

# CODE OF HONOR

by The Stargazers

Men of many backgrounds are acculturated to have a code of honor. It is a set of standards by we judge each other and a goal toward which we strive. We made these standards explicit not because we or all men like us behave in accordance with them, but because in being our best, we believe we should. Like all cultural values, they can be at the root both of our strengths and our weaknesses.

## Defend your territory

- Don't be pushed around. Stay free.
- Guard your home. Be prepared.
- Compete for your team or your organization.
- Serve your country.
- Love Nature. Protect the outdoors.
- Keep the faith.

## Care for women and children

- Be a provider.
- Be faithful.
- Be strong.
- Be a coach and a model for younger men.

## Play fair

- Level the playing field.
- Give the other guy a chance.
- Take turns. Everybody gets a hearing.
- Don't play favorites.

## Be an adventurer

- Be brave. Take risks.
- Explore new territory.
- Be self-reliant.
- Don't be a "whiner."

## Tell the truth

- Own up to mistakes and failures.
- Call others on their failures.
- Decry injustice. Speak up for what is right.

## Do right

- Obey legitimate authority.
- Observe the chain of command.
- Work hard for a living. Don't take handouts.
- Free the oppressed. Fight for the underdog.

## Do good

- Be a leader.
- Put others' needs first.
- Give community service.

When these values are taken seriously, they can serve to enable men to make a transition to their role in the new diverse workplace culture. Often the value simply needs to be reinterpreted to include people different from themselves.

Today white men are often viewed as the enemies of diversity, the oppressors, and the source of "backlash." Those who deal with them would do better to understand them as a culture with a values system that can be addressed and used successfully as part of the diversity dialog.

Many of these male values have made the debate about personal and civil rights possible and its efforts successful in the USA. True, many of the "Founding Fathers" of the nation were slaveholders, and held narrow views about the roles of women and the rights of the propertyless. However, the logical consequences of their philosophy motivated subsequent generations of men and women to extend the values of freedom and equality to all comers of whatever gender, race, or ethnicity. Their philosophy still inspires millions of immigrants and refugees to choose the USA, despite its dangers, as their first destination.

Some of these standards can pose obstacles and challenges to cultures with other value systems. Their jingoistic interpretation too often makes us self-righteous and imperialistic toward peoples of other nations and backgrounds.

These standards deserve to be made explicit. Discussing and debating them consciously and deliberately is a way of making male Americans an integral part of the dialog about the future of the nation's culture, workplace, and social structure. Multiculturalism that does not hear this voice is sabotaging itself by excluding a major part of the reality with which it wants to come to terms.

The set of standards articulated above does not pretend to be either correct or complete. Though some may detest it and others may praise it, we offer it hoping that it will be seriously discussed, debated, and developed, and lead us to a new level of understanding with each other.

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Notes have been added to the code by Dr. George F. Simons, who is a member of The Stargazers. [www.diversophy.com](http://www.diversophy.com)