

A Statement on Consent & Abuse

I am a Gardnerian initiate with traceable lineage back to Gerald Gardner. I do not speak for all Gardnerians or for the tradition as a whole. That would be impossible as there is no governing body nor hierarchy outside of individual autonomous covens. Nonetheless:

- I recognize that abuses have been perpetrated in the name of religions the world over and ours is no exception.
- I further know that the personal, spiritual, and human value of religion is immeasurable, making harm done in its name even more important to speak out against.
- I also recognize that, as a community, more vocal statements on our beliefs regarding sex, sexuality, and consent are needed.
- I additionally recognize that a lack of openness and transparency on these important matters has allowed abuses to be perpetrated against those earnestly seeking the tradition.

THEREFORE

- I affirm that proper teachers of our Craft will never pressure students into sex, sexual activity, or other non-consensual physical contact for **any** reason.
- I affirm that consent is an inviolable expression of trust and love.
- I affirm that consent is required for the teaching of our Craft.
- I affirm that I believe that seekers under the tutelage of proper Gardnerian teachers have the following rights:
 - the right to bodily autonomy,
 - the right to an experience free of sexual coercion,
 - the right to an experience free of abuse, and

- the right to leave a coven or teacher at any time, especially if their rights have been violated.
- I further affirm that seekers who feel that they have had their consent and rights violated should be heard and be taken seriously.
- I affirm that maintaining an open dialogue on consent and abuses within our community, and with the greater Pagan community, is necessary to dispel misinformation about our tradition.
- I affirm that I will support the voices of victims and that they will be able to report abuse without fear of retaliation.
- I affirm that abusers should be held accountable for their actions and I will do so to the extent possible, whenever possible. Individuals and/or groups who violate the consent and/or rights of those under their care will be persona non-grata within my Circles and events and refused referral to seekers.

I invite other Gardnerian initiates, elders, and coven leaders who agree with the affirmations above to add their names.

We do so affirm:

TEACHER: _____

STUDENT: _____