

## 1. Preamble

1. The R2K seeks to create a country and a world where we all have the right to know – that is to be free to access and to share information. This right is fundamental to any democracy that is open, accountable, participatory and responsive; able to deliver the social, political, economic, gender and environmental justice we need. On this foundation, we will build a society and an international community in which we all live free from want, free from fear, in equality and in dignity.
2. The R2K recognises the inherent dignity of all people – regardless of race, colour, creed, gender, sexual orientation, political opinion or origin.
3. We recognise that we come to the R2K with differences in access to power and privilege and different Life experiences. We confirm that these shape how we engage with the world and with each other.
4. Furthermore, we recognise that the issues that motivate us to struggle and that we seek to change are important and our pursuit of them is informed by our commitment to make a positive change in our own life, in that of our community and of the country.
5. We recognise and encourage a robust contestation of ideas, for it is in that contest that our new solutions lie.
6. We recognise that we do our best work when we work in solidarity with others, despite the surface differences constructed by society. In working together, shoulder to shoulder, we strengthen each other, building resilience and reliance on ourselves.
7. THEREFORE, we commit ourselves to creating a shared space for our activism that is welcoming, safe for all and reflective of our shared values and principles listed below.
8. We also commit to holding each other and ourselves accountable to these values and principles and to take action when we undermine or break them, without fear, favour or discrimination.

## 2. Mutual Respect

1. We affirm that all people have inherent human dignity and are worthy of our respect.
2. We commit to treat each other with respect at all times regardless of race, gender, class or age;
3. We commit to treat each other with respect and humanity especially when we differ in our opinions;
4. We understand that respect is mutual and must be given as well as demanded;
5. We commit not to discriminate against any member of the collective on any prohibited ground or on any arbitrary ground.
6. We agree to subject ourselves to the sanction of the collective should we fail to uphold this value.

## 3. Freedom of Expression

1. We affirm the right of every activist to express themselves and their opinions freely and openly;
2. We equally encourage activists to consider the impact of their opinions or expression on other members of the collective;
3. We will defend the expression of opinion or statements that may be uncomfortable, provocative or even offensive to some; or may be hurtful in the expression, so long as the statement is true and/or is not said with the intention to harm another activist or the collective;
4. We will not tolerate expression that amounts to hatred of another based on race, gender, ethnicity or religion;
5. We will not tolerate speech that is violent in nature, inflammatory or intended to incite violence against another;
6. We will also not tolerate any misinformation, disinformation or outright lies;
7. We will hold any activist to account for statements or expressions that seek to divide our collective, undermine our collective action, are derogatory of another fellow activist or which infringes on the inherent human dignity of another.
8. We agree to subject ourselves to the sanction of the collective should we fail to uphold this value.

## 4. Access to Information

1. We affirm our commitment to being transparent and open about our decision-making and decision-taking;
2. We affirm our commitment to providing access to information about R2K, its activities, its structures, its campaigns and organisation to activists within the R2K both proactively and upon demand;
3. We recognise and affirm our obligations to protect the personal information of activists and staff of the R2K;
4. Furthermore, we also commit to respect the confidentiality of information obtained during the course of R2K business and only to share the same with the express permission of the affected parties;
5. We recognise that the sharing of information is done in spirit of trust, and that violating the confidentiality of personal or organisational information breaks that trust.
6. We agree to subject ourselves to the sanction of the collective should we fail to uphold this value.
7. Participatory Democracy
8. We affirm our commitment to meaningful engagement and enabling the full participation of all activists (including

the staff of the R2K) in all processes and platforms of the R2K;

9. We affirm the inherent equality of all activists in our meetings and platforms in respect of voice and opinion;
10. It remains the responsibility of each activist on an R2K platform to ensure that the space is created for all activists; this includes checking their own use of speaking time or space;
11. It remains the responsibility of each and every activist to ensure that they are adequately informed of the issues in order to make the best contribution;
12. We commit ourselves to contributing positively to build the Right2Know actively in whatever way we can;
13. We commit ourselves to ensuring that socially marginalised voices are recognised and encouraged to contribute;
14. We commit ourselves to meeting procedures that encourage meaningful engagement, the constructive expression of ideas and enable good dialogue;
15. We commit ourselves to seeking consensus as far as possible where there are decisions to be taken. In the absence of consensus, the matter may be settled by a significant majority (66%) of the meeting;
16. We agree to subject ourselves to the sanction of the collective, regardless of platform, should we fail to uphold this value.

## 5. Ethical Leadership

1. We recognise that every activist on our platforms is a potential leader; anyone who steps forward to contribute to taking action forward in support of our goals, is a leader;
2. In addition, we recognise that we may select/elect leaders to represent us as a collective and with a specific mandate. Such leaders always remain accountable to the general body of activists who have given them such a mandate regardless of the platform;
3. The policies and procedures of the organisation bind everyone within the R2K;
4. We commit ourselves to know and observe the policies, principles and Constitution of the organisation, and take responsibility for ensuring these policies are respected and upheld by others;
5. It is the fiduciary responsibility of all activists to take care of the resources of the R2K in service of the collective objectives;
6. There is a special fiduciary duty on those activists in formal leadership roles;
7. Wherever an activist finds themselves in a potential conflict of interest – whether relating to money or an undisclosed relationship or interest – they must declare the same immediately. Failure to do so may invite disciplinary sanction