

Code of Conduct

CHWA conference 2026: Common Ground

We want you to enjoy your experience of “Common Ground” in Barnsley this year. We ask that you uphold the following Code of Conduct.

We have drawn heavily on the excellent Code of Conduct developed by our friends at [WhatNext](#) below and we’re grateful for their advice and support.

Our approach, and our ask of you

We aim to build a conference that is enjoyable, safe and nourishing for everyone attending or presenting. We know, however, that creative health operates in a context of structural inequalities and injustice.

Everyone attending will be affected in different ways by both global conflict and local tensions. Some of these issues may be raised as we talk about the wider political landscape.

In this context, we encourage everyone to take care of their own health and wellbeing, and to take care of others at the conference.

Everyone attending has a right to freedom of speech, artistic freedom, freedom to protest, and freedom from hatred/harm. We recognise that these freedoms are sometimes in tension with one another: one person’s freedom of speech can directly impact on, and compromise someone else’s freedom from harm; and one person’s right to protest can impact on someone else’s artistic freedom.

This tension will be present at the conference, and we ask everyone to come to the event with an open mind, recognising that there will be colleagues with different lived experience than our own, and who may experience the event and discussions very differently. We ask everyone to consider this when making their contributions.

Please respect all characteristics protected under the Equality Act – which include age, sex, gender, nationality, religion, sexuality and legitimate beliefs, and refrain from discriminatory behaviour.

Please be considerate and treat one another with kindness and respect. Aggressive, manipulative, threatening or undermining contact will not be tolerated. We will challenge the use of abusive, racist, sexist, misogynist, ableist, classist, sizeist, ageist, homophobic or transphobic language; and may ask anyone using language like this to leave.

Available support

If you have any concerns, please do speak to CHWA staff, our Mental Health First Aiders, or our Safeguarding Officer. We will point these people out during plenary sessions or you can find them by speaking to any of the staff and volunteers helping us to manage the conference. We also have at least one quiet room available, which will be clearly signposted.

Our limitations

Please bear in mind that CHWA is a small organisation, with part-time staff. We will also be working with volunteers who may not know all the details of our policies and work. We will always do our best to address concerns or answer questions quickly, but if we can't, we will be glad to follow up with you after the conference.

We're very keen to hear your thoughts about how the conference and everything around it has been run, so that we can improve future events.

Please also see our Comments, Complaints & Compliments Policy here:

<https://www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk/policies-procedures>

Access

We are always learning from people with different experiences and will do our best to meet the needs of all attendees, presenters and performers. Please keep us informed of any conditions, requirements or sensitivities as early as possible so that we can adapt, within our means.