

# Safeguarding at The Huachuma Project

Ensuring Your Safety and Well-Being

### Introduction

At The Huachuma Project, the safety, well-being, and emotional security of every participant are our top priorities. This document outlines our **safeguarding policy** to ensure that everyone attending our retreats feels safe, supported, and respected throughout their journey. Our goal is to create a nurturing environment where deep healing can occur, and this requires maintaining clear boundaries, respectful interactions, and protective measures at all times.

# What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding is the responsibility we take to protect participants from harm, abuse, or neglect, whether physical, emotional, psychological, or spiritual. It is about ensuring a safe space where everyone's vulnerabilities are respected, and where any concerns or issues can be addressed swiftly and appropriately.

# **Key Safeguarding Principles**

### 1. Respect for Boundaries

 Physical, emotional, and spiritual boundaries are honored and respected at all times. No one should ever feel pressured or unsafe. Consent is key, especially in moments of vulnerability.

#### 2. Confidentiality

 Everything that is shared during the retreat, whether in a group or in private conversations, remains confidential. This ensures a safe space for everyone to share without fear of judgment or exposure.

#### 3. Non-Judgmental Space

 This is a space free from criticism or judgment. Every participant is encouraged to express themselves without fear of ridicule. Healing can only take place when there is a sense of safety, trust, and understanding.

### 4. Transparency and Open Communication

You are encouraged to ask for help and communicate openly with the team.
 The facilitators and crew are here to listen and respond to any concerns or issues you may have. We can only help if you feel comfortable sharing.

#### 5. Zero Tolerance for Abuse or Disrespect

 There is zero tolerance for any form of abuse, discrimination, or inappropriate behavior. This includes physical, emotional, and verbal abuse as well as any form of harassment or disrespect towards other participants or crew members.

### **Support for Partners and Relatives**

If you or your loved ones have any concerns about attending a retreat, I am available to personally meet with you, your family, or your partner to help address any questions or worries. Whether in person or via video call, I am happy to discuss the retreat process and create a sense of comfort and understanding for those considering joining.

To schedule a call or meeting, please reach out, and I'll be happy to arrange a time that works for everyone involved.

# **Support and Reporting Concerns**

We understand that being in a healing space can sometimes bring up difficult emotions or experiences. If at any point you feel uncomfortable, unsafe, or unsure about anything, it is important that you know how and where to seek help.

 Facilitators and Crew: The facilitators and crew are trained to support you through any challenges that arise. Whether you need to talk privately or seek clarification on something, we are here to listen.

- Confidential Conversations: If you need to raise any concerns or share sensitive information, you can request a confidential conversation with the lead facilitator or any trusted member of the crew.
- Raising Concerns About Others: If you witness or experience behavior that feels
  unsafe or inappropriate, it's important to bring it to our attention immediately. You can
  do this discreetly with any member of the team, and we will handle the matter with
  care and respect for all involved.

# **Personal Responsibility**

While we are here to create a safe environment, it is also important to remember that everyone is responsible for their own actions and well-being. We encourage you to:

- Be mindful of your own boundaries and how you interact with others.
- **Speak up** if something doesn't feel right, whether it's related to your own experience or someone else's.
- Respect the space and others, understanding that each person is on their own unique journey.

# **Physical Safety**

In addition to emotional and spiritual safety, your physical safety is equally important:

- 1. **Ceremonial Boundaries**: During ceremonies, please stay within the designated areas and follow the guidance of the facilitators at all times.
- 2. **Fire Safety**: If ceremonies are held outdoors, follow all fire safety guidelines and remain mindful of your surroundings.
- 3. **Medical Issues**: If you have any medical conditions or feel unwell at any point during the retreat, inform a crew member or facilitator immediately. We are here to ensure you have the support and care you need.

# Drugs, Alcohol, and Other Substances

We maintain a **strict policy** regarding drugs, alcohol, and other substances that may compromise the safety and integrity of the space:

- No alcohol or recreational drugs are permitted during the retreat. This is a sacred space, and such substances interfere with the healing process and safety of everyone involved.
- **Medicinal use of plant medicine** is administered only under the guidance of the facilitators, and participants must not bring their own substances into the space.

# Conclusion

Safeguarding is an essential part of creating a sacred, respectful, and healing environment. We take this responsibility seriously and are committed to maintaining a space where everyone feels safe, protected, and supported.

If you have any concerns, need help, or simply wish to talk, we are here for you. Let's work together to create the most transformative and healing experience possible.

### With heart,

Austin Romero Founder, The Huachuma Project