Ubuntu Code of Ethics
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Our code of ethics, in our beloved [Women's Alliance] community, will be guided by Ubuntu which is an ancient code of ethics that is often used throughout the continent of Africa as a means of relating that encompasses the well-being of the whole community. This ancient code is embedded throughout the world across diverse cultures. Ubuntu is a value system that has existed for a long time in traditional Indigenous cultures and is a way of being in the world that includes kindness, sharing, generosity, compassion, inclusiveness, and a deep concern for all of creation.

We can find Ubuntu at the foundation of every culture, which makes it so widespread. Helen Sayer points out:

> The word Ubuntu originated in the local languages of South Africa. For example, one key concept of Ubuntu derives from the Zulu/Xhosa (South African) saying: "umuntu, ngumuntu, ngabantu" which means "a person is a person through other persons" – otherwise expressed as: "I am because you are" or "I exist because you exist." It acknowledges the value of each individual or group, the acceptance of our differences while recognizing our common spirituality, our responsibility for the well-being of others, and a sense of being one human family and being deeply connected with nature and with the universe" (qtd. In Sayers 8).

These are words from diverse languages that express Ubuntu such as:

Mitakuye Oyasin (Lakota – We Are All Related)

Harambee (Swahili – Let's Pull Together)

Terranga (Wolof-Hospitality)

Ethiad (Arabic – Cooperation, Union)

In Lak Ech (Mayan – I Am Another Yourself)

Ahimsa (Hindu – Non-violence)

European phrase (One for all and all for one)

As we come together, as a beloved community, we have an opportunity to learn and grow from each other by building bridges across our differences while recognizing our commonalities. By practicing an Ubuntu Code of Ethics, we can more clearly see our connections to other living beings while practicing deep listening to other people's experiences, perspectives, and worldviews. We can

become aware of what happens to other living beings impacts us because we are all connected.

Sources

Sayers, Helen. *Introducing Ubuntu! Re-ignite the Spirit of Humanity!: Rediscover the Art of Living Together in Harmony.* Self-published, 2010. Print.