

## Agreements in Prison

As well as signing the contracts outlining the behavior we deem essential to be safe and do valuable work, we would like you to develop Agreements for your group. This is because it entails a buy-in from all the participants that can be referred back to in a non-judgmental way if behavior starts to deviate from what the group has agreed.

When developing these Agreements, it's crucial to say yes to everything without judgment and write it all down on a large piece of paper. It's fine to ask for clarification if something is not clear.

The most effective way to develop agreements between the group is to start by brainstorming under four categories.

- 1) What do you need in order to feel SAFE?
- 2) What do you need in order to PARTICIPATE?
- 3) What do you need in order to feel RESPECTED?

*Note: let's not use the Prison idea of "respect" in this instance, let's use the idea of respect as treating people how you'd like them to treat you.*

- 4) What do you need in order to have FUN?

When you have your lists, go through and see if any of them repeat or could be combined- ask permission from the group at every stage. Now create a list of your final agreements on a large sheet of paper and get everyone to sign them. These agreements should be posted at every class and read out loud often. If there are any disagreements or behavior that deviates from them, just ask the group if that behavior is in line with what you all agreed and ask the people who have deviated from it if they can align themselves with what you all agreed to?