

# Party Awareness concept New Yorck in Bethanien from 05-04-2018

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## 1. Before and after the party

The permanent aware\_net-group of New Yorck meets every second week (Thursdays at 7 p.m). At this meeting we discuss the previous party and upcoming parties. Groups who want to organize a party in New Yorck first present themselves and their concept here. The decision whether the party can go ahead or not will take place at these meetings (the exact date may be clarified later).

Here, we can discuss questions about awareness, harassment and boundary crossing behavior, we can speak about different scenarios and refer to interesting zines. We can support you in the preparation of a safe\_R party.

**Emergency meetings** happen after a party when there is the urgent need to talk about certain events or experiences. In this case we meet **the day following the party at 4 p.m.**

## 2. Shifts: awareness, security, door/entrance

All jobs are **in shift** and people should be replaced after 2-3 hours. We expect that the people doing the security and awareness shifts are sober.

There is a ready made **awareness flyer** which you can use for your party. We are working with the concepts of 'Power of Definition' (Definitionsmacht) and partiality (or taking sides). This means we try to base our actions on the demands of the affected person (please ask us about these concepts if they are not clear to you. We are happy to explain!).

### **Awareness**

There is an **awareness table** just behind the entrance. **2 people** are located at the table (with info material and the mobile phone) and, in the case of an incident, care for an affected person. The room behind the table can be used as a retreat room. These 2 people give direct support. Please prepare yourself for this task. We can support you with it and there are lots of zines on this topic.

There are emergency buttons in the toilet cubicles. If someone pushes them, a lamp will light up at the table. Please react quickly to this!

There is a wheelchair accessible toilet and a low-barrier entrance to NY, if people need support to enter, you should be ready to assist.

The mobile phone is also there for people who are in trouble after leaving the party, it should be left switched on for 30 min after the party's end. If there is feedback which is not urgent, people can write an e-mail. An exception to this is when people took the phone number after an incident in order to stay in contact. As well as this, the awareness team can be contacted anonymously on this number.

Please make sure that the awareness table is inviting and that you are easy to reach and appear approachable (maybe it's not ideal if your whole gang is hanging out with you at the table).

## **Security**

**2 people walk around through the party** and are ready to intervene and **kick someone out** if it is needed. They are doing security, but should also have an eye on the affected person and if necessary accompany them to the awareness table. It is important, that the people who are doing security shifts are prepared for it and feel physically and psychologically ready for the role.

The security shift should continuously check-in at the different stations (entrance, awareness table, bar) and ask if everything is going smoothly.

**For these 4 people we have screen-printed patches so they can be identified.**

## **Door/entrance**

**3 people** are at the entrance. These are split between attending the "cashpoint", and doing the "entrance". The entrance is meant as kind of a floodgate, at which guests receive the awareness flyer and a short announcement, before entering.

In the announcement you should explain the Do's and the Dont's. Please point out that discriminatory behavior (sexism, homo- and trans-aggression, racism...) will not be tolerated. Also point out that everyone is responsible for the party, that they are part of the evening, that the party is a soli-party and a successful party can only be accomplished with everyone contributing to the atmosphere.

Explain the different rooms, mention the awareness table and that it can be approached at any time.

If you have the impression that guests are totally drunk or on drugs and don't get anything you say, it is ok not to let them in. You can ask them who they are with and if they need support to get home (e.g. need a taxi called).

If you have the impression, that guests do not react in solidarity with the safer space policy and make fun of your announcement, you shouldn't let them in.

**Everyone taking shifts at the party should be familiar with the awareness concept, be in solidarity with it and ready to do their part. Some examples of this are; Bar shifts not**

**giving alcohol to people who are drunk and not taking care of those around; DJ\*anes turning down the music when necessary, etc.**

Guests should be counted at the cashpoint. If the space gets too full (from 250 people including the orga team) it should be checked if an entry stop is necessary (How is the atmosphere at the party? How many rooms are open etc.?) During a stop at the entry, one person of the door team goes to the entrance and implements this. (This is made much simpler when guests receive a stamp on the way in). People can then enter the party in small groups when enough other guests have left for good.

### **3. Responsible persons from the aware\_net-team**

**2 members of the permanent awareness group will be present at every party.** They have an observatory role during the party but they are also there if you have questions. If necessary, they can offer support.

If someone is being kicked out, one team member stays in the party and the other accompanies the group leaving the party. The team members have the right to stop a party, turn off the music or request an entry stop. They have the task to support, to develop the awareness concept of New Yorck and to make sure there is a flow of information. If needed they can call for a house ban (which will be documented and discussed in the plenary of New Yorck in Bethanien).

### **4. Kicking someone out.**

If the behaviour of a single person or a group is not acceptable, it is **totally OK to ask them to leave.** Ideally a conversation would take place in which it is made clear to them why they have to leave and they go voluntarily. Try to get the people to leave on their own. If this is not happening, they have to be kicked out. The security shift is responsible for coordinating this! People in the shift can of course ask for support with this. It should however be avoided that everyone around gets involved in the conflict, ending in a mass fight and even more uncomfortable behaviour.

One of the responsible persons from the NY awareness group accompanies the kick-out. The decision to kick a person out can come from the affected person, the party orga group or the responsible persons from aware\_net group.

### **5. Stopping the party**

In some situations it is necessary to stop the party (temporarily or for good). In this case please take into account that the guests need to be informed and it should be mentioned that there are people already coping with the incident. If they don't know, there is the possibility of uneasiness and resentment if the music is turned off and the lights turned on suddenly. It is super important to pass on information and not just keep partying although there was a shitty incident. However it is sometimes easier to clarify a situation and figure

out what to do with a few people instead of hundreds of guests (amongst other reasons, to reduce attention on the affected person who might find that uncomfortable).

## **6. Cops**

We don't want to collaborate with the police. **ONLY if the affected person** wants this, the cops could be called. **You definitely have to inform the responsible person from NY in this case!!!**

Besides that, take into account:

Stay calm, don't panic

1. Turn the music down, interrupt the party.
2. Tell guests that the cops are on the way so they have the possibility to leave before the cops come! No need to panic!
3. Prevent that the cops enter the building (e.g. close the entrance doors / doors downstairs)

Please do not aim at a physical confrontation with the cops in this context.