

Decolonization/Spiritual Diasporic Circle Protocols

Relational Sourcing Jana Lynne “JL” Umipig

*In our work being led by our Indigenous teachers (elders, peers, comrades), we have understood Protocols to be UNDERSTANDINGS and GUIDELINES, not just rules and regulations. Protocols held in indigenous communities are honored by all, because there is alignment in embodying why they are in place and how they serve the good of the whole and not just the individual. We view protocols as expansive in their ability to transform to serve the ritualization of care and Love for all those in the circle. Protocols can be challenged, with the **purpose** of serving more than just the self, let your challenges toward any protocols expand us, create inclusion, create more complexity in understanding.*

1) Awareness + Accountability + Agency = Liberation

We understand this protocol to be essential. These are check-points for us, this is what allows us to make room for widened perspective, to be held to our integrity and to the goodness and wellness of the circle and also asks us to step into our power to create change and creation for betterment and growth.

When we feel powerless or your power is being taken from you and in a moment of being in opposition/conflict/unresolvable assess which A is absent. Ask yourself:

AWARENESS: What do I/don't I know? Where is my mindset? Have I opened my mind to all perspectives and viewpoints?

ACCOUNTABILITY: Where am I responsible, and have I taken that responsibility for my words, actions and ways of being? Where are others responsible, and have I held them responsible for their words, actions and ways of being?

AGENCY: What do I/ do I not have the power to change (no matter how small that change is)? And have I taken action to make that change?

***ALSO ASK ALWAYS:** Who does my understanding, perspective and experience, my words, my actions include? Who does it affect?

2) We Name our Source(s) We trace SOURCE to understand the movement of Knowledge and don't believe in OWNERSHIP of knowledge

WE DO NOT OWN KNOWLEDGE- We relate to CONNECTING to Source vs. CITING Source. Not only do we seek to attain knowledge we seek to expand it, complicate it and be in understanding of all the places that it may have been seeded. We know that universal knowledge surfaces inside of all of us in our lived experiences, relations and creations and that our teachers are limitless, we are all each other's teachers and all that we are in relation to , all that we live through and connected to teaches us.

We come to knowledge through the opening and expansion of our perspectives and our understanding

We learn it from Teachers

We channel it from Divine/Sacred Source

We teach it for the continuation of its service to all

We learn and we know- We Name our Source

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3) We live in the TIME OF DECOLONIZATION

Decolonization is no longer a Theory, or an academic lane of studying our community and intellectualizing our experiences as diasporic, indigenous, settler and colonial peoples, Decolonization is the time we live in

PRE-COLONIZATION
COLONIZATION
NEO-COLONIZATION
DECOLONIZATION
POST-COLONIZATION / POST DECOLONIZATION

KNOW THE TIME YOU LIVE IN
SO YOU CAN LIVE IT
WITH VISION.
BE THE ANCESTOR WHO
DECOLONIZES SO THEY DON'T
HAVE TO.

- JL UMIPIG
#INTHETIMEOFDECOLONIZATION

4) We are here to examine our beliefs as work for Liberation because we understand “When you control a people’s beliefs, you control those people.”

We seek to dismantle Colonial, oppressive, exploitative, inequitable beliefs that have been adopted through our control and conditioning. We understand that our beliefs can confine us, and they can free us. We seek to relieve ourselves of Core Limiting Beliefs and grow in beliefs that interconnect us, that expand us, that grow us in compassion and care, beliefs that protect us from that which seeks to harm, and beliefs that challenge us to stand in our integrity, in our power and our ability to better ourselves with every waking moment.

AND we understand that many of our beliefs root back to 3 Agents of Colonization:

Patriarchy- Power centered in the Man/Masculine, Devaluing the Womxn/Feminine Individualistic Means of Leadership (Dictatorship “Father Figure”)

White Supremacy- Believing in the Superiority of Whiteness, (White Culture, White Language, White Bodies, White Ways of Life)

Capitalism- Basing value of all things/lives on monetary, quantifiable value, profit over people

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- 5) **We believe “there is no RIGHT or WRONG, there is only HONORABLE and DISHONORABLE.”** (a teaching by Teacher and Comrade- Davidica Little Spotted Horse Lakota, Oglala Matriarch).

When we seek to be right we fall into ego and limit ourselves from the ability to see things from expanded perspectives and from a place of Love vs. Fear. When we seek to be right, we also keep ourselves from seeing beyond ourselves, when life is so much more limitless. Another teacher and comrade in the Hip-Hop and Social Justice Movements, JLove Calderon spoke often to me the words “DO YOU WANT TO BE RIGHT? OR DO YOU WANT TO BE FREE?” this notion is how I often hold myself accountable to my movements as Honorable or Dishonorable. Being connected to our Honor, being able to discern from that place of Divine understanding of Care, Love and Humility as well as Integrity, Justice and Equity is important to exercise and practice in our most intimate circles, when we do we expand our ability to be always aligned with living an Honorable life.

- 6) **We are RELATIONAL not REACTIONARY (and when we are reactionary, we take time to listen to the emotions and what must be healed and seek to understand what makes us react in those moments.)**

*“The Healer is not reactionary
The Healer is relational*

*The Warrior is not reactionary
The Warrior is relational”*

The Warrior and the Healer balance out the ways we find ourselves in service to the community, to life and death, they balance our way of walking with purpose, what do you seek to serve and care for, and how do you do it? What do you stand for, protect and honor and how do you do it?

When we are in RELATION and make room for all the complexities of our interconnected lives, when we open our minds and spirits to be in compassion, empathy and care we are all capable of having, when we see the structures that confine us and the ways we might free ourselves, when we are able to take into account for the vast creation of life and confront our ego and fear- we can walk stronger in purpose and relieve ourselves of giving energy to exchanges, experiences that do not serve our ability to stand in our power and do our Sacred Work.

- 7) **We are honest, forthright, and courageous in the way we speak our truths. “Transparency Collectivizes Power,” a teaching from Enmanuel Candelario of the Peace Poets and “Move at the speed of Trust,” a teaching from Queer Detroit Activist/Organizer and Author Adrienne Maree Brown.**

We must re-member that when we stand in our truth and communicate our experiences, our needs, our understandings, our wants, our visions, and also our fears, our doubts, our traumas- when we let others see us and know us in our fullness, then we allow them ability to hold us and

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care for us. The fear we hold is that by being transparent, by being open and vulnerable, we put ourselves in positions to be hurt and harmed- we understand this colonized mentality and we open ourselves to seeing the speaking of our truths, the standing in our vulnerabilities as strength that is built through community- we understand that “Vulnerability saves lives,” a lesson From Hui-Ying B. an Asian-American activist on Lenape Territory (NYC).

We also understand that when we keep secrets, when we withhold information from our relations it is a power play, it seeks for us to keep us in control. When we share, when we exchange, when we TRUST we allow for collective power to exist. We are ALWAYS stronger together, and we strengthen when our power is collectivized. The stronger the bonds of trust the further we can move together.

8) We gather with the purpose to heal together and know that Healing Happens in Community.

Our moments of isolation are when reflection and processing can happen, but it is when we gather, when we allow ourselves to have our wounds witnessed that we experience the power of Healing. It is when we allow the medicines of our communities to supplement our own and for exchanges of healing through connection, understanding and care to happen.

9) There is the Planned vs. the Unplanned, we flow and listen to moments of the unplanned- make room for Spirit to take the lead.

We understand that we must plan, that we should have understanding of our purpose of gathering and what we seek to accomplish and create together. AND ALSO, that we make room for the unplanned, the flow of energy, the shift of contributions, the release that opens us to uncover lessons- and that all of this is Spirit taking the lead.

10) When we release it is lessons, when we release we give each other the opening to release together, with and for each other and with and for the land/waters/skies and all of creation.

Your release is not judged in our communion, it is valued as learning for us. We understand it as the releasing of wisdom and connection to channeling of spirit within and around us and as we are relational to this, we know our role is to Honorably hold every release, to open our empathy and our understanding of each other and to be vigilant to protect the moment that we are being asked by the Divine to hold.