

# SARA

## FOR WOMEN

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

**SARA's Vision Statement:** The SARA for Women Society is a leader in creating a world in which people peacefully resolve conflict in their homes, communities, countries and across the globe. Through innovative programs, diversity practices, social enterprise, and partnerships, we build community capacity for spiritual, physical and emotional growth, and social responsibility in harmony with the environment.

**SARA's Mission Statement:** We are a feminist Society, providing safe refuge and community based resources for women and children. We promote and support women's efforts to achieve domestic, political and social equality.

**If you support the Vision and Mission statements of the SARA for Women Society, and you wish to become a member of the Society, please complete the application form. Membership applications are reviewed at each regular meeting of the SARA Board of Directors. Administration staff will contact you after your application has been reviewed and approved. We thank you for your interest in supporting the work of the SARA.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Province: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I HAVE READ, UNDERSTOOD AND SUPPORT THE VISION AND THE MISSION STATEMENTS OF THE SARA For Women Society. I WISH TO APPLY TO BE A MEMBER.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

There is no annual fee for membership in the Society. All members are requested to attend our AGM.

Please send me information via  Mail  E-Mail

About: (check all that apply)

- Society Newsletter (quarterly)
- Notice of Society Events
- Notice of SARA Program Requests
- Notice of Volunteer Opportunities
- SARA Annual Report

Or:  I do not want to be on a mailing list and only wish to be informed of the Annual General Meeting

#### I WANT TO BE A MONTHLY DONOR!

- \$10  \$20  \$30  \$40
- \$50  \$60  \$80  \$100

Or: \_\_\_\_\_/Month

If you would like to pay by Credit Card, please log on to our website and use the secure Canada Helps portal to set up and make your payment. Canada Helps takes a small administration fee but your donation is securely processed.

#### OFFICE USE ONLY

Application for SARA Society is Accepted:

Director: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## SARA for Women's Mandate, Vision, Values and Philosophy Statements Woman Centred Approach June, 2011 Mandate amended

### Our Mandate

To provide and promote the development of services that will assist in reducing the incidence of domestic violence including, but not limited to:

- a. Provision of support services, including accommodation, to women and their children from violent domestic situations.
- b. Provision and promotion of public education regarding domestic violence.
- c. Promotion of the development of relevant and appropriate therapeutic programs.
- d. to apply for and solicit government and community resources, to be used solely for the Society and its programs
- e. To support and assist clients in reaching their goals.
- f. To refer clients to community agencies and social service for employment information, educational opportunities, legal aid, financial advice, etc.
- g. To provide affordable housing for low and moderate income women and their children.

## SARA for Women's Mandate, Vision, Values and Philosophy Statements Woman Centred Approach June, 2011 Mandate amended

### Our Vision

#### SARA for Women's Vision – for the next 15-20 years (2006 – 2026)

SARA for Women is a leader in creating a world in which people peacefully resolve conflict in their homes, communities, countries and across the globe. Through innovative programs, diversity practices, social enterprise, and partnerships we build community capacity for spiritual, physical and emotional growth, and social responsibility in harmony with the environment.

### Our Values

**Feminist:** We are a feminist organization working with women for the advancement of women. Our work is a sustained and organized effort to address the historic inequality between women and men. We recognize the systemic nature of oppression and power imbalances in all their forms including class, white-privilege, language, culture, sexual orientation, age, ability, geography, position and others. Our policy-governance structure incorporates opportunities to share power through democratic practices of shared leadership, decision-making, authority and responsibility.

The values of SARA for Women reflect our commitment to making the Fraser Valley better for women and their children. Each value applies to our self, each other, and our community.

**Trust** by having a firm belief and confidence in our self and in others.

1. We trust that people are acting with good will and with good purpose.
2. We behave in a trustworthy manner by acting in a direct and honest way.
3. We trust that others have the skills and abilities to fulfill their roles and responsibilities and can be relied on to assist us when needed.
4. We act with the confidence that we do the very best we can with what we know at the time.

### **SARA for Women's Mandate, Vision, Values and Philosophy Statements** **Woman Centred Approach June, 2011** Mandate amended

**Respect** by treating ourselves and others with regard and consideration.

1. We value women's wisdom. We respect our life experience by recognizing that each experience is significant though it may not be conclusive.
2. We hold each other and all people in the highest regard, recognizing each person's humanity.
3. We listen deeply, creating an atmosphere where all are comfortable to speak.
4. We provide opportunities for each person to be accountable for their choices and actions.
5. We value a mentally and emotionally safe work environment. We have zero tolerance for verbal, emotional or physical abuse, including harassment, bullying, racial discrimination or any other discrimination.

**Integrity** by striving for honesty, reliability and moral soundness.

1. We can be counted on to do what we say we are going to do. Whenever possible, we keep our commitments to others. We take responsibility for communicating when we are unable to meet a commitment.
2. We strive for congruency. Our words and actions are in agreement.
3. We own our actions and do our best to learn from them.

**Choice** by recognizing, respecting and acting on the power and opportunity to choose.

1. We work from a woman-centered or client-centred approach. We trust that a woman can make the best choice for herself with what she knows at the time. We assist others to seek out the best information possible, including any known consequences, so that they are in a position to make an informed choice.
2. We respect our own views and choices while respecting the views and choices of others.

**Compassion** through kindness, caring and sensitivity.

1. We treat others with empathy, care and respect.
2. We treat each other with the same empathy, care and respect that we offer the women and children we work with.
3. We listen and act with empathy by standing beside each other in our search for solutions.
4. We believe in our ability to succeed through affirmation and practice.

## SARA for Women's Mandate, Vision, Values and Philosophy Statements Woman Centred Approach June, 2011 Mandate amended

**Commitment** by being engaged, dedicated and accepting of our obligations.

1. While recognizing and addressing power imbalances, we accept responsibility for our individual roles and responsibilities, and respect the roles and responsibilities of others.
2. We have good work ethics, including giving our best efforts, establishing healthy boundaries, protecting the privacy of others, continuing our professional development, and liaising with community.

**Diversity** by respecting, accepting and celebrating our individual and collective differences.

1. We are inclusive of age, language, culture, ability, sexuality, geography, religion, politics, class, education and image, among others.
2. We continue to strive for diversity and to address oppression in all areas of our mandate. We ensure that diversity is addressed in our hiring practices, committees, volunteer recruitment and services.
3. We give ourselves permission to learn and continue to learn and practice diverse ways of being. We hold ourselves accountable for our unintended acts of exclusion. We understand and accept that we are part of and are influenced by the social structures we want to change.

**Communication** that is clear and open.

1. We strive for access to accurate information. We use all available tools and processes to share and access information in a timely manner.
2. We take ownership for our assumptions and check them out by asking questions and initiating direct conversations.
3. We ask for information, clarification and context when we find ourselves disturbed by what we hear or read.

**Partnership** by working together.

1. We recognize that we are not working alone. We engage each other, other programs and our community in our efforts to fulfill our mandate.

We recognize that our strength comes from engaging others and sharing our knowledge and resources. We are open to and with others.

## **SARA for Women's Mandate, Vision, Values and Philosophy Statements** **Woman Centred Approach June, 2011** Mandate amended

### **Philosophy Statements**

1. Women have the right to political, economic and social equality.
2. Women who have experienced violence and other forms of abuse are essential allies in the work of program development, public education and social change.
3. Women and children have the right to live free from violence and other forms of abuse.
4. Women have the right to reproductive choice.
5. Women's experience, voice and wisdom are unique and vital resources to society.
6. Women are oppressed because they are women; additionally, they experience racism and other forms of oppression based on ethnicity, class, culture, sexual orientation, spirituality, age, ability and physical and psychological characteristics.
7. Women's liberation is strengthened by solidarity among women.

### **WOMAN-CENTRED APPROACH**

The woman-centred approach used by SARA for Women staff in all of our programs and services is an elemental part of the feminist philosophy of the society. This approach is rooted in the values of SARA for Women and is most visibly represented in our practice.

1. We believe women.
2. We ask a woman how we can help and her answers direct our actions.
3. We believe that women are their own best authority.

## **SARA for Women's Mandate, Vision, Values and Philosophy Statements** **Woman Centred Approach June, 2011** Mandate amended

4. We understand that behavior is complicated and influenced by complex variables.
5. We believe that any woman is doing the best she can given the resources and the support she has, combined with the challenges she carries.
6. We pay attention to power differences and seek to reduce such differences.
7. We look for what is right and strong in a woman and we encourage and support this.
8. We encourage others to look at what is right and strong in a woman.
9. We don't give up on a woman.
10. We work together and support and encourage each other.

**SARA for Women's Mandate, Vision, Values and Philosophy Statements**  
**Woman Centred Approach June, 2011** Mandate amended

I have read, I understand, and I agree to work within the mandate, the values and the philosophy of SARA for Women. I have also read and understand and agree to work within SARA for Women's Woman-Centred Approach.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

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