

## **SGIA General Guidelines**

- 1) We ask SGIA members and leaders to refrain from entering business arrangements together. Such arrangements may lead to different types of stress on those relationships, a change in relationships from faith to business and may negatively influence other members through the conflict or shared profits from such arrangements. In addition please inform members, leaders or guests we do not use SGIA events, contacts made through activities or any SGIA activities to promote their own business interests or promote other self-benefiting programs or activities.
- 2) SGIA members and leaders out of respect for the views and rights of others need to refrain from using SGIA events, contacts made through the activities or any SGIA activities to promote their own political, societal or environmental campaigns or events unless approved by the General Director.
- 3) When leaders and members are visiting each other or new guests based on faith please make every effort to avoid misunderstandings regarding the intent and impression of that visit on others. In particular when visiting a member or guest of the opposite gender any compromise of that persons integrity, either implicit or implied, should be avoided. If possible visit together with another leader or member or meet in a neutral setting such as a coffee shop to avoid misunderstanding of the nature or intent of the relationship.
- 4) The SGIA organisation depends on a relationship of trust between its members, allowing each person to practice without restriction and develop their life through the open exchange of dialogue with other members. Irresponsible behaviour that undermines the spirit of trust among members - for example: engaging in sexual misbehaviour, bullying, sharing members' confidential matters with others and gossiping – must be avoided in SGIA.
- 5) When leaving meetings at night please keep noise levels to a minimum, avoid tooting the horn of your car or standing outside homes and talking for long periods to avoid giving the person who is generously providing their home for meetings problems with their neighbours. Also be aware of noise levels during chanting as well as the impact on neighbours of extended chanting times.
- 6) When attending meetings with your children please make every effort to each them to behave with respect towards the other people attending and the property of the SGIA or the members home where the meeting is held. Also ensure you are aware of where your children are and that they are safe. Your children's behaviour and safety is your responsibility not the volunteers or other members of the meeting. The SGIA Child Safe Policy is designed to keep children attending Future Group and High School Group activities safe. However, please be aware that the organisation is not a child minding facility and parents should not

relinquish their responsibility for the safety of their children when attending meetings.

- 7) Leaders and members hosting meetings must ensure they are representing the teachings, policies and guidelines of SGIA and not offering their own views and opinions as the teachings themselves. Of course our own opinions are respected and necessary but we need to make sure new members or guests do not mistake them for the teachings of Nichiren or President Ikeda.
- 8) Member and leaders should not appoint themselves as representatives of SGI Australia in the public realm or media. The opinions of oneself do not necessarily represent the policies of SGIA. If one is asked to represent the organisation ensure that you make contact with nationwide or state leaders and gain the appropriate support and endorsement before doing so.
- 9) Members or leaders should not use the logo or name of SGI or SGIA in a way that would make it seem they are official representatives of SGI or SGIA without permission from SGIA General Director or Nationwide leaders. This applies to social media, written correspondence or any other media or medium.
- 10) To become a member of SGI Australia, you must fill in the SGIA membership form and pay the amount of \$5 (a condition of Australia company law) in order to be recognised as a member in this country. This is a requirement under law even if you are a member of an overseas organisation.
- 11) If you are leaving Australia permanently please register your permanent transfer with the SGIA office by email to [admin@sgiaust.org.au](mailto:admin@sgiaust.org.au)
- 12) We respectfully ask that if a family member who is a member of SGIA passes away that the SGIA office be informed by email at [admin@sgiaust.org.au](mailto:admin@sgiaust.org.au)
- 13) In keeping with the spirit of the SGI Charter and the SGIA constitution leaders and members must follow the guidelines and procedures determined by SGIA regarding applying for membership, Gohonzon, leadership, hosting a group meeting, training courses or any other official activity of the organisation.