



## INCLUSIVE INDUSTRY STANDARDS INITIATIVE SPONSOR & CONFERENCE PLEDGE

Version 1.1 · Effective 2026 · Incorporating Asterisk Defense Review Recommendations

<b>Administered by</b>	Association for Women in Crypto (AWIC) · <a href="http://www.womenincrypto.org">www.womenincrypto.org</a>
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:contact@womenincrypto.org">contact@womenincrypto.org</a>
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### PREAMBLE

The digital asset industry is at an inflection point. Legislative frameworks — including the GENIUS Act and the CLARITY Act — are advancing through Congress, and the industry is actively seeking the regulatory trust and institutional credibility necessary to operate within them. That credibility is not built in hearings alone. It is built — or eroded — at every official event conducted under a conference brand, a company logo, or an institutional seal.

The Inclusive Industry Standards Initiative (IISI) establishes voluntary but public professional conduct standards for official digital asset industry events. It exists because the industry lacked an accountability structure — and because the absence of such a structure became impossible to ignore.

On May 6, 2026, an official Consensus after-party was held at E11EVEN Miami under CoinDesk's official conference branding. The event featured pole dancers and adult entertainment. Coverage appeared in Bloomberg. Posts discussing the event were removed by LinkedIn under its Professional Community Policy. No formal industry accountability mechanism existed. IISI is that mechanism.

Participation is voluntary. It is also visible. Signatories are publicly listed in AWIC's annual accountability report. Organizations that have not signed are visible by their absence. The IISI does not compel conduct — it makes conduct a matter of public record.

#### IMPLEMENTATION NOTE

IISI implementation occurs in phases. During Phase 1 (the first twelve months following initial launch), certification applications will be reviewed by AWIC leadership. The IISI-Certified mark will be issued beginning in Phase 2 to organizations that have maintained compliance during Phase 1. Signatories who execute this Pledge during Phase 1 are publicly identified as IISI Pledge Signatories and are eligible for IISI-Certified status in Phase 2 subject to compliance review.

## CONFERENCE ORGANIZER PLEDGE

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For entities that organize, brand, or produce official digital asset industry conferences and their associated events.

### 1. Pre-Event Venue Review

Before confirming any venue for an officially branded conference event, the Organizer will conduct a written review of the venue against IISI criteria. Venues whose primary business model, programming, or physical environment is materially inconsistent with professional conference standards — including venues that regularly feature adult entertainment — will not be confirmed for officially branded events.

### 2. Programming Standards

No officially branded conference event will include adult entertainment, sexually explicit performance, or any content that would constitute a violation of LinkedIn's Professional Community Policy if posted on that platform. This standard applies to all programming, performances, visual content, and promotional activations at officially branded events, regardless of whether such content is provided by the Organizer, a sponsor, or a third-party vendor. Promotional activations, digital displays, or marketing materials featuring sexualized imagery or characters are expressly prohibited under this standard.

### 3. On-Site Conduct Policy

A written anti-harassment policy must be in effect and visibly posted at all official conference events. The policy must identify, by name or role, a specific point of contact who is present and reachable during the event and authorized to receive and act on conduct complaints. The policy must include a clear process for reporting and an explicit statement that the Organizer takes reports seriously and will respond.

### 4. Accessible Space

At least one officially branded evening event per conference must be alcohol-optional and accessible to attendees who do not consume alcohol. "Alcohol-optional" means that non-alcoholic beverages are available at no charge, that attendance is not conditioned on alcohol consumption, and that the event is not marketed exclusively around alcohol.

### 5. Sponsor Notification

Before a sponsor's participation in any official conference event is confirmed, the Organizer will provide that sponsor with written disclosure of: (a) the venue; (b) the general nature of the event's programming; and (c) any material entertainment or content features. Confirmation of sponsorship constitutes the sponsor's acknowledgment of this disclosure.

### 6. Sponsor Withdrawal Rights

Every official sponsorship agreement for a conference event must include a contractual provision permitting the sponsor to withdraw from the event without financial penalty in the event of a violation of IISI standards. The Organizer may not enter into a sponsorship agreement that prohibits or penalizes a sponsor's withdrawal on grounds of IISI non-compliance.

## 7. Incident Reporting

In the event that an IISI standard is violated at an official conference event, the Organizer commits to:

- (a) issuing a written acknowledgment confirming awareness of the reported Incident within 72 hours of the violation becoming known to the Organizer; and
- (b) issuing a substantive public statement addressing the Organizer's response and remediation steps within 14 calendar days; and
- (c) cooperating fully with IISI's documentation process, including providing factual information to AWIC for entry into the Incident Registry.

A good-faith disclosure and cooperation with the IISI documentation process will be noted as a mitigating factor in the annual accountability report. Silence or denial in the face of a documented violation will be noted as an aggravating factor.

### Conference Organizer — Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signatory Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing above, the Organizer confirms that it has read, understands, and agrees to comply with the IISI Conference Organizer Pledge and the IISI Certification Criteria (separate document). The Organizer consents to public disclosure of its signatory status in the IISI annual accountability report.

## SPONSOR PLEDGE

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For companies and organizations that sponsor official events associated with digital asset industry conferences.

### 1. Pre-Sponsorship Review

Before confirming sponsorship of any official conference event, the Sponsor commits to conducting its own independent written review of the event's venue and general programming to assess consistency with IISI standards. The Sponsor will not confirm sponsorship of an event without reasonable satisfaction that those standards are met. Reliance on a conference organizer's representations does not discharge this obligation where material information is publicly available or can be obtained through reasonable inquiry. The Sponsor will complete and submit the IISI Sponsor Due Diligence Checklist as a condition of certification.

### 2. DEI Alignment

The Sponsor confirms that each official conference event it funds or supports is consistent with the Sponsor's published diversity, equity, and inclusion commitments. Where a Sponsor maintains a formal DEI policy, employee code of conduct, or workplace standards framework, sponsorship of conference events must be consistent with that framework.

### 3. LinkedIn Standard

The Sponsor commits to not funding or supporting any official conference event whose content, programming, or entertainment would constitute a violation of LinkedIn's Professional Community Policy if posted on that platform. This standard applies regardless of whether the relevant content is organized by the conference organizer, a co-sponsor, or a third-party vendor.

### 4. Withdrawal Obligation

Where a Sponsor has contractual withdrawal rights and becomes aware, before or during an event, that IISI standards are being or will be violated, the Sponsor commits to exercising those rights. A Sponsor that funds an event it knows to be in violation of IISI standards — and that does not exercise available withdrawal rights — will be identified in the Incident Registry alongside the conference organizer.

### 5. Public Disclosure

The Sponsor acknowledges and consents to AWIC publicly identifying the Sponsor as an IISI signatory in the annual accountability report and in the IISI public signatory registry. The Sponsor further acknowledges that if the Sponsor is identified in the Incident Registry in connection with a documented violation, that identification will also be a matter of public record.

### 6. Employee Conduct

The Sponsor commits that employees, agents, and representatives of the Sponsor attending official industry events in a professional or representative capacity will conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the Sponsor's professional standards and with IISI standards applicable to attendee conduct. The Sponsor accepts responsibility for communicating these standards to its personnel who attend such events.

**Sponsor — Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signatory Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

By signing above, the Sponsor confirms that it has read, understands, and agrees to comply with the IISI Sponsor Pledge and the IISI Certification Criteria (separate document). The Sponsor consents to public disclosure of its signatory status in the IISI annual accountability report.

# NOTES ON ADMINISTRATION

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## Voluntary and Public

This Pledge is voluntary. No legal obligation arises from non-participation. However, AWIC will maintain and publish a public registry of signatories. Organizations that have not signed the applicable Pledge will be identifiable by their absence from the registry.

## Indemnification

Each Signatory agrees to indemnify and hold AWIC harmless from any third-party claims, damages, or expenses (including reasonable legal fees) arising from the Signatory's own conduct, including any conduct that is the subject of an Incident Registry entry.

## Incident Registry

AWIC maintains a standing Incident Registry documenting reported IISI violations at official industry events. Entries may reflect violations by signatories or non-signatories. Signatory status does not immunize an organization from documentation; it commits the organization to a response process. Prior to publishing any Registry entry, AWIC will notify the named organization in writing and provide a 10-business-day period to submit a written response. Incident entries are factual and sourced; AWIC's editorial standards for the Registry are governed by the IISI Administration Policy.

## Annual Accountability Report

AWIC publishes an annual accountability report each January. The report includes: (a) the full list of current signatories by category; (b) a summary of Incident Registry entries from the preceding year; (c) a record of organizer and sponsor responses to documented incidents; and (d) any updates to IISI criteria or standards. The report is publicly available at [www.womenincrypto.org](http://www.womenincrypto.org).

## Amendments

IISI criteria and standards may be updated by AWIC following consultation with the IISI Advisory Group. Signatories will be notified of material amendments in writing with no less than sixty (60) days' notice. A signatory that does not wish to be bound by an amended standard may withdraw from the Pledge with written notice to AWIC; such withdrawal will be noted in the next annual accountability report.

## No Warranty of Compliance

IISI signatory status is not a certification of compliance. It is a commitment to standards and to a response process. AWIC does not independently audit all conference events. Signatory status confers neither endorsement by AWIC nor assurance to any third party that all events associated with the signatory have met IISI standards.

<b>Adilah Holivay</b>	Chief Executive Officer · Association for Women in Crypto (AWIC)
<b>Amanda Wick</b>	Founder · Association for Women in Crypto (AWIC)
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.womenincrypto.org">www.womenincrypto.org</a>