ground

TerraAmica Community

Inspired by and on the basis of the Findhorn Foundation`s Common Ground of 1996.
Translation DE>EN by Constanza Fest.

1. Commitment

I acknowledge that community arises from commitment and that my presence is essential for its continued development. I am committed to (re)organizing my priorities in that sense. I recognize that I may be prone to unconscious tendencies of withdrawal from the community. I will communicate these as soon as I am able to identify them, both in myself and others.

2. Spiritual practice and community

I commit to daily spiritual practice, in which I will align myself purposefully and resolutely with my ability to feel, the heart, Spirit, and Silence, for the well-being of the greater whole.

I acknowledge that in order to do so, I will also repeatedly need the support, the companionship and the clear view of other people who are committed to the same determination.

Therefore, as a matter of principle, I am open for other people's view of myself and my behavior, assuming that this can make it easier for me to recognize the blind spots in my self-perception.

---> maybe include sth about projections and being open to gaining valuable insight/information about myself through others?

3. Service

I am committed to serving others, our place, and our planet. To this end, I place my being, my energy, my time and my presence at the disposal of the welfare of the whole, acknowledging all the while that I may also serve myself.

4. Personal development

I commit to the expansion of the human consciousness, including my own. I am willing to recognize and change any of my personal attitudes or behavior patterns, which do not serve this purpose. I take full responsibility for the spiritual, ecological and

human consequences of all of my activities, wishes and needs. I further pledge to communicate these in as aware and open a manner as possible.

5. Personal integrity

I am ready to live a life in accordance with my innermost values. I commit to keeping high standards of personal integrity, all the while keeping congruity between thoughts, words and actions.

6. Respect for others

I wholeheartedly commit to respecting and honoring other people, their differences, points of view, origins, backgrounds and issues. The same goes for other people's and the community's property, as well as for all life-forms, since I hold all of these to be holy and aspects of the Divine.

7. Direct communication

I commit to the principles of clear and honest communication: Open-hearted listening, readiness to feel, answering from the heart, loving acceptance and honesty. Neither in private nor publicly will I speak in a manner that will malign or debase others. I will speak WITH people, instead of ABOUT them. I will seek helpful advice, but not to collude or conspire.

8. Reflection

I recognize that everything which I perceive outside of myself - including any criticism, irritation or appraisal - may be a reflection of that which is inside of me. I commit to examining these triggers inside of myself, to feeling them and to turning towards this inner reality of feelings, before reacting on the level of the outer reality.

9. Responsibility

I take responsibility for my actions and mistakes. I am willing to accept constructive criticism, and to offer constructive feedback to others, in a compassionate manner conducive to supporting and challenging each other to positive growth.

10. Peacefulness/'ahimsa'

I agree not to impose my attitudes or desires (including sexual ones) onto others. I agree to intervene with the intent to stop, or at least to say that I would liked stopped, actions (including manipulation or intimidation) and words which I perceive as abusive either for myself or for others in the community.

11. Determination

I commit to doing everything in order to solve conflicts as quickly as possible and to finding the way back to the heart. At any time of a conflict, I may ask for the presence of a companion, a friend, an independent observer or a mediator. Should a conflict persist unsolved, I will bring it forward in front of the assembled community, recognizing that I may carry inside a blind spot which may want to uphold my resistance to peace. It is especially in moments like these that I am determined to allow the community to guide me.

12. Perspective

I take responsibility for working through and settling my personal issues for the good of the community as a whole. I acknowledge that there are other, further-reaching perspectives than my own, and deeper issues than those which immediately concern me.

13. Cooperation

I acknowledge that I live in a spiritual community, and that the community can only function through my cooperation and good communication. I agree to communicating my decisions clearly. I agree to communicating with others who might be affected by my actions and decisions, and to respectfully and carefully take their views into account. I recognize that others may take decisions which might concern me, and I agree to acknowledge the care, integrity and wisdom, which they have brought to their decision-making process.

14. Agreements

I pledge to keep agreements that I made, and to not break or circumvent any principles, rules or guide lines of the community.

15. Dedication

I am dedicated to exercising the spirit of this declaration of common values in all of my relationships.

Dated Dec. 27th 2018