

Consent Sessions

This document is intended

- for the community to have visibility on the Consent Team's processes so that they can contribute to them and raise any concerns they may have
- to help someone who has either been invited to a consent session or who have made a report understand what happens
- to train the Consent Session Team

Approach

Our focus is:

- The sustainability of our event
- The safety of our community

Our approach is shaped by a belief in participants' ability to learn and grow. Our role is to hold the community accountable in their behaviour to one another by facilitating a supportive, empathetic, explorative and educative path towards ensuring that an incident does not reoccur.

We are guided by

- Participant Code of Conduct ([link](#))
- Our scale defining the nature of the reported incident
- Local Laws

These are the agreements every participant made as to how they would interact with each other when they bought a ticket or joined the community. They belong to the community and may be brought to the Asociacion to revise by members.

We are not here to judge or determine guilt/innocence, or assume that anyone's perspective is the truth (including ours).

People

Consent Response Leads

Two Consent Leads that read the reports and train and support the Consent Session Team. They are active during the event to monitor incoming reports and help prevent incidents from recurring. After the event they decide what actions to take for each report to help prevent another similar situation in the future.

Responses include

- contacting the person who made the report to check on their wellbeing and discuss what actions we can take
- sending a reported person an email and/or inviting them to a call to explore what happened
- contacting workshop leads and barrio leads to explore how they held a space
- contacting our consent education team to explore adjustments to our materials and/or ways we communicate
- contacting other teams in the event to explore adjustments to physical spaces, communications etc.
- opening a Consent Session

Consent Session Team

Community members who desire to contribute to keeping the community safer by engaging in this fascinating process. To apply, send an email to consentsessions@nobodies.team.

We aim to have a balance of languages, genders, different barrio/free camping members and other characteristics across the team. Experience and knowledge about consent, conflict resolution, restorative justice is very welcome but not essential. What is essential is an interest.

The Consent Session Team receive a training session and are supported by the Consent Response Leads throughout.

Confidentiality

Both the Consent Response Leads and the Consent Session Team have signed a confidentiality agreement. The two Consent Response Leads see every report. The Consent Session Team see only the information on the case that they have been assigned to, and has been agreed by the person who made the report.

Criteria to open a session

- We are able to identify the reporter and the reported person
- We have a direct report from someone personally impacted
- The reporter agrees to a minimum level of information disclosure
- The report is about either
 - 2 blue code reports by 2 different persons (see colour code below)
 - or 1 orange or red code report (see colour code below)
- The event happened on site, at an official NCA planning meeting, on a social media channel
- The people involved all bought a ticket for the last event (especially relevant for social media cases)

Nature of the Report	
BLUE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Heavy-handed flirting or seduction ● Verbal violence ● Onsite / online harassment ● Unwanted presence ● Inappropriate Volunteer management ● Non-consensual pictures/videos taken and refusal to delete them 	
Buffer (left to the discretion of the CC Members to determine whether it's blue or orange)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● "No" was expressed & not respected ● Non-consensual non-sexual touch
ORANGE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Non-consensual contact of a sexual nature.. For example a kiss on the lips, hands on genitals or sexual touch through clothing ● Organizing / leading an unsafe workshop ● Sharing of potentially unsafe substances (illegal, undisclosed content, and/or not checking for potential health vulnerabilities) 	
Buffer (left to the discretion of the CC Members to determine whether it's orange or red)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sexual act under mutual intoxication
RED	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Non-consensual sexual act ● Unconscious or incapacitated sexual touch/act (the offended person could not express consent due to being asleep, intoxication, trauma response, etc.) 	

Consent Session Process

Contact with the person who made a report to

- Check on their wellbeing
- Explain the Consent Session approach and process
- Ask if they consent to us sharing the minimum level of information about the incident we would need to hold the session and beyond that agree what information we can share with the reported person and consent session team
- Ask what would help them to feel safer at the next event. Their response might form part of the Participation Agreement with the reported person such as avoiding them, or their barrio. They may also give information that helps us create more safety in other ways such as adjustments a space holder can make.

Contact with Reported Person

Consent Response Leads invite the reported person to participate in a Consent Session giving them the information the person who made the report was comfortable to disclose.

The reported person is invited to find a supportive buddy to be present with them throughout the process (see buddy appendix).

Someone who is invited to a Consent Session will not be able to attend another event until they have responded and we have completed our process.

Buddy

A person chosen by the person who has been reported that they trust who will support them throughout the Consent Session process and in keeping to their Participation Agreement at the next event.

They provide onsite emotional support for the reported person through daily check-ins. They can also provide a reality check and feedback for navigating challenging situations at the event. In the event that they feel concerned the reported person will break the Participation Agreement they can contact the Consent Response Leads or Malfare for support.

This role isn't required to hold the sessions, but having a buddy does noticeably support the process. Without a buddy it is more likely that the Participation Agreement will include daily check-ins with the Consent Response Leads.

Consent Session Team Assigned

A team of three people (including one Consent Response Lead) are assigned to the session. In selecting team members we aim to ensure that they do not know the reported person, that there is a diversity of gender and other characteristics, and that the language of the reported person is taken into consideration.

Information regarding the incident is shared with the team.

Session Preparation Meeting

The assigned team meet to

- discuss and exchange on the case
- decide how they would like to hold the first meeting with the reported person as a team
- brainstorm possible content for a participation agreement

A plan for the meeting is created with a list of questions to ask the reported person and a team member assigned to ask each question. How they find the reported person in the meeting or some new information they bring could completely change the content of the meeting but this session preparation meeting is always useful.

Meeting 1 - 1h30-2h

The reported person, their buddy, the consent session team

- introductions and check-ins
- the reported person is invited to tell the reported event from their perspective
- the consent session team ask questions to understand where the reported person stands regarding the event
- BREAK (15 mins) - reported person and buddy together, and the consent session team together
- brainstorm together on what would support the reported person to ensure that there isn't another report
- brainstorm the content of a Participation Agreement

We are always asking how can we safely include everyone at the next event without risking

Between Meetings

Exchanges by email between the meetings leading to the creation of a draft Participation Agreement. This may involve the Consent Response Lead assigned contacting the person who made the report.

Meeting 2 - 1h30

The reported person, their buddy, the consent session team

- check-ins
- present and explain the content of the proposed agreement
- Adjust if necessary

Participation Agreement

After the second meeting the consent session team send the Participation Agreement to the reported person. There is a 7 day period to let it sit, and then if they still agree, they sign and return it.

During next event

The Consent Response Leads support during the event and monitor that the Participation Agreement is followed (the consent session team are not asked to support unless they specifically want to).

Meeting 3

The reported person, their buddy, the consent session team

After the event we meet to discuss how the reported person navigated the event, any difficult situations, and to bring feedback and learning on how the Consent Session process supported or didn't support us all.

If the consent session team feel that the reported person's future attendance at the event without a Participation Agreement wouldn't be putting the community at any additional risk we close the case. If not (for example if there was another report) we discuss how to move forwards. Possible paths could be another agreement or a temporary ban whilst learning takes place (sometimes one year is not enough) and an invitation to contact the Consent Team in the future.

Timescale

The sessions begin in November and aim to be completed in February

Example Participation Agreement

Duration of this agreement :

From [Month of Agreement] to November of the same year of the next event you bought a ticket for.

Example: if your next ticket is for 2026, and you attended the event, the agreement closure meeting would happen in November 2026.

If for any other reason (including an event cancellation), your next event happens to be in 2027 (or later), the closure meeting would happen in November 2027 (same year).

Content of this agreement :

The Nobodies Collective Association, represented by the Consent Response Team, ask you to agree to complete the following :

Pre-event time

A personal pre-event learning plan

- Read each chapter of the following page from The Consent Academy <https://www.consent.academy/resources.html>
- By the end of May, provide a 2 page long reflection on

Part 1 - how to support your wellbeing at the event

- What are the situations that could be triggering at the event?
- What boundaries can you identify from this event that are important to you?
- How can you communicate about your needs and boundaries
- If your boundaries are not being respected what will you do?
- How do you feel when you are becoming dis-regulated? When your boundaries are being crossed? What are the early signs that you can check for?

Part 2 - how you impact the wellbeing of those around you

- What comes up when you reflect on how non-consensual behaviour causes others to feel?
- What do you want the experience of people who attend the Burn to be like?
- What is important to you in how you show up from the point of view of communal effort, inclusion?

Identify a buddy who will be an emotional support to you (identify someone pre-event and communicate their details to the consent team)

Onsite

- Check in daily with your Buddy

Invite them to let you know if they feel there is a spiral of thinking or behaviour happening that concerns them and to advise you to support yourself in one of the ways we put below

- Avoid sex+ spaces and sex+ events
- Avoid the person you think made the report - change your direction if you cross each other. Should you be at a workshop that they then arrive at, leave the space. Avoid camping near to them (note : the reporter has been given the same guideline and committed to respect it)

If/when you need support to regulate your nervous system

- make use of malfare/welfare/Safer Space - they care, they've had training and they have volunteered to support fellow participants
- sleep

Other advice here for reference

- Regular self check-in on needs
- friends/barrio/community - identify the people you feel safe to speak to about what is happening for you when something is arising, to receive support from and regulate with
- safe spaces - could you identify some safe spaces that would support you at the next event, for example walking in the mountains, your camp, welfare, your car

Post event time

Possibly with your Buddy's support

Write a post event reflection (deadline end of October) on

- how you anticipated situations and behaved differently
- What supported you?
- What didn't really help?
- What could help in the future?
- How could we improve the consent session process to be more supportive for future participants

Confidentiality

- The details about this agreement are only known by 5 people
 - The 3 Consent Session Members
 - The Buddy you have chosen to support you
 - And you

All of the participants listed above have completed an agreement to maintain confidentiality about this session.

- The reporter will be informed about the part of the agreement concerning them

- The Community will get a statistical entry only about an ongoing agreement involving 2 participants), qualified as a red code agreement valid till November of their next Nowhere

Note:

- 1) Except the two Consent Leads, none of the Consent Team involved, are on duty on site. Please respect their burn experience.
- 2) You cannot be recruited for any lead role until the end of your agreement duration.

Reported Person Signature

Consent Lead Signature

Buddy Signature