

## Groundrules for Safe Dialogue in Groups

- 1) Presume welcome and extend welcome.
- 2) Refrain from fixing, saving, or setting straight others in the group.
- 3) When the interaction gets tricky, turn to inquiry rather than advocacy (wonder about something instead of defending something). Pay attention to the distinction between dialogue (which begins with a question) and debate (which begins with an answer).
- 4) Ask open, honest questions. Open questions are ones to which you cannot imagine *'the right answer'* and which have several possible responses; honest questions are ones which do not have a hidden agenda.
- 5) Speak for yourself (this will require listening to yourself).
- 6) Think of silence as another member of the group.
- 7) Observe confidentiality regarding material shared in the group.