



Climate Liberation Aotearoa Brave Spaces, Tension Shifting, Conflict Resilience

Climate Liberation Aotearoa (CLA) carries and is dedicated to supportive, non-threatening environments where respect, open-mindedness, compassion, and empathy are actively practiced, as well as sustaining physical, mental, and emotional safety. This includes being critical of present power structures that unfairly favour genders, sexualities, skin tones, ethnicities, races, religious beliefs, neurotypes and physicalities over others. By participating in any activity organised by CLA everyone has a responsibility to uphold these values of safe spaces, and any judgemental or harassing behaviour will not be tolerated.

Together we are the active guardians of the community and culture we create when meeting in hui online, kanohi ki te kanohi (face to face), mobilising and on the streets when we take action. The threads that weave us together in action are our shared purpose, our shared love of Papatūānuku and all life, a commitment to nonviolence, and the courage to take a stand for justice.

Being non-racist, non-sexist, non-homophobic for example is not enough. We believe we must be actively *anti* all forms of oppression including racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, classism, capitalism, Islamophobia and anti-Semitism and any other form of religious persecution.

BRAVE SPACE - a definition

There is no such thing as a “safe space” —
We exist in the real world.
We all carry scars and have caused wounds.
This space
seeks to turn down the volume of the world
outside,
and amplify voices that have to fight to be
heard elsewhere,
This space will not be perfect.
It will not always be what we wish it to be But
It will be our space together,
and we will work on it side by side.
~Beth Strano∞

FOSTERING RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF CONFLICT;

Respect the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual boundaries and the safety of fellow activists & participants. LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER!

RADICAL RESPONSIBILITY - Take responsibility for your own behaviour by understanding how it can affect others. Freedom of expression is encouraged, but not at the cost of alienating/harming others. We come together to break down the systems of oppression that have resulted in the climate and ecological and other crises. We commit to addressing these systems of oppression in ourselves and in our group culture too.

Power positioning

Abusive situations are often created when people are unaware of the power they have in a relationship or situation.

Gender, sexuality, size, physical impairment, ethnicity, age, class, education, mental health, who you know and how well you know them for example can all affect how much power a person has in any situation. Maintain non-violence at all times: During our actions, people present on site will abstain from any physical or verbal violence, including insults, towards our members and participants at our events.

Harmful behaviour includes but is not limited to:

- making racist, sexist, classist, transphobic, homophobic, ableist, or fat-phobic comments of any kind
- catcalling or sexual harassment
- failure to respect the physical and/or emotional safety of others
- failure to respect personal boundaries when they have been made clear to you - including physical and personal space, pronoun use, jokes, etc
- cultural appropriation
- generally disrespecting other attendees' rights to participate and have an enjoyable time at our events.

We reject all forms of racism including Islamophobia and anti-Semitism, anti-Semitic/Islamophobic organisations, racist action, racist symbols, anti-Semitic/Islamophobic conspiracy theories, or people with racist, Islamophobic or anti-Semitic views.

We commit to giving and receiving feedback with open minds and hearts in the practice of nonviolence. People who are unwilling to discuss and potentially correct their harmful behaviour may be excluded from taking action with Climate Liberation Aotearoa.

It is encouraged to call-in* people for inappropriate behaviour if it can be done safely. We aim to shift tensions as they arise in non-confrontational ways to avoid situations escalating into conflict. It's often more effective to quietly speak to someone about their uncomfortable or ignorant behaviour, rather than attempting to publicly humiliate them. If you feel unsure or unsafe to address it directly please tell one of the core team or a supportive person. Remember that if you are the person who has been wronged you do not have to call in the behaviour yourself. We are a team, working on unlearning the systems of oppression together:

- Calling in vs Calling out - Still addresses harm and discrimination.
 - Starts with a self-assessment, am I able to hold space for their feelings?
 - Usually a one-on-one or small group conversation, not with the whole group
 - Supports those who have experienced harm and discrimination to heal.
 - Focuses on challenging behaviour, rather than bad people.
 - Acknowledges that we have all been socialised in a system where this behaviour is accepted and encouraged and we all need support to unlearn these behaviours.
 - Comes from love and compassion for the person instead of anger
 - Response is calm and invites a conversation, instead of a fight

- Acknowledges that the other person is just as complex as you are
- Offers people a chance to redeem themselves and be forgiven
- Allows us all to grow and learn together
- Grows the movement rather than alienates people

If the tension cannot be shifted we will bring in independent nonviolent communication (or similar) facilitators.

In situations of power imbalances or abuse the most affected person may not wish to call in or engage in facilitated discussion with the other. In this case they are encouraged to reach out to a local group coordinator, core team member, or any other appropriate person to begin a process of addressing the needs and behaviours.

ADD SOMETHING HERE TO CONNECT THE BITS

Weapons: No weapons or things appearing as weapons. Items that are obviously props or for theatrical purposes are okay as long as it is clear they are not real weapons.

Drugs and alcohol: Individuals present on the site of our actions will not consume alcohol or mood-altering drugs

Maintain non-violence at all times: people present must abstain from any physical or verbal violence, including insults, towards our members, participants, and passersby at events.

BE PERSONALLY AWARE:

Gender, sexuality, size, physical impairment, ethnicity, age, class, education, mental health, who you know and how well you know them for example can all affect how much power a person has in any situation.

Don't assume everyone feels as comfortable as you do, or is completely able to inform you if you are saying and doing hurtful things.

Mistakes will happen, along with forgiveness, but hurting others is not ok.

If any CLA participant(s) make yourself or others feel unsafe or hurt, please speak directly with an CLA core team member or a dedicated support person (these people will be made clear to everyone at the time) as above

All feedback and or complaints are welcome so that we can improve and grow better. Please use this brief form <https://forms.gle/DjEkiDPqv8nAdMp9A>

Ngā mihi nui,

Climate Liberation Aotearoa

