

Awareness concept

Rebellious Gathering 2023

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Foreword

The Rebellious Gathering should be a place where everyone can feel comfortable. For this, a mindful, discrimination-sensitive and solidary interaction with each other is the basis.

Please note: We are aware that we cannot offer a "safe" space for anyone. The social reality is that racism, sexism, classism, ableism and various other discriminatory -isms are still internalized in all of us. Structural conditions also contribute to this. For example, the core organizing team of this camp has consisted primarily of white people. In view of our environment and influences from outside, such as repression, we want to say that we as an orga team do our best to reflect all -isms in ourselves and in our structures. We do not succeed in this sufficiently. So we are trying to build up the Rebellious Gathering as a "safeR" space, a place where there is much less discrimination, more reflection and a more harmonious coexistence of all than it is currently the norm in our society. In the following, the arrangements and precautions made in detail to approach this goal are presented.

AWARENESS CONSENSUS

We live in a society that is unfortunately characterized by unequal power relations. People are advantaged (privileged) and disadvantaged (discriminated) on the basis of certain characteristics - whether exercised intentionally or unconsciously. No human being is free of prejudice and discrimination in dealing with others. Therefore, a conscious reflection on this must take place within each individual person. Awareness is a concept that opposes all forms of discrimination, violence and boundary violations. Violating and transgressive behavior, such as sexist, racist, queerphobic, transphobic, ableist, anti-Semitic, classist or comparable assaults will not be tolerated at the camp. We understand the Rebellious Gathering as a place of mindful and respectful interaction with each other and we desire this from all participants. Therefore, there is an awareness team during the camp, which sees itself as a contact structure in case of transgressive, assaultive and discriminatory behavior, as well as taking on an awareness role. Information about the awareness concept is available from our awareness team and in the awareness tent. Again, we want to point out that the awareness space cannot be a "safe" space and that the work of the awareness contact persons cannot be free of discrimination, racist structures and thought patterns as well as internalized power structures.

If you are affected by exclusionary, discriminatory, transgressive or violent behavior, or if you need to talk for other reasons, you can always contact the awareness contact persons. Every intuition to come to us is important and we encourage you to follow it. Please speak up once too often rather than once too little!

When people see their boundaries violated and what behavior is experienced as violence can be very different. The right to decide when something is considered violent and assaultive lies with the person that is affected. We do not question what is experienced.

Contacting us

At the camp we are on call around the clock and can be reached by phone: and by radio. We have a shift plan for this. Talk to people at the info point, then you can radio from there. During the night the awareness is reachable by phone. At the awareness tent, awareness people are available during meal times: in the morning during breakfast time: 8:00 - 9:00, at noon from 13:00 - 14:00 and in the evening from 18:30 - 19:30h. During the bar hours and the evening cultural events we are on site. You will recognize us -as during the day- by our pink armbands.

We work with power of definition

(This section is taken from the awareness consensus in Lützerath.)

This means: people can always define for themselves what they have experienced as assault or discrimination. When people see their boundaries violated and what behavior is experienced as violence can vary greatly. The right to decide when something is considered violent and assaultive lies with the person affected by it. We do not question what has been experienced.

We work with an affected-centered approach.

This means: first, we offer affected persons emotional support in dealing with the assaultive situation. Then we ask what further steps the affected person would like to see. This can also mean, for example, entering into a discussion process with the person who has been assaulted or communicating certain points of criticism/wishes to the person through the A-Team.

Together as a team with the person concerned, we weigh up the further actions & possible consequences and are guided by the wishes of the person concerned.

We do not work with sanctioning power for affected persons.

This means: we do not simply enforce every wish/demand of affected persons. We see ourselves as an A-Team in a mediating role. As a group, we weigh our different perceptions of the situation and discuss which actions & consequences we find appropriate.

Explanation of sanctions and exclusions

This section has been taken from the awareness consensus in Lützerath.

It can happen that situations arise where exclusions cannot be prevented, i.e. either affected persons are excluded due to the fact that they no longer feel safe/well, or assaulted persons have to be actively excluded by people with sanctioning power in order to create a safer space. In such cases, the awareness team positions itself behind affected persons and takes up the wishes and demands of affected persons.

The A-Team wants exclusion to be an option - but sees this as a last resort.

This means that a decision made is not taken lightly, but results from preparatory work that has taken place in an intensive reflection room and dialogue with all participants. The A-Team is aware that an exclusion is a drastic measure, e.g. for people who recognize this place as their home, therefore this action should always be thought through sensitively and other options should be considered. However, this approach requires that the A-Team is trusted by the local people and that the actions are not questioned on principle.

Awareness is a group task

Even if you notice problematic problematic behavior in your environment, you are welcome to feel free to contact us. Even if awareness structures are in place each individual and all of us together are responsible at all times for ensuring that the meeting is a discrimination-sensitive space for all. So don't rely on the fact that the work is done exclusively by the awareness team. Please feel empowered to support your fellows. Work actively and question your position (of power), your appearance and behavior behavior, even if you have not (yet) been asked to do so.

Criticism and learning

We encourage you to relate criticism to specific behaviors. relate. What does this behavior have to do with your own needs and values values, such as respect or equality?

Conversely we would like to encourage you to understand criticism not as a personal as a personal attack, but as an indication of a learning opportunity. Defense may protect self-

esteem in the short term short term, but in the long run, openness to (self-)criticism offers an opportunity to earn recognition - because it requires much more bravery and honesty.

Be aware

Selfawareness

Listen to your body and your emotional and mental state, don't overwork and overexert yourself and take care of yourself and your needs. Give yourself regular time-outs and value your breaks; drink enough water and try to eat enough and healthy. All awareness contact persons should know and communicate their own limits. If you are unsure, you should always take the time and space to talk it over with other contact persons. When in doubt, feel encouraged to remove yourself from uncomfortable situations.

FLINTA* Awareness, Sexism

Dominant behavior by cis males that takes away other people's space, whether in shifts, workshops, or other camp life, should have no place with us at camp. We want to work together to reflect on this macho behavior and encourage an open approach to it.

Reflecting on one's own patterns of oppression can also be liberating for cis-male people. We help each other fight against the patriarchy within us.

Please don't assume that you can tell a person's preferred pronouns

(she/him/they/none/human) by their appearance - ask instead. Please reflect on your role and the space you take up in conversations or actions, making sure to distribute conversation time and spaces in a gender-appropriate way. In doing so, please try not to reproduce patriarchal communication and behavioral patterns (e.g. mansplaining, etc.).

There will be a FLINTA*-only space. So far we have not received any requests for a FLINTA* only sleeping or tent area. If you have the need for it, please contact us and we will set it up! We have already reserved the place for it.

Critical whiteness

(Written by a white person)

Racism is a structural problem that we need to address at camp as well. The camp should be a space where Black people, People of Color, and Indigenous people can feel comfortable. It should also be a place where we actively work together against all forms of racism. There is a BIPOC-only lounge. Unfortunately, it was not possible for us to create a pure FLINTA* BIPOC Safer Space due to the space available. We have also not yet received any requests for a BIPOC-only sleeping or tent area. However, we have reserved such a space as a precaution. If you have the need for it, please contact us and we will set it up!

For an antiracist camp it is also essential that especially white people critically deal with their whiteness. Being white does not only describe a skin color, but above all the social position in which white people find themselves. This position is accompanied by certain privileges. As a white person, we want you to be aware of your privileges and behave accordingly at the camp. Colonial, racist terms with hurtful effects such as the N-word and the Z-word have no place at the camp. Be aware that BIPOC and people without German citizenship are generally more affected by police repression. So act accordingly in solidarity. And if it is pointed out to you that something you have said or done seems racist, please take this criticism seriously and reflect on it. If you find this difficult or feel your criticism is not being heard properly, feel free to bring in people from the awareness team.

Awareness for dis-abled people

(Written by a person without a disability)

Many aspects of life are not thought about for dis-abled people because they are not visible to many non dis-abled people. At the same time, dis-abled people experience invasive behavior in that they are denied independence. If you feel the impulse to help a person without being asked because you think they can't do it on their own, ask yourself where the impulse comes from to think this way. You can offer people your help to support them in their self-determination. Please make sure that you do not act or speak in a patronizing way.

Neurodiverse Awareness

(Written by a neurotypical person)

Neurodivergent people often experience discrimination, for example by being denied independence, the ability to make judgments and/or decisions. Affected people also report that they are spoken to as if they were a child. Or they feel they are being restricted from the group, with the conditions they need to be present (e.g., acoustic retreats). We do not condone these examples and other forms of discrimination against neurodivergent people.

There is a wide spectrum of neurodivergence: autism, ADHD, dyslexia, Down Syndrome, mental illnesses such as depression or anxiety disorders are some examples.

Neurodivergence is multifaceted and should be considered as such. Remember that the affected person their self knows what helps best in a situation and address the wishes or needs of the affected person. In this way, help can be given in a more meaningful and less discriminatory way.

Accompanying young people

(written by a person accompanying a child)

It is difficult for people who accompany young people to participate in camps and political meetings, especially if they are solo caring. We have a Kidscamp on the camp, where a supervision of young people is organized at least in the time of the workshops and where also offers for young people take place.

Intersectionality

Many people are affected by different categories of discrimination at the same time. Awareness work should therefore be thought of intersectionally. We try to include the differing experiences by having as diverse an awareness team as possible.

Conversation culture

We want to create a space where we respect and listen to each other. Listening is more than listening to the person speaking: Listen inside yourself as well, where does the impulse to speak come from, what do I want to say and why?

Concrete hints for the meeting

Solidarity and money

The different approaches we have to money, we want to carry through our common solidarity. For food and camp infrastructure you can contribute as you see fit. There is also a solidarity pot at the camp where people can put money. If people need financial support to participate and contribute at the Rebellious, the pot is there for that! At the camp there will be a box where you can put your needs on slips of paper. You can also ask us about your needs at the info tent. If you would like to support people financially, you can do so directly at the camp via the cash box for solos and the camp cash box, which are located at the info tent. The money will be distributed according to the needs. If it is not enough, we will look for solutions together.

If you need financial support in advance to participate in the Rebellious, write us!

(rebellisches@riseup.net)

Procedure in emergency situations

If there is a dangerous or unpleasant situation (e.g. threat of violence, sexual harassment, etc.) from which you want to escape or be escorted out, possibly without attracting attention, you can also turn to people of the organizing team or helpers who can support you in contacting the awareness team. If possible, the awareness teams will be mixed-gendered. The awareness team will provide you with a place of retreat, after which you can decide (gladly with support) how you want to deal with the situation. The focus is on concrete support for your needs. If you want, we will look together for a way of dealing with the situation that you feel comfortable with. Nothing will happen without your clear consent.

First aid

In case you need medical care, please contact the organizing or awareness team.

Together we can organize first aid and give you information about paramedics, hospitals and pharmacies. Emergencies need to be treated externally by doctors. If you have tested positive for Corona or have another potentially contagious disease, please contact the awareness team or the information tent. There, people can support you in your needs, e.g. organizing a ride back, finding a quiet place, blocking off a toilet.

First aid kits are at the info tent & in the trailer at the Kids Space.

Retreat

If you are not feeling well or if you ever feel the need for a a quieter place with less hustle and bustle, you can retreat to the awareness area. Since the area is small and should be free for emergencies, it is not for 'chilling out', but for real downtime. If there is a need for acoustic silence, we will make every effort to find in the area in the house.

Accessibility

Unfortunately, much of the Walterhausen commune is not barrier-free. Most of the food and events take place outside and at ground level. There is a toilet that is accessible at ground level, but has no lifting support. The shower is accessible at ground level, but there is no lift assist to get into the tub. There are no walking aids for people with visual impairments. It is best to talk to us, then we can adjust to your needs (find accompaniment, create markers).

If you need further assistance or encounter any hurdle, contact the Awareness Team and we will do our best to find a solution. We are sorry that the barriers are still there and still hope to enable more accessibility in the situations on the ground.

Toilets and showers

All dry toilets are "All Gender* Welcome" toilets. This also applies to the restrooms in the building. There are single person showers. If you have needs for the sanitary facilities that are not (yet) met, please talk to us.

Translation

The lectures and workshops will be held in german. Unfortunately, we are not able to translate all events. There will be whispered translations if needed. And there is a shift plan, through which translation with translation technology will also take place. If you speak several languages yourself, which we include sign language, and are willing to do whisper translations in the workshops, contact the Info-tent or Orga team.

Camp Spaces

Within the space for private tents, there will be one space each for BiPoC only and FLINTA* only that CAN be used, but do not HAVE to. If you do not feel you belong to these groups, please do not camp in these areas, the rest of the camping area is open to all.

Upper body and nudity

We would like to become a place where we deal with privileges and mechanisms of domination. It is a privilege and an expression of domination, when certain groups of people – in especially cis* men - can show themselves topless in public. That is why we would like to stick to the compromise that all people during the camp will have their upper body clothed. We hope that the "topless-with-debate" will lead to a process with all of us - especially with cis* men - and that a lively and that a lively exchange about privileges and how to deal with them takes place. Young people (children) are excluded and should decide for themselves how they want to walk around.

Alcohol and consciousness-expanding substances

We would like to encourage you to reduce the use of alcohol and mind-expanding substances at this meeting. We would like to reflect on the revolutionary women's law of our Compañeras Zapatistas. No or moderate or reflected consumption of alcohol and mind-expanding substances, will help us to have more energy the next day for the things we want to achieve. We would like to see alcohol consumption only in the area of the bar and the evening events. Should you consume alcohol or substances outside of this area, we ask that you please outside of this area, we ask that you check with everyone in your immediate ask everyone around you if they feel comfortable or if they have any resistance.

Smoking

If you want to smoke tobacco, please use the designated areas or ask everyone around you if they feel comfortable or have any resistance. Please dispose of your butts in (hand) ashtrays and in the trash. Please keep the area clean and be considerate. E-cigarettes are no exception.

Photographing and filming

There are different reasons why people do not want to be filmed or photographed. We urge you at this point to handle your photos and films responsibly, so that the right to one's own image is respected. In short: Please do not photograph people without being asked!

WORDING

(from <https://www.ende-gelaende.org/news/hinweise-von-der-antira-fuer-die-massenaktion-2021/>)

(1) white

white or whiteness, like the term PoC, is not a biological characteristic, but a political and social construction. The term whiteness refers to the dominant and privileged position in the power relation of racism. It often remains unspoken and unnamed, although every discrimination includes both a discriminated position and a privileged position. Unlike the term BIPoC, whiteness is not a self-designation. To make it clear that whiteness is not an empowering self-designation, we write whiteness in lowercase and italics, in contrast to the empowering self-designation Black, which we write in uppercase and non-italics.

(2) BIPoC

The following definition is from the IN*VISION <https://in-vision.org/infos/faq> - Thankyou for allowing us to use it. BIPoC stands for Black, Indigenous and People of Color. This includes all people who have ancestors from parts of the African continent, Asia and West Asia through one or more parents. Whose ancestors are Rom*nja, Sint*ezza, indigenous people from Australasia, from North and South America, from the Caribbean or from the Indian Ocean region. Descendants of Europeans who migrated to Asia, Africa or the Americas for colonial and imperialist reasons are not included.

(3) Repression

Repression is arbitrary action by state authorities, such as the police or the courts, and can include physical violence, but also legal prosecution and punishment of political activism. Repression is a means of maintaining social relations of domination – also and especially in the reproduction of discrimination, such as racism.

(4) FLINTA*/QINTA.

F=Female, L=Lesbian, I=Inter, N=Non-Binary, T=Trans, A=Agender, * (and further).
Q=Queer or Questioning

(5) Neurodiverse, Neurodivergent, Neurotypical.

Neurodiversity is the idea that it is "normal" for people to have brains that function "differently" from the medical or societal norm.

Neurodivergence is the term for people whose brains function differently in one or more ways than what is considered "normal" or "typical" by societal norms.

Neurotypical is a descriptive term that refers to someone whose brain functions, behaviors, and processing are considered "standard" or "typical" by societal norms.

(6) **Awareness**

The term "awareness" comes from the English "to be aware" and means (in a broad sense) "to be aware, to be informed, to be sensitive to certain problems."

(7) **Cis** describes that a person lives in the gender that was proclaimed after birth. For example, if "male" was entered on the birth certificate and the person finds this ascription appropriate, he is a cis man. (<https://www.gender-nrw.de/cis-gender/>)