



PREDATORY BEHAVIOUR

workshop

EDM FD



WHAT'S THE PLAN FOR TODAY

- 1. What is predatory behaviour**
- 2. Let's not forget...**
- 3. What this workshop isn't**
- 4. Small group discussion**
- 5. Summary**



„One of the deepest challenges for groups is to remain open to all and still create a safe, hospitable atmosphere.

Group unity and a powerful sense of community can protect us from the challenges that come with open membership.

We do our best to safeguard those who are vulnerable without making others feel unwelcome...

We gain little by ignoring difficulties, and stand to lose much if we avoid the challenges we face”

(Guiding Principles, Tradition 3)





„There are many distracting influences that can divert us from our primary purpose...

*but each time our focus is diverted from our primary purpose, **the addict seeking recovery loses out**”*

(It works: How and Why, Tradition 5)





WHAT IS PREDATORY BEHAVIOUR?

***PREDATORY BEHAVIOUR** for the purpose of this workshop describes the situation when **one NA member takes advantage of another NA member using disproportion of power to achieve personal gains or profit.** This may include but is not limited to sexual harassment or predation.*





**CAN YOU GIVE AN EXAMPLE OF
PREDATORY BEHAVIOUR?**



*Predatory behaviour is in direct conflict
with our primary purpose as stated in
Tradition 5.*

*We are here to see what is our role in
solving this challenge as NA members
and groups.*



TRADITION 5

**Each group has
but one primary
purpose – to carry
the message to
addict who still
suffers**



LET'S NOT FORGET...

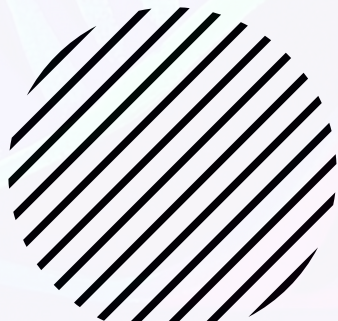
- This issue may not affect us all personally or equally, but it does affect our groups and NA as a whole (see Traditions 1, 4 and 12)
- **Our first experiences in and around meetings are critically important to our recovery**
- New and returning members are especially vulnerable to being taken advantage of
- Not only newcomers or members who are preyed on are affected





LET'S NOT FORGET...

- Not every problematic behaviour is predatory behaviour, even if it may be problematic for group or members
- Love is not forbidden in NA
- All of us come to NA with issues





LET'S NOT FORGET...

- We should carefully inspect our own motivations:
*Am I the best person to show this newcomer the ropes?
Have I thought about the potential consequences of my
actions? Is the arrangement we are about to make safe
and beneficial for our recovery?*
- We have a right to set boundaries **no matter what** -
we are all responsible for deciding who we let into our
lives
- As NA members we are all responsible for
creating the environment for safe recovery





WHAT THIS WORKSHOP ISN'T

- When dealing with these issues we should focus on solutions – not problems or particular addicts
- Workshop is not meant to divide members into victims and predators – we aim for unity
- No one can „kick someone out of NA” as per Tradition 3, but...





We should be clear to all
addicts: **You are welcome.**
Behaviour that harms others or
disrupts the atmosphere of
recovery is not welcome.





SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



What can be
done in this
situation by the
affected person?
Other NA
members?
Trusted
servants? The
group?



SITUATION 1 | GROUP 1

Experienced NA member
is constantly seducing
newcomers met during
the meetings. These
people often do not
return to NA meetings
after being taken
advantage of.



SITUATION 2 | GROUP 2



What can be
done in this
situation by the
affected person?
Other NA
members?
Trusted
servants? The
group?



**NA member manipulates
other members into
giving them money after
the meeting.**



SITUATION 3 | GROUP 3



What can be done in this situation by the affected person?
Other NA members?
Trusted servants? The group?



Few NA members tricks other meeting attendants into working and buying from company that is in fact pyramid scheme. These members give other member's personal information to their co-workers so they can use it to sell the products.



What can be done in this situation by the affected person? Other NA members? Trusted servants? The group?



SITUATION 4 | GROUP 4

During a meeting, a member that has recently come back after a relapse is touched by another participant in a way that is disturbing for them. When they say it out loud, some members laugh, and the person identified as disruptor says: „I’m pretty sure you must still be using to imagine something like that”.



What can be done in this situation by the affected person? Other NA members? Trusted servants? The group?



SITUATION 5 | GROUP 5

During a break, some NA members approach a newcomer and start convincing them that they'll never get clean if they don't believe in Christ. But they surely can help with that.



SITUATION 6 | GROUP 6

What can be done in this situation by the affected person?
Other NA members?
Trusted servants? The group?



During an online meeting, an addict with just a couple of months clean-time receives private messages on the chat – the other NA member comments on their looks and proposes contact outside of the meeting.



What can be done in this situation by the affected person?
Other NA members?
Trusted servants? The group?




SITUATION 7 | GROUP 7

During a meeting new NA member mentions being asked to clean their sponsor's house in exchange for sponsorship. In response to that some members share their difficult stories from sponsorship relationships – some were asked for money or favours by their sponsors, and someone is convinced that they can be sponsored by their lover as long as this person has much more experience in the program.



SUMMARY



„We strongly discourage any harassment, threats, or disturbing behaviour before, during, and after our meetings. This includes unwelcome sexual, romantic, financial, and religious solicitation. Our meetings are for sharing NA recovery. If you feel harassed or threatened, share your concerns with the meeting leader or a trusted servant.”

(IP No. 29)





„There are times when action is necessary to protect members from danger, but when problems are resolved without crisis or disrespect, NA demonstrates its difference from the places we came from.”

(Guiding Principles, Tradition 3)





SUMMARY

Traditions 1, 3, 5 and 12 tell us that:

- All of us are NA members trying to stay clean a day at the time
- Carrying the message is our primary purpose
- We must do everything we can to promote the atmosphere of recovery where everyone is safe to attend our meetings and that we are able to get what we came for - recovery





THANK YOU!