

Sixth Sense - Reconciliation Compendium

Sixth Sense is a non-profit organization inspired by the ten principles of Burning Man, plus consent, that acts through educational workshops, support for arts and artists, and the creation of an inclusive and open-minded community.

Facilitating reconciliation between parties involved in a consent violation is a delicate and complex process that requires empathy, active listening, and a commitment to promoting understanding, healing, and accountability.

Key Aspects of a Reconciliation Meeting Between Victim and Offender:

1. Creating a Safe and Supportive Environment:

Establish a safe and confidential space where both parties feel comfortable expressing themselves. Ensure that the environment is free from distractions and conducive to open, honest dialogue. Favor a setting that offers privacy and comfort.

2. Facilitating Open Communication:

Encourage both parties to share their perspectives, emotions, and experiences. Foster open communication, active listening, and empathy to promote understanding and connection.

3. Acknowledging and Validating Emotions:

Validate the emotions of both parties, acknowledging the impact of the consent violation on their well-being. Create a supportive atmosphere where emotions can be expressed and addressed with empathy and respect.

4. Encouraging Accountability and Responsibility:

Guide the offender in taking accountability for their actions, acknowledging the harm caused, and expressing genuine introspection and remorse. Emphasize the importance of recognizing and accepting responsibility for the impact of the violation.

5. Setting Goals and Intentions:

Establish shared goals and intentions for the reconciliation meeting, focusing on healing, understanding, and working towards resolution. Encourage both parties to articulate their desired outcomes and commitments to moving forward positively.

6. Fostering Empathy and Understanding:

Facilitate an exchange of perspectives to promote empathy, compassion, and understanding between victim and offender. Encourage both parties to listen actively, reflect on each other's experiences, and cultivate empathy for the other's journey.

7. Promoting Restorative Actions and Healing:

Collaborate on identifying restorative actions, reparations, or agreements that can contribute to healing, repair harm, and prevent future violations. Encourage constructive dialogue on ways to address the impact of the violation and promote restoration of trust.

8. Structuring and Guiding the Dialogue:

Provide structure and guidance to the dialogue while allowing for organic conversation and reflection. Use open-ended questions, reflective listening, and affirmation to facilitate a productive and meaningful exchange.

What the Facilitator Should Pay Extra Attention To:

1. Power Dynamics and Safety:

Be mindful of power differentials between parties and ensure that the meeting is conducted in a balanced and safe manner. Pay attention to any signs of coercion, intimidation, or power imbalance and address them proactively.

2. Trauma Triggers and Emotional Responses:

Recognize trauma triggers and emotional responses that may arise during the meeting and provide appropriate support and validation. Ensure that the space is conducive to addressing emotional reactions, offering grounding techniques, and referring individuals to additional support as needed.

3. Non-Verbal Communication and Cues:

Pay attention to non-verbal cues, body language, and expressions to gauge the emotional state of both parties. Be attuned to subtle signals of discomfort, distress, or agreement that may not be explicitly verbalized.

4. Conflict Resolution and De-escalation:

Be prepared to navigate conflicts, tensions, or disagreements that may surface during the meeting. Utilize conflict resolution techniques, active listening, and positive communication strategies to de-escalate tensions and promote constructive dialogue.

5. Confidentiality and Boundaries:

Maintain strict confidentiality and uphold the boundaries established for the reconciliation meeting. Clarify expectations around privacy, consent, and information sharing to protect the integrity and safety of both parties.

6. Ethical Considerations and Self-Care:

Uphold ethical principles in facilitating the reconciliation meeting, including respect for autonomy, consent, and confidentiality. Prioritize self-care practices for the facilitator to manage their own emotions, biases, and well-being throughout the process.

Conclusion

By attending to these key aspects and paying extra attention to critical factors such as power dynamics, trauma triggers, emotional responses, and ethical considerations, the facilitator can create a supportive, respectful, and productive environment for a reconciliation meeting between the victim and perpetrator of a consent violation.

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