OONI Partner Gathering 2017
Code of Conduct

The OONI Partner Gathering is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for discussing issues related to internet censorship.

We encourage all participants to approach the event with open and positive attitudes, and to engage constructively with others at all times. This code of conduct applies to the OONI Partner Gathering and all conference-related social events, such as gatherings at restaurants or bars.

It is vital that discussions include many different opinions and experiences, so we do not tolerate any kind of harassment. We will take action in response to harassment related to national origin, gender, gender identity and expression, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, physical characteristics, disability, religion, and age.

Communication

The OONI Partner Gathering is an international, multidisciplinary event. There will be people speaking multiple languages and using terms from various fields of study. English will often be the language we are using, and people who are fluent English speakers will have an advantage over less fluent English speakers.

We encourage all participants to approach the event with open and positive attitudes, and to engage constructively with others at all times.

Together, we can make sure that we don't miss out on valuable insights from our amazing participants:

1. Speak clearly and at a moderate pace.

2. Be an active listener, and be patient with people who are speaking their second (or third, or fifth!) language.

3. Avoid jargon when possible. Assume that people don't use the same terms, and explain them.

4. Address the idea, don't attack the person.

5. Disagreements happen; it's okay to walk away from a conversation that isn't fruitful or is becoming tense.

6. Your personal choice of technology doesn't fit all users' needs. There is space for different devices, software, tools, operating systems, programming languages, and licenses. Focus discussions on tools, whether closed source and commercially supported or open source, on the needs of users.

7. If you do not like a solution someone else is proposing, explain why, and state an alternative.

8. If you aren't having success on your own, ask for help from the session leader if you are in a session. Remember, if someone is breaking the code of conduct, you can make a report.

9. Remember that any group identity is complex and includes many different groups. Don't ask anyone to represent an entire group.

Unacceptable Behaviors

Harassment may occur online or in person. Examples of unacceptable behaviors include:

1. Verbal comments that reinforce oppression related to gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, ethnicity, age or religion (or lack thereof);

2. Imitating or making fun of accents or grammatical errors, or giving unsolicited grammar corrections (but clarifying questions are fine);

3. Verbal threats or demands;

4. Sexualized images in public spaces;

5. Intimidation;

6. Stalking;

7. Harassing photography or recording;

8. Sustained disruption of sessions or events;

9. Unwelcome physical contact or sexual attention;

10. Drugging food or drink;

11. Violating the conference privacy policy in order to attract negative attention to an attendee;

12. Enlisting the help of others, whether in person or online, in order to target an attendee;

13. Advocating for or encouraging any of the above behavior.

Let someone leave a conversation that makes them feel uncomfortable, and do not follow people who have asked to be left alone. **If you discuss difficult topics that may be traumatic for participants,** *provide warnings* **so people may leave a conversation or plan coping strategies.**

Participants who are asked to stop harassing behaviors are expected to cease immediately. Depending on severity of harassment or repeat offenses, the Incident Response Committee Members (explained below) will respond appropriately, including but not limited to giving warnings or expulsion from the event. With the consent of the person being harassed, local authorities will be called if needed.

We count on **everyone** to do their part to ensure positive experiences for all participants. **If you are being harassed, notice that someone else is being harassed, or have any other concerns, please contact a member of the Incident Response Committee immediately.**

Incident Response Committee Members

The following individuals form the OONI Partner Gathering Code of Conduct Incident Response Committee:

- Moses Karanja
- Lucas Teixeira
- Maria Xynou

If your concern involves a member of the committee, they will remove themselves from handling your report.

Reporting Violations

Reports can be made confidentially by doing one of the following:

1. All members of the Incident Response Committee will be present at the OONI Partner Gathering. You can approach them directly to report a violation.

2. You can report a violation be sending an email to the Incident Response Committee Members:

- Moses Karanja: moses.karanja@riseup.net
- Lucas Teixeira: lucas@codingrights.org
- Maria Xynou: maria@openobservatory.org

All reports are confidential. You will not be asked to take actions that make you feel unsafe. Conference staff will be happy to help participants contact hotel/venue security or local law

enforcement, provide escorts, or otherwise assist those experiencing harassment to feel safe for the duration of the conference.

Privacy Policy

Since many participants rely on privacy-enhancing technology to protect their freedom of expression, the OONI Partner Gathering will use the **Chatham House Rule** for sessions:

https://www.chathamhouse.org/about/chatham-house-rule/translations

"When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed."

Use the Chatham House Rule for session notes as well. **Do not take pictures, or record audio or video inside the event venue without the explicit consent of the individuals involved.** When taking pictures outside the venue, please make sure that only people who consent to pictures are included.

The event venue may provide an area for conducting interviews. This area will be clearly marked. In addition:

- You must wear your nametag at all times inside the event venue.
- Do not tweet, post, or publish information about individuals unless you obtain clear permission from them. This includes all tagging on social media.

Failure to comply with any of the above stated policies constitutes sufficient grounds for expulsion from the event.