



## **PolyColumbus Inclusive Worldview Policy**

*last updated December 8, 2015*

### **Background**

PolyColumbus is a community where Inclusion is a Core Value. We seek to be inclusive of as many religious beliefs or worldviews (collectively, “worldviews”) as possible. Unfortunately, some worldviews (or those who espouse them) seek to stigmatize and / or criminalize certain intimate relationships between consenting adults. This policy helps to explain how we build an inclusive community regarding worldview, especially given this potential for conflict. It is a sibling document to our Community Conduct Policy.

### **Worldview Neutrality...**

PolyColumbus prides itself on being worldview-neutral. Our leadership and membership are comprised of individuals with a variety of religious and non-religious beliefs. We welcome as potential members all who endorse our Mission & Vision.<sup>1</sup>

For PolyColumbus, worldview neutrality means that, as an organization, we do not privilege or denigrate specific worldviews. All are welcome to believe as they choose, and we encourage someone's personal beliefs to inform their polyamory. As noted in our Community Conduct Policy, we do not accept offensive comments regarding someone's worldview or how their worldview intersects with their relationships.

### **...While Polyamory-Focused**

The exception to our strict neutrality occurs regarding worldviews that contain ideas that are at odds with the Core Values of PolyColumbus: Autonomy, Communication, Consent, Cooperation, Education, Inclusion, and Sex- and Pleasure-Positivity. PolyColumbus advocates for a society where those who practice ethical non-monogamy have not only full and equal civil rights, but also full and equal social standing.

Most of our work is framed positively (e.g., advancing principles of consent). However, we will not ignore the reality that some very powerful religious leaders — whether priests, pastors,

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<sup>1</sup> The other two requirements for membership are attending a PolyColumbus event and providing an email address through which we can communicate with you.

politicians, or otherwise — have been at the forefront of oppressing the ethically non-monogamous, as well as our GLBTQ-identified and / or kinky members, friends, etc.

We are not inclusive of oppressive ideas such as these, regardless of whether they are religious in nature or expressed in a religious fashion. Religion is not a safe harbor for discriminatory conduct, social policy, or law.

### **Additional Points**

With our general principles defined, the following are additional points for how we implement this policy of worldview inclusion.

Those who wish to discuss how their particular worldview informs their polyamory are encouraged to preface such comments with phrases such as “I happen to consider myself a Buddhist, and something I find helpful from my study of Buddhism is...” Phrases such as these make clear that identifying with that worldview is not required or expected for membership in PolyColumbus, and that the speaker is sharing their particular experience.

Board and staff members of PolyColumbus are further encouraged to add something along the lines of “PolyColumbus is a worldview-neutral organization, but I personally am a Humanist...” when discussing their personal worldview.

While maintaining worldview-neutrality at the organizational level, on occasion PolyColumbus leadership will speak at events or conferences on their specific worldview’s intersection with polyamory. We encourage such thoughtful discussions for adherents of all worldviews.

In social-focused PolyColumbus spaces, participants should feel more free to discuss whatever interests them, whether it be a specific worldview, board games, or local sporting events.



## PolyColumbus Document License

*for Inclusive Worldview Policy*

The core of the PolyColumbus Mission is empowering individuals that either self-identify as polyamorous, open, or ethically non-monogamous, or are exploring such possibilities. Part of this empowerment comes from serving organizations with similar goals by documenting best practices and creating other resources for successfully running such an organization.

Good policies and related documents facilitate the orderly and sustainable growth of communities and events that advance the PolyColumbus Mission, whether in the Columbus, Ohio area or elsewhere.

PolyColumbus does not claim a monopoly on wisdom. What we do claim is fifteen years (and counting) as an organization, and leadership with relevant and valuable education, experience, and training. We have confidence in the documents we draft, as well as the humility to revise them when necessary in light of experience.

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