The RFOS Twelve Principles

Welcome

Welcome to The RFOS Twelve Principles. This document introduces the values and responsibilities that guide people who support Rwanda Freedom of Speech. Read it as a shared standard for peaceful, responsible, and courageous participation.

Rwanda Freedom of Speech exists to defend the human right to speak, question, learn, and participate without fear. To support RFOS is to accept responsibility - not only to demand freedom, but to practise it with courage, discipline, wisdom, and respect.

The RFOS Twelve Principles

1. Freedom Is Our Purpose

We stand for the freedom of people to speak, think, question, create, and seek the truth without intimidation. Freedom of speech is not a privilege reserved for the powerful. It belongs to every person.

2. Understand Before You Stand

We do not follow every slogan or react to every provocation. Before we take a position, we study the facts, understand the situation, examine the consequences, and ask why our voice is needed.

3. Courage Must Be Calculated

Courage is not recklessness. We choose our actions carefully, measure the risks, protect people from unnecessary harm, and act when responsible action can move the cause forward.

4. Discipline Protects the Mission

We do not allow anger, pride, impatience, or personal conflict to control our work. We keep our promises, respect procedures, protect confidential information, and remain focused when pressure increases.

5. Resilience Carries the Change

Change rarely arrives quickly. We learn to continue through rejection, silence, criticism, setbacks, and disappointment. We recover, reorganise, and return with greater wisdom.

6. Growth Is a Responsibility

Every supporter must remain willing to learn. We improve our knowledge, communication, judgment, and ability to serve. We do not demand change from society while refusing to change ourselves.

7. Experience Must Become Wisdom

Experience alone is not enough. We reflect on what happened, recognise what worked and what failed, and use those lessons to make better decisions. Our past becomes guidance - not an excuse.

8. Review Before Repeating

We regularly examine our words, decisions, campaigns, and methods. We ask: What did we achieve? What did we misunderstand? Who was affected? What must be corrected? An advocacy that refuses review eventually repeats its mistakes.

9. Truth Requires Examination

We do not spread information merely because it supports our position. We verify sources, distinguish evidence from rumour, recognise manipulation, and remain honest about what we know and what we do not know.

10. Humility Makes Us Stronger

No supporter is bigger than the mission. We listen to criticism, admit mistakes, respect the contributions of others, and think lightly of ourselves without thinking lightly of the cause. Leadership is service, not superiority.

11. Protect People While Pursuing Change

We defend freedom without humiliating, threatening, exploiting, or endangering others. We reject violence, harassment, hatred, deliberate deception, and the exposure of private information. Our methods must reflect the free and dignified society we seek.

12. Become a Pioneer

A pioneer does not wait for perfect conditions or for someone else to begin. A pioneer prepares carefully, accepts responsibility, creates new possibilities, and opens a path for others to follow. Every RFOS supporter should leave their advocacy stronger, wiser, and more courageous than they found it.

The RFOS Commitment

By supporting Rwanda Freedom of Speech, I commit to defend freedom of speech peacefully and responsibly; seek understanding before taking action; verify information before sharing it; protect the dignity, privacy, and safety of others; accept correction and learn from experience; reject violence, harassment, hatred, and manipulation; place the mission above personal recognition; remain disciplined and resilient during difficult times; help create a culture where people can speak without fear; and become a responsible pioneer for peaceful change.

Freedom demands courage. Courage demands discipline. Discipline creates trust. Trust gives people the strength to change their future. This is the standard of RFOS.

Verification

Scan the QR code to open the official public RFOS principles page. The QR code contains no private volunteer information.