

Declaration of Personal Responsibility Queere Jugend NRW

Version adopted the 30th March 2019 (spring-network meeting, Cologne)

As a youth group facilitator in Queere Jugend NRW, I regard following points as important and I commit to them:

1. I am familiar with the guiding principles of Queere Jugend NRW and I act in accordance with them.
2. I am willing to cooperate with the Fachstelle Queere Jugend NRW and with other queer youth groups. I am willing to participate in Queere Jugend NRW network meetings and to make use of the services offered by the Fachstelle Queere Jugend.
3. I am aware of my role and responsibilities as a youth group facilitator.
4. I commit myself, as a youth group facilitator, to promote the right of young people to self-determination and to give it priority over my personal goals and desires.
5. I promote respectful behavior in the group and encourage participants to follow the rules of conversation. I proactively step in against any violation of personal boundaries and of these rules.
6. I seek to encourage the autonomous personal growth of participants with my actions by bringing their strengths and resources into focus and by respecting their limits.
7. I accept different attitudes if they are respectful of everyone's boundaries. I don't force anyone to reveal their thoughts, feelings and experiences.
8. I strive to create a space that is to all possible extents free of discrimination and I take a stand against discriminatory behavior.
9. I will not use my role as a youth group facilitator for my own benefit. I am not getting involved as a group facilitator with the intention of making new friends. I will not use my position as facilitator to have private contact with participants. If people with whom I have private contact attend the meetings, this will not lead to a hierarchic division between participants. I will act in a transparent and reasonable way.
10. I will not initiate or respond to any physical contact of an erotic nature or to any other type of contact that may cross personal boundaries. I will ensure that participants are respectful of each other's boundaries and that the group's atmosphere is open.
11. I am generally open to provide and accept support and/or feedback.
12. I will, when necessary, make use of the local network of counseling centers (Beratungsstellen) and specialist offices (Fachstellen), seek professional counselling myself, inform about these services in youth group meetings, and refer participants to them.

13. I am familiar with the emergency contact form (Notfallkarte) of Queere Jugend NRW and I will make use of it. I was provided with the manual folder¹ of Queere Jugend NRW and I am aware of which support documents it contains.
14. I have the right to contact the Queere Jugend NRW office at any time to get help implementing the guiding principles of Queere Jugend NRW and a protection policy.
15. I respect my own physical and mental boundaries and take my self-care seriously. I am capable of informing my team colleagues about these boundaries.

I, as a group facilitator, commit myself to this declaration. I will seek a close cooperation with the responsible institution of my youth group and/or with other local (specialist) offices. The Queere Jugend NRW office will provide support in this regard.

City, Date

Signature

¹ Currently, Queere Jugend NRW's manual is still being edited and its publication is expected for October 2019. The folder will contain key introductory texts and documents, as well as practical tools and resources for the work of volunteer youth group leaders in the Queere Jugend NRW network. Among others, it will include the texts and materials that were prepared in 2018 and 2019 as part of the creation process of Queeren Jugend NRW's protection policy.