

## **Faro Safer Space Principles**

**Faro aspires to be a safer tattoo studio. Both staff and customers are expected to follow principles of safer space. If you have any questions or suggestions concerning these principles or practices of safer space, please contact any member of the staff. We are happy to revise these as needed.**

### **1. Respect boundaries—both physical and emotional.**

Asking is the only way to know another person's boundaries. Do not touch anyone without explicit consent. The tattoo artist will only touch you when necessary and will ask before touching and will explain why they are touching. Do not go to watch another person's tattoo session without permission. Respect their right to privacy while getting a tattoo.

Before a session, communicate with the tattoo artist about what your needs are (concerning music, socializing, privacy, etc.) during the session and also listen to and respect the needs of the artist. Try to find practices that are okay for both of you. If your needs are incompatible, another tattoo artist might be a better choice for you. While getting a tattoo, it's important to give you what you need and also to provide the artist with optimal working conditions to do their craft.

Remember that things you find enjoyable can cause someone else discomfort. Talking can also be a form of harassment. Don't make inappropriate or offensive jokes and insinuating comments. Do not pry into the private life of others. Everyone has the right to decide what information they want to disclose about themselves and to whom.

### **2. Acknowledge your privilege and give space.**

Think about how different privileges influence your position and your opportunities to act and feel comfortable. Please do not judge or undermine others. Pay attention to how much you take space in a discussion and how much you give space for others to speak, or to just be.

### **3. Question your assumptions and challenge your prejudice.**

Acknowledge that your assumptions about people—their appearance, gender, sexuality, the color of their skin, the language they use, their physical characteristics, class background, or immigrant status—might affect how you behave towards them. Question your preconceptions about bodies, personalities, identities, backgrounds, or "where people come from", and let others just be themselves. Everyone has a right to define their own identity. Use only those gendered terms that people themselves wish to be used of them. "They" is a good gender neutral pronoun, when you don't yet know the preferred pronoun of someone. You can also ask for another person's pronouns—this is a good way to be considerate and to avoid misgendering.

#### **4. Value all bodies and promote food peace.**

Faro is a place where all bodies are accepted and valued. We do not participate in the promotion of diet culture. Please do not comment on your own or other people's bodies in this space. Making value statements about bodies (like complimenting someone on their shape or size or making negative remarks about your own) can uphold exclusionary and discriminatory ideas on how a proper body looks like and functions. Resist fatphobic and ableist ideals of bodies. All bodies are good bodies!

If there is talk of food, let's do it respectfully and positively. Do not make remarks about portion size or the nutritional value of food. Everyone chooses for themselves what they eat and how much. There is no place for judgement and blame when talking about food.

#### **5. Take responsibility and act against discrimination and oppression.**

Challenging discriminating and oppressive behavior is everyone's responsibility. Discrimination can, for example, take the form of homo- and transphobia, sexism, racism, age or class discrimination, ableism and body norms. Accept responsibility for your actions. If someone feels they have been hurt or insulted, they have the right to feel and express it without their experience being questioned or their way of reacting being criticized. Take in the critique you are given and change your behavior accordingly.

***If you or someone around you has to compromise their wellbeing and needs support, please bring it up with the staff or contact the safer spaces support person xx.***

**Credit:** These safer spaces principles have been compiled by J. da Silva Gonçalves on the basis of the safer spaces policy of [Pink&Black Helsinki](#) and [Loukko](#). There are also elements from the [Declaration of Food Peace](#) by the Eating Disorder Association of Finland.