

## **DEVELOPING “SAFER SPACES” IN NIGHTLIFE (NYC)**

This doc was created with the intention of sharing resources, information, articles, thoughts and opinions on creating “safer spaces” and opposing our oppressors in nightlife spaces.

“Safe Space” is a statement of intent for what myself, and many others, would like to see at parties, venues, events and other social settings.

However, this term is often used as a loaded facade for promoters, venues and event curators to capitalize off of. A lot of clubs are grounds for sexual assault, harassment, patriarchal flexing and blatant disrespect.

I’m working with multi- faceted platform [xCAKES](#) to reclaim parties, raves and nightlife spaces as a haven for marginalized people to express themselves. I’ve experienced and witnessed enormous amounts of harassment, disrespect and abusive behavior that seems to repeat itself. I hope to see spaces develop more guidelines and dialogue focused on safety and respect. Our bodies and identity are important to us, and deserve to be respected without any questions. Open dialogues about securing spaces can help those who have never experienced harassment use their privilege to protect others. My goal is for this information to reach curators, hosts, clubs, etc and prevent violence and harassment in nightlife. I’d like to share this document to anyone involved in nightlife who has any input on how to cultivate “safer spaces”.

**Xx (Pauli Cakes)**

### **HOW DOES THIS WORK?**

*There is an outline to the left of this document (in view tab) with different topics, such as reducing harassment in nightlife, safety-proofing DIY spaces to prevent legal run ins, educating nightlife staff, etc. You can provide excerpts from articles \*please use citations\*, thoughts and opinions, links to helpful texts, etc. Please be mindful of the space you take up on this document. If you’re contributing information, please list your name under contributors and list your roll in night life. Thanks <3*

## **INSIGHTFUL SAFER SPACE GUIDELINES / RAVE ETHICS ZINES/):**

- <http://itsnotuits.me/safer-spaces/>
- [\*\*RAVE ETHICS ZINE\*\*](#)
- <http://thequeermafia.com/events/safer-spaces-policy/>
- <https://boilerroom.tv/microsite/global-resource-directory/>
- <https://alp.org/programs/sos>
- <https://m.facebook.com/plurinitiative>
- [\*\*RAVE ETIQUETTE SERIES\*\*](#)
- <https://www.xlr8r.com/features/discwoman-rave-ethics-for-women>
- <http://bedfordandbowery.com/2015/11/club-etiquette-zine-calls-out-dweebs-and-creeps-on-the-scene/#more-67157>
- <https://dancesafe.org/> (Est. 1998, harm reduction based approach towards drugs, sex, and general health and safety at raves [esp. Large scale events]. They have free drug testing available, kits [that would be useful for venues to purchase], free STI protection, provide ear plugs, water, electrolytes, safe places for bad trips, counseling, etc.) Also good to check their site, as they put up alerts for bad drugs circulating different cities and how to identify them.
- <https://dancesafe.org/new-york-dancesafe/> -this is the NY chapter which I have never seen at an event I've attended-so I reached out to see if they can provide us with any free services/supplies/testing kits.
- Bay Area Transformative Justice Coalition (an example of an area with many TJ orgs that already exist, and have mission statements similar to the sentiments expressed in our community that we are lacking- here is a link to their one page mission statement that may be helpful <https://batjc.files.wordpress.com/2014/06/tj-ca-one-pager.pdf> . Their organization deals with addressing child abuse, but the same approaches and ideals put towards dealing with abuse, conflict, and harm are present.
- Generation 5 is another example of a functioning TJ group, here is their TJ Handbook in Spanish and English: <http://www.generationfive.org/resources/transformative-justice-documents/>
- <http://thequeermafia.com/events/safer-spaces-policy/> (see 'Bullying and Violence' section, see "accountability" section, see "risk reduction")
- [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/7e/Destroy\\_the\\_scene-BROS\\_FALL\\_BACK.pdf](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/7e/Destroy_the_scene-BROS_FALL_BACK.pdf)

## **HARM REDUCTION IN DIY SPACES (FIRE SAFETY/drugs/sex/IPV [interpersonal violence]);**

- [https://www.vice.com/en\\_us/article/4x853d/party-fire-safety-accessibility-interview](https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/4x853d/party-fire-safety-accessibility-interview)
- <https://twitter.com/DanceSafe/status/1438721163383894022>
- [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1f9\\_IWYvfJdcmOGGbCLIW3bFUHc7WKu8RLPmpDXDAnU/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1f9_IWYvfJdcmOGGbCLIW3bFUHc7WKu8RLPmpDXDAnU/edit)
- **[DIY HARM REDUCTION](#)**
- <https://alliance.nyc/leshrc> (needle exchange, free Narcan training and kits, outreach coordinator will train at any event/location/staff/etc)
- <https://cornerproject.org/> (care coordination, overdose prevention, needle exchange, sex worker drop in [Fri evening 7-11pm] , drop in clinic, rapid HIV testing, PrEP, PEP, detox treatment and assistance, advocacy, food stamp enrollment, no insurance or ID required)
- <http://www.drugpolicy.org/issues/good-samaritan-fatal-overdose-prevention-laws> *\*it is extremely important to be aware of Good Samaritan Laws, in the event you ever need to call EMS for someone overdosing or otherwise in need of emergency medical treatment. They are not all-encompassing, and different types of warrants/etc affect your status in regard to situations where this law applies, which normally protects you as the 911 caller from any legal persecution as the result of an emergency situation.*
- Safer Hormone injection kit instructions: <https://cornerproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Safer-Injection-Hormone-Kit-Insert-ENGLISH-TO-PRINT.pdf> (available at Washington Heights Corner Project)
- Safer Sex Work Kit instructions: <https://cornerproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Kit-Insert-Safer-Sex-Work-2014.pdf> (available at Washington Heights Corner Project)
- Testing Your Heroin for Fentanyl <https://cornerproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Testing-Your-Heroin-or-Fentanyl.pdf> (Washington Heights Corner Project)
- SACHR- St. Ann's <https://sachr.org/programs/> (harm reduction center in the Bronx with services such as drop in center, syringe access program, mental health program, hep c program, meals, overdose prevention...)
- <https://dancesafe.org/> - excellent resource for fentanyl testing strips /narcan

## **REDUCING SEXUAL ASSAULT AND HARASSMENT:**

- [https://www.vice.com/en\\_us/article/vvnpqx/clubbing-sexual-assault-harrassment-policies-feature](https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/vvnpqx/clubbing-sexual-assault-harrassment-policies-feature)
- <http://www.sanottawa.com/sites/default/files/pdf/FINAL-MANUAL-2016.pdf>
- <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/outro-going-out/id1389472471?mt=8> (This is an app created to rate + review bars and clubs based on things like safety + inclusivity without filtering reviews that touch on sexual assault like Yelp does)
- <https://supportny.org/> (one of the only accountability-based/ harm reduction/ transformative justice organizations that exists in NY. They have useful curriculum and ideas about how to handle the process, but the social aspect of the group has been defunct for some time, which makes me feel like our community could breathe some life into it again. The Bay Area and West coast in general have many more active transformative justice groups than NY and the east coast. Here are their “Pillars” <https://supportnewyork.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/supportnypillars.pdf> )
- **Anti Violence Project: LGBTQ 24 Hour Bilingual (English/Spanish) Crisis Hotline: 212.714.1141** <http://www.avp.org/> “In addition to the hotline listed above, AVP is the nation’s largest organization for LGBT and HIV-affected communities. They offer free and confidential support to victims of bias crimes, domestic violence, pick-up crimes, police misconduct, rape and sexual assault. They also offer accompaniments to courts and social service agencies.”

## **SAFER ORGANIZING Tools:**

[Safe Party Toolkit Zine.pdf](#)

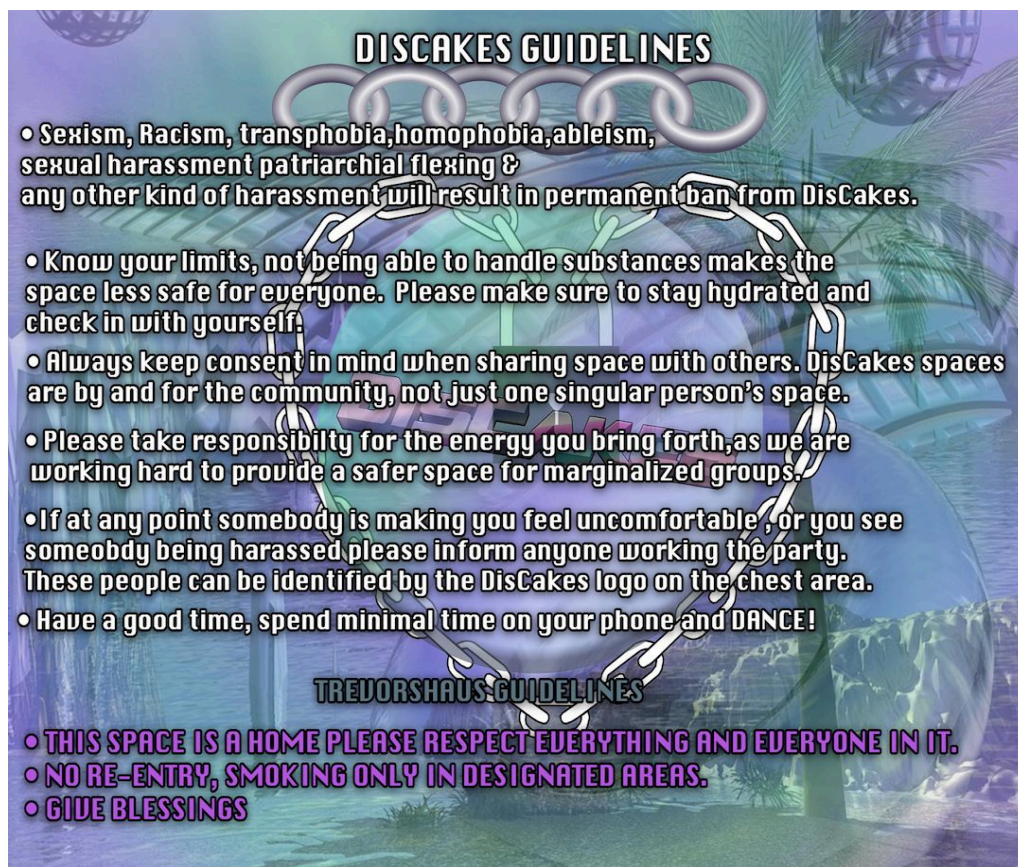
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BxlqoamGVS6la2EzRi1OdkQ2bEU/view>

<http://www.coloursofresistance.org/751/anti-oppression-organizing-tools/>

<http://www.coloursofresistance.org/category/organizing-tools/>

### **Creating guidelines for your parties and spaces:**

Guidelines are general rules, principals or a piece of advice, in our case provided to keep everyone mindful and self aware .Creating guidelines for parties and integrating it into promo can reinforce a safer space incentive for staff and party go-ers were alike. Please keep in mind that celebrating and considering marginalized groups doesn't guarantee their safety. Please discuss a safety plan before the event. Here are some examples of rave guidelines:



### Whats A Pay as you identify Policy?:

The “Pay as you identify” ticketing policy is a system that implicates different ticketing prices for individuals based on their social position, without policing. This can be used to hold those who benefit from systemic and economic privilege accountable to re-distribute their funds and contribute what they can to spaces. This also helps decentralize “cis-hetero” men from queer, trans, femme, poc centered parties. This policy could only be properly applicable to parties that re-distribute funds and center marginalized groups. Parties such as [Dagger](#), [Gush](#) and [Discakes](#) have implicated these cover policies.

***“Tickets are \$5 for femme/non-binary folks, \$10 for gay cis men, and \$75 for straight men. The idea behind it is that it's a reverse economic system from the world outside of GUSH. Men make more money than women, so GUSH is cheaper for women and non-binary folks.” - [ANGELA DIMAYUGA](#), GUSH***

Some examples of this include



Dis Cakes Fam ~ For non-binary, trans, lesbian, gay, intersex, queer, p.o.c fam	0
\$5.00 + \$2.10 FEE	
General Admission	0
\$10.00 + \$2.41 FEE	
DisCakes Ally ~ For those those who benefit from systemic race and/or class privilege	0
\$50.00 + \$4.98 FEE	

### **EXPECTATIONS WITH SECURITY AND STAFF:**

Watch out for the people around you, always believe and support your friend or the person who reports something. (PC)

Security is expected to be well versed in verbal communication, and to use calm and deliberate conversation as the first form of defense when encountering problematic situations.

Physical and verbal aggression is the last option when de-escalating problematic situations.

Prioritize the people of the party, making them feel welcome, appreciated, and safe, instead of creating a culture where they feel policed.

We need active members of the POC trans queer community that are willing to volunteer to become licensed and step into security roles at DIY and club spaces.

We need DIY spaces and clubs to actively to hire security that is trained in self defense and also active members of the POC trans queer community.

We need to stop prioritizing confiscating low level amounts of drugs and instead prioritize weapons and aggression.

We need productive and insightful hands-on situational training regarding how to properly handle non gender IDing people, ID's and medication for people in transition, appropriate security checks and pat downs, working with poppers and other recreational nightlife drugs, as well as any other protocol measures that need to be prioritized if advertising your DIY space or club as a queer/trans safe nightlife space.

***Sermon 3 Recordings***

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All club staff/volunteers should be able to recognize the signs of an overdose. Having a first responder on site or at the very least available for contact through immediate communication channels for any staff/volunteers.

All venues need to be equipped with overdose kits and staff should be educated on their use. \*Please contact Dana at <https://alliance.nyc/leshrc> who is their outreach Narcan training coordinator. She is part of our community and LESHRC can provide free kits to anyone trained, and is happy to organize a training almost anywhere (venue/show/diy/etc.) Helping LESHRC also helps us because they give back.

Drug testing kits are available, and it would be ideal if venues and DIY spaces had at least one on hand, as a responsibility to those that are inhabiting their spaces, paying to be there, working there, supplying talent, etc. <https://dancesafe.org/product/complete-adulterant-screening-kit/> (good for 50 tests for each type of drug) LESHRC can provide free fentanyl test strips, which are instant and can be used on powdered drugs without sacrificing much if any of one's supply.

Spread education to newer/inexperienced nightlife community members on substance based harm reduction including overdose signs and both short and long term drug effects.

There should be **free** water at **every** venue/event **without** exception.

Share water, share hugs, don't be afraid to check on strangers who look like they're uncomfortable or having a bad time for any reason. Nine times out of ten people just need a cigarette, to be shown the exit, or some water. In cases of harassment, alert security if necessary and come to the aid of the victim. There's solidarity in numbers and solidarity in the intention to dance.

Seconding to respect the gender ID and pronouns of all clubgoers, all venues need a **zero** tolerance policy on racism, homophobia, transphobia, sexism, or any other form of harassment.

*Dani Maley (DaniRev)*

It should be noted that gendered bathrooms can be offensive and create a situation where a guest attending or person working an event does not know where to use the bathroom.

We have a right to interact with staff at spaces and venues who understand and reflect the community they are serving. There should not be a disproportionate amount of white/cis/cis-male/heteronormative staff serving our community at an event because it is not reflective of our community; ultimately it leads to misunderstandings, as well as missed opportunities for those in our community who are perfectly capable of holding those jobs and fostering a safe environment simultaneously. Folks who do actively participate in our scene-- which is culturally and financially supplying the spaces-- deserve priority when it comes to hiring at nightclubs/venues/spaces.

## **CITATIONS:**

“For organizers of the event, it is important to have a conversation in advance about safety and the issues that may arise. “Be ruthlessly caring about what you want and need to make your night what it should be,” Anna Cafolla, a Room for Rebellion promoter, wrote in an email. “Get to know the bar staff and security, and flag anything as soon as you see it.”

That includes asking venues and staff about how they identify and handle harassment. For instance, staff members should know that gender presentations may not match IDs. “That can be a real issue at the door, so having security that understands those nuances can influence how comfortable people feel when they walk in the door,”.

(<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/08/style/self-care/how-to-stay-safe-in-the-club.html>)

## **LIBERATIVE LITERACY / GLOSSARY**

*(Compiled by marley & pauli)*

**Accountability:** The fact or condition of being taking responsibility.

**Ally:** Someone who makes the commitment and effort to recognize their privilege (based on gender, class, race, sexual identity, etc.) and work in solidarity with oppressed groups in the struggle for justice. Allies understand that it is in their own interest to end all forms of oppression, even those from which they may benefit in concrete ways.

**Example:** This word may be used to describe someone who does not identify as gay but who is supportive of gay equality in its many forms and through a wide variety of different expressions, both personal and private.

**DIY Spaces:** D.I.Y stands for do it yourself, DIY venues are a broad spectrum of independently operated venues, mostly in unconventional spaces, opposed to established clubs.

**Authoritarian:** Favoring or enforcing strict obedience to authority, especially that of the government, at the expense of personal freedom.

**Assigned sex:** The sex (male, female intersex) that is assigned to an infant at birth.

**Bisexual:** An individual who is emotionally, romantically, and/or physically attracted to men and women. This is sometimes stated as “bi.” People who are bisexual need not have had equal sexual experience with both men and women and need not have had any sexual experience at all; it is attraction that determines orientation.

**Capitalism:** An economic and political system in which a country's trade and industry are controlled by private owners for profit, rather than by the state.

**Cisgender:** A term used to describe an individual whose gender identity aligns with the one typically associated with the sex assigned to them at birth.

**Coming out:** For people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender, the process of self-acceptance that continues throughout one's life. People often establish a lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender identity to themselves first and then may decide to reveal it to others. Coming out can also apply to the family and allies of people who are LGBT. There are many different degrees of being out: some may be out to friends only, some may be out publicly, and some may be out only to themselves. It's important to remember that not everyone is in the same place when it comes to being out, and to respect where each person is in that process of self-identification. It is up to each person, individually, to decide if and when to come out or disclose.

**Depressants** – decrease the activity of the central nervous system (CNS) and/or autonomic nervous system (ANS) including depression of respirations. Examples: sedative hypnotics such as alcohol, benzodiazepine and barbiturates, cannabinoids at low doses and opiates have various effects on the body mentally and physically.

**Disclosure:** The act or process of revealing one's transgender or gender nonconforming identity to another person in a specific instance. Related to, but not the same as, coming out.

**DIY Spaces:** D.I.Y stands for do it yourself, DIY venues are a broad spectrum of independently operated venues, mostly in unconventional spaces, opposed to established clubs.

**Fascism:** A form of government which is a type of one-party dictatorship. Fascism puts nation and often race above the individual. It stands for a centralized government

headed by a dictator. Fascist governments tend to be militaristic, and racist. From a socialist standpoint facism is our current state of government.

**Gay:** The adjective used to describe people whose emotional, romantic, and/or physical attraction is to people of the same sex (e.g., gay man, gay people). In contemporary contexts, “lesbian” is often a preferred term for women. People who are gay need not have had any sexual experience; it is the attraction that helps determine orientation.

**Gender:** A set of social, psychological, or emotional traits, often influenced by societal expectations that classify an individual as either feminine and, or masculine, both or neither.

**Gender-affirming surgery:** Surgical procedures that help people adjust their bodies in a way that more closely matches or desired gender identity. Not every transgender person will desire or have resources for surgery. This should be used in place of the older and often offensive term “sex change”.

**Gender binary:** The concept that there are only two genders, male and female, and that everyone must be one or the other.

**Gender expression:** The manner in which a person chooses to communicate their gender identity to others through external means such as clothing and/or mannerisms. This communication may be conscious or subconscious and may or may not reflect their gender identity or sexual orientation. While most people’s understandings of gender expressions relate to masculinity and femininity, there are countless combinations that may incorporate both masculine and feminine expressions—or neither— through androgynous expressions. The important thing to remember and respect is that every gender expression is valid.

**Gender identity:** A term used to describe the way we visually, spiritually, and sometimes physically feel in terms of femininity and/or masculinity or neither. Identity also includes the name we use to convey our gender. Gender identity can correspond to or differ from the sex we are assigned at birth.

**Gender neutral:** Not gendered. Can refer to language (including pronouns), spaces (like bathrooms), or identities (being genderqueer, for example).

**Gender nonconforming:** A person who views their gender identity as beyond the gender paradigm. One of many possible genders beyond strictly female or male. This is an umbrella term that can encompass other terms such as “gender creative,” “gender expansive,” “gender variant,” “genderqueer,” “gender fluid”, “gender neutral,” “bigender,” “androgynous,” or “gender diverse.”

**Harm reduction:** Harm reduction involves taking action through policy and programming to reduce the harmful effects of behaviour. It involves a range of non-judgmental approaches and strategies aimed at providing and enhancing the knowledge, skills, resources and supports for individuals.

**Institutional racism:** Refers specifically to the ways in which institutional policies and practices create different outcomes for different racial groups. The institutional policies may never mention any racial group, but their effect is to create advantages for whites and oppression and disadvantage for people from groups classified as people of color.

**Lesbian:** A woman whose emotional, romantic, and/or physical attraction is to other women. People who are lesbians need not have had any sexual experience; it is the attraction that helps determine orientation

**LGBT/LGBTQA/LGBTQ:** An acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender which refers to these individuals collectively. It is sometimes stated as “GLBT” (gay, lesbian, bi, and transgender). Occasionally, the acronym is stated as “LGBTQA” to include allies, “LGBTQ,” with “Q” representing queer or questioning.

**Privileged:** Unearned social power accorded by the formal and informal institutions of society to ALL members of a dominant group (e.g. white privilege, male privilege, etc.). Privilege is usually invisible to those who have it because we’re taught not to see it, but nevertheless it puts them at an advantage over those who do not have it.

**Socialism:** A range of economic and social systems characterised by social ownership of the means of production and workers' self-management, as well as the political theories and movements associated with them. Social ownership can be public, collective or cooperative ownership, or citizen ownership of equity. Private property does not exist in a socialist society.

**Stimulants** – increase the activity of the Central nervous system and/or Autonomic nervous system. Examples: caffeine, nicotine, and cocaine, amphetamine and methamphetamine and more.

**Stigma:** a mark of disgrace associated with a particular circumstance, quality, or person. In most cases this is a strong lack of respect for a person or a group of people or a bad opinion of them because they have done something society does not approve of.

**Sources:**

<https://bolt.straightforequality.org/files/Come%20Out%20as%20a%20Straight%20Ally/equality-literacy-101-s4e-.pdf><http://hcvadvocate.org/resources/glossaries/harm-reduction-glossary/>

<http://racialequitytools.org/glossary#privilege>

<http://hcvadvocate.org/resources/glossaries/harm-reduction-glossary/>

