

## RAYS 2026 Code of Conduct, Inclusion & Participation Guidelines

### Purpose

The Rainforest Youth Summit (RAYS) is a youth-centred platform that brings together participants from diverse cultures, countries, disciplines, lived experiences, and perspectives to engage in dialogue, collaboration, learning, and action toward shared futures.

RAYS is committed to fostering an environment grounded in dignity, inclusion, respect, responsibility, and care.

This Code of Conduct applies to all individuals participating in or associated with RAYS 2026, including but not limited to:

- delegates
- speakers
- workshop leaders
- moderators
- volunteers
- organising team members
- sponsors and partners
- media representatives
- vendors and exhibitors
- guests and attendees

This Code applies across all summit-related spaces, including official sessions, workshops, networking activities, online platforms, accommodation spaces, transportation arrangements, social gatherings, and affiliated off-site activities.

## 1. Inclusion, Representation & Responsibility

RAY'S centres diversity, equity, inclusion, and respectful engagement.

All participants are expected to engage in a manner that contributes to a welcoming, respectful, and safe environment for all individuals, regardless of nationality, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, disability, socioeconomic background, language, identity, or lived experience.

Participants are expected to:

### Language & Framing

- use respectful, inclusive, and accessible language
- avoid discriminatory, derogatory, inflammatory, or exclusionary language
- avoid stereotypes, assumptions, or framing that may marginalise individuals or communities

### Cultural Sensitivity

- engage respectfully with cultures, traditions, beliefs, and lived experiences
- avoid tokenisation, misrepresentation, or exploitative representation of communities
- recognise the importance of context and nuance when discussing communities, histories, or social issues

### Context & Power

- acknowledge that social, political, environmental, historical, and economic systems shape experiences differently
- remain mindful of privilege, access, power dynamics, and structural inequalities
- approach discussions with humility, openness, and respect for differing perspectives

### Use of Visuals & Content

- ensure media, visuals, music, stories, examples, or materials are used appropriately and respectfully
- obtain permissions or rights where required
- avoid content that may be exploitative, harmful, dehumanising, or inappropriate for a diverse audience

### Self-Awareness & Reflection

- reflect on personal perspectives, assumptions, and positionality
- remain open to learning, feedback, and evolving understanding
- contribute to dialogue in good faith and with mutual respect

RAYS recognises that language, perspectives, and understanding continue to evolve, and encourages a culture of openness, accountability, and continued learning.

## 2. Land & Place

RAYS is held in Sarawak, on the island of Borneo, a region deeply rooted in Indigenous knowledge, cultures, histories, and relationships with land and community.

Participants are encouraged to:

- engage respectfully with the place and communities hosting the summit
- recognise the cultural, ecological, and historical significance of the region
- approach conversations around Indigenous knowledge, heritage, and lived experiences with care and integrity
- acknowledge the interconnected relationships between land, people, biodiversity, and shared futures

## 3. Professional & Respectful Conduct

All participants are expected to maintain professional, respectful, and responsible conduct throughout the duration of the summit.

Participants are expected to:

- engage respectfully with fellow participants, organisers, venue staff, partners, and the wider public
- contribute toward constructive dialogue and collaborative engagement
- respect session formats, facilitation, timings, and operational processes
- communicate disagreements respectfully and without hostility or intimidation
- exercise care when discussing sensitive topics including race, religion, culture, conflict, displacement, politics, identity, and environmental injustice

RAYS welcomes thoughtful discussion, differing viewpoints, and critical reflection. Conduct that undermines the dignity, wellbeing, or safety of others will not be tolerated.

#### 4. Harassment, Discrimination & Safety

RAYS maintains a zero-tolerance approach toward harassment, discrimination, intimidation, bullying, or inappropriate conduct.

Prohibited conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- verbal abuse or discriminatory remarks
- sexual harassment or unwanted advances
- intimidation, threats, or hostile behaviour
- inappropriate physical contact
- stalking or sustained disruption
- bullying, humiliation, or deliberate exclusion
- retaliation against individuals who raise concerns
- conduct that compromises the safety, dignity, or wellbeing of others

#### 5. Shared Responsibility

RAYS is a collective space shaped by everyone present.

All participants share responsibility in contributing toward an environment that is:

- respectful
- inclusive
- safe
- collaborative
- youth-centred
- grounded in care for people, cultures, communities, and planet

We recognise that misunderstandings and mistakes may occur. Where appropriate, RAYS encourages accountability, reflection, dialogue, and willingness to learn.

Participants who experience or witness behaviour inconsistent with this Code are encouraged to notify the RAYS Organising Team.

RAYS reserves the right to take appropriate action in response to conduct that violates this Code, including warnings, removal from sessions or activities, revocation of participation privileges, or further action where necessary.