**Black & Poly Meeting**

**Code of Conduct**

1. Arrive on time, remain for the entire session, and do not wander in and out of the session.
2. Unless you’re expecting an emergency call, please turn cell phones off. (Using laptops or other gadgets is also generally not appropriate unless used for presentations or to share information with others)
3. Listen. Hear what the other person is saying. Let them finish talking. Think before you react. Realize that the same word or phrase may mean different things to different people.
4. One person speaks at a time.
5. This group is for discussion/support, not debate. No one is right; no one is wrong. In particular, there is no single correct view of family dynamics, sex, gender, social role or human sexuality. (Or whatever the topic may be.)
6. Help others concentrate on the meeting. Discourage side conversations.
7. Stay on topic.
8. Treat each other with courtesy and compassion.
9. Avoid judgments, arguments, fights and criticism.
10. Speak to each other with respect.
11. Contribute positively to the discussions.
12. Try to be concise and avoid soliloquies.
13. Respect the meeting place.
14. Talk about yourself and your own experience. You may ask questions of others, but do not challenge the validity of another’s personal experience.
15. Keep your comments brief and to the point, so everyone has a chance to speak.
16. Do not generalize from your experience and feelings to the experience and feelings of others. Let people speak for themselves.
17. Do not attack, or try to hurt, or pass judgment on anyone, whether or not they are present.
18. Treat this group session as a private conversation, do not repeat elsewhere what is said here.