

Guidelines of the Safer Space Group

Forró do Chamego Leipzig e.V.

We are present at our association's events to create a safer space together with the community. We adhere to and enforce the association's rules.

If you experience boundary violations, discrimination, or sexualized violence within our community, or if you feel uncomfortable dancing for any other reason, please contact us. This also applies if you suspect such issues in others within the community.

Contact: via email at [saferspace\[at\]forroleipzig.de](mailto:saferspace[at]forroleipzig.de)

We respond within four days.

PRINCIPLES OF THE SAFER SPACE GROUP

Consent: Everything that happens while dancing should be consensual. Needs and boundaries can vary depending on the day or the person. For example, just because I danced closely with person X yesterday doesn't mean I want to do the same today or with person Z. Consent should always be reaffirmed.

Empowerment: The perspective and needs of the affected person are central. They form the basis of our actions. The affected person defines when and if a boundary violation has occurred. There is no universal definition of a boundary violation.

Support: We are always on the side of the affected person. We do not take any action that is not desired by the affected person.

Communication: We aim to create a safer space where feelings, boundary experiences, and violations can be discussed openly. Share your uncertainties and talk about them. There should be no taboos.

Transparency: The Safer Space Group strives for openness and transparency in its procedures. However, some decisions may not be fully disclosed to the community to respect the anonymity of the affected individuals.

Case Studies / Examples:

A&B: Person A attends a beginner course and feels that Person B's touch during dancing is overstepping boundaries. Additionally, there are judgmental comments about A's appearance. Person A feels very uncomfortable but is hesitant to speak up because Person B is the course instructor. Person A contacts the Safer Space Group. In a discussion, it becomes clear what Person A needs to feel comfortable again. Person A asks the Safer Space Group to talk to Person B and raise awareness about the boundary violation. Person B accepts the feedback. Person A feels confident to attend the course again.

C&D: Person C regularly attends dancing events. Suddenly, Person D, C's ex-partner, starts showing up frequently. Their relationship ended with violence and stalking, leading C to call the police once. Now, Person C feels very uncomfortable, is afraid of Person D, and does not want to come to the events anymore. Person C contacts the Safer Space Group and asks them to speak with Person D.

Possible actions:

- a.) Person D is understanding. After consulting with Person C, it is agreed that C and D will attend social dance events alternately every two weeks. This is acceptable for Person C.
- b.) Due to the severity of Person C's situation, Person D is excluded/paused from attending dances. This is enforced in consultation with the association's board (Vorstand).
- c.) Person C requests that Person D does not initiate any contact and does not speak to C during dance events. The Safer Space Group communicates this request to Person D. This arrangement is acceptable to Person C, as long as D respects the no-contact rule. If Person D fails to respect this, they will be removed from the event.

Examples from the Association Rules (the complete document is available on the website):

Dancing should be enjoyable and not an obligation. Therefore, "Only yes means yes" applies here too. Refusing a dance is always acceptable.

We respect our own boundaries and those of our dance partners. There is no place for discrimination of any kind in dancing.

We show respect to others regardless of gender, age, appearance, skin color, origin, language, sexual orientation, beliefs, and physical or psychological characteristics.

We recognize the presence of power hierarchies: dancers with extensive experience, instructors, older/younger people, confident and less confident individuals, etc. We reflect on our privileges and give others the space they need.