**GASI Statement on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

EDI statement:

“Being a respected and effective member of the group, being accepted, being able to share, to participate, belong to the basic constructive experiences in human life. No health is conceivable without this”.

Foulkes and Anthony: Group Psychotherapy. The psychoanalytic approach. P.27

(In the GASi Code of Behaviour)

GASi is an international organisation with a focus on group analysis, as originally developed and applied in mental health care. GASi spans continents, cultures, societies, people and languages, providing a rich forum for continuous professional development, education and research through the cross-cultural intersections of the social and the analytic, at both the macro and micro level. Our aim is to facilitate the growth of an inclusive international culture and a respectful network of international communication and exchange

The spirit of GASi strives towards pan-cultural spaces where meaning is made from the conscious and unconscious similarities and differences that emerge through thinking and talking in groups. Our global foundation matrix has the potential to keep re-creating unconscious and unhelpful hierarchies and hierarchical structures and assumptions, that we are constantly working to make conscious. At times this gives rise to strong and painful feelings that surface from dialogue about power differentials and a shared world history shaped by threats to survival in all its forms.

Our groups are intended to promote environments that show respect and tolerance to all individuals, irrespective of human differences, and where diversity is both tolerated and promoted. Our groups should be spaces where it is safe to express different opinions without fear of retribution or marginalization. Rather, we can create dialogue that can help us challenge and reflect upon all forms of suppression, oppression and repression as they arise in human interactions, seeking to humanize and draw strength from our differences, and create spaces where all our members can seek to belong.

It is through the continuous process of talking in groups that we make conscious our most difficult and uncomfortable feelings as they arise in human interactions. This entails the conscious efforts by all our members to adopt an attitude of tolerance, respect, patience and reflexivity, to reduce and avoid stigma and scapegoating, and remembering that our hardest work involves thinking about difference or listening to ideas and perspectives that may feel foreign to us.

*This statement will be reviewed by the GASi management committee on an annual basis*

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