

## RELIGIONS FOR PEACE AUSTRALIA

### CODE OF CONDUCT

#### for RfP MEMBERS and VOLUNTEER RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

The mission of *Religions for Peace Australia* is to work for interreligious peace and harmony and for social cohesion in Australia as well as upholding the universal values of religion and individual spirituality. Members of *Religions for Peace Australia* are expected to represent their own religious tradition as ambassadors of its spiritual and human values and to work interreligiously for the wellbeing of Australia and the global society.

Members of *Religions for Peace Australia* are expected to behave in a conscientious and professional manner at all times towards members of their own and other religious and belief traditions by:

- Behaving at all times in accord with the authentic spiritual and human values of their own religious traditions and within the requirements of Australian law
- Behaving at all times courteously, honestly and justly and with integrity towards other members and with all persons
- Treating all others with integrity, irrespective of their gender, sexual orientation, race, culture, age, marital status or political conviction
- Acting in ways that are in accordance with the mission and aims of *Religions for Peace Australia* and contributing to its work
- Protecting the privacy of others and respecting the confidentiality of information as appropriate
- Respecting the cultural and religious backgrounds and beliefs of all members of *Religions for Peace Australia* and all other persons
- Respecting those who change their religious affiliation or belief system
- Avoiding behaviour that might reasonably be interpreted as harassment, discrimination, bullying or intimidation either in person or via electronic medium
- Taking action to prevent unethical, corrupt, fraudulent or anti-religious behaviour and refraining from acting in any way that compromises *Religions for Peace Australia*

For volunteer religious instructors in primary and secondary schools, as well as behaving in accord with the code of conduct for members, they will act as representatives of their own religious tradition and of *Religions for Peace Australia* by:

- Treating children always with respect and dignity, treating them fairly and equally, including being always mindful of the provisions of the Working with Children Act of the Victorian Parliament
- Behaving towards children and school staff courteously, honestly fairly and always with integrity and without coercion

- Reporting to the appropriate authority behaviour towards children that is contrary to the law or to his or her wellbeing
- Respecting the privacy of each child and maintaining confidentiality in respect of information about them
- Modelling to the children and school staff good behaviour, positive attitudes and proper speech
- Using only the designated program based on the central beliefs and practices of one's own faith tradition with political impartiality and never to use speech or program material that denigrates or gives false impressions of other religious traditions or humanist groups
- Observing the entry and exit process for visiting instructors and the occupational health and safety regulations, including the emergency procedures
- Ensuring that any written information to be sent home has the permission of the school principal
- Notifying the principal of the school as early as possible of absences from instructing the religious instruction class
- Ensuring that any visitor brought into the classroom has the required Working with Children's check.

*Religions for Peace Australia*. Approved February 2015.

I agree to abide by this code of conduct of *Religions for Peace Australia*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_