

Values and Principles of Ìgbà-Dún

Our values are inspired by those of House Ball Scotland

Our Core Values:

- RESPECT (Ọwọ)
- CONSIDERATION (Ìmọsọ)
- COMMUNICATION (Ìbáraṅisòrò)
- RESPONSIBILITY (Ojúṣe)
- LOVE (Ìfẹ)

Guiding Principles:

1. Cultural Equality: We recognize that no culture is more important than another, embracing diversity within and beyond Yoruba heritage.
2. Mutual Respect: We practice openness, honesty, and non-judgment in all our interactions, honouring the dignity of every individual.
3. Curiosity and Learning: We avoid assumptions about Yoruba culture or individual experiences, instead navigating knowledge gaps through respectful questions and continuous learning.
4. Open Dialogue: We communicate our needs clearly and maintain open conversations throughout our activities and events.
5. Cultural Innovation: We are willing to challenge systemic barriers to cultural expression and preservation, being intentional and anticipatory in our approach.
6. Diligence in Cultural Practices: We work with rigour and attention to detail in our cultural activities as a practice of care and respect for Yoruba heritage.
7. Transparency: We maintain integrity, transparency, and accountability in all our operations and decision-making processes.
8. Supportive Community: We support one another, providing space for everyone to learn and grow in their understanding and appreciation of Yoruba culture.
9. Adaptability: We welcome change and work through challenges together, avoiding blame and prioritizing collective growth.
10. Learning from Mistakes: We value learning from missteps in cultural understanding or practice, approaching these situations with generosity and as opportunities for education.

11. Self-Care: We prioritize care for ourselves, recognizing that personal well-being enhances our ability to engage meaningfully with cultural activities.
12. Confidentiality: We protect the privacy of our members and the sanctity of certain cultural practices when appropriate.
13. Simplicity: We strive to keep our practices and explanations straightforward, making Yoruba culture accessible to all.

Creating a Safer Space:

- We acknowledge the diversity within Yoruba culture and among our members.
- We communicate and honour cultural needs and boundaries.
- We do not tolerate any form of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia, or prejudice against any aspect of Yoruba or other cultures.
- We consider the impact of our actions on others and on the perception of Yoruba culture.
- We take responsibility for our actions and hold ourselves accountable.
- We support each other through challenges, recognizing the complex interplay of personal, interpersonal, and societal issues in cultural exploration.

Responsibilities of Committee Members:

- Set an example in upholding these values and principles.
- Liaise between the wider membership and the leadership.
- Address concerns or questions about our practices promptly and collectively.
- Recognize and respect different perspectives on cultural issues.
- Raise concerns appropriately and confidentially when needed.
- Apply our safer space commitment consistently.
- Seek support when personal challenges affect our ability to fulfil our roles.