

# PRINCIPLES OF A SAFER SPACE

## We treat each other respectfully

- We respect each other's physical, mental and emotional boundaries.
- We speak respectfully of ourselves and each other.
- Everyone has a right to feel safe in their bodies, therefore we won't criticize or comment on others or our own bodies.
- Everyone has a stake in making our shared space welcoming for all.

## We avoid making assumptions

- We avoid guessing or assuming other people's gender identity, sexuality, background, life situation or (physical or mental) abilities.
- Instead of assuming, we aspire to be open and listen to one another - we give others a chance to tell more about themselves.
- We are learning to recognize and become aware of our own prejudices and assumptions so that we can be more considerate towards one another.

## We give space to one another

- We make sure everyone has a space to speak and participate in their own way.
- We don't harass others verbally or by touching or staring.
- We stop if someone asks for it - no means no.
- We respect everyone's personal space.

## All of us take responsibility for creating a safer atmosphere

- At Kohtaus you're allowed to speak about difficult topics as well. In our conversations we'll make sure we take others into account and speak respectfully about different topics for they can be sensitive to others due to personal experiences.
- Principles of safer space don't mean that you have to be perfect or have to know how to do everything - you have permission to make mistakes and to learn. Everybody makes mistakes sometimes but the most important thing is to take responsibility for one's actions and apologize.
- We all commit to comply with the principles of safer space so that Kohtaus can be as safe a place as possible for different kinds of people. You don't have to make friends with everyone but we aspire to treat one another with kindness and respect.

**If you experience or witness problematic situations, please notify someone from the Kohtaus Crew.**