

## **DIVERSITY IS AN INSIDE ISSUE**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Tradition of SLAA states, “SLAA has no opinion on outside issues, hence the SLAA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.” Unfortunately, sometimes this tradition is weaponized to silence viewpoints or experiences that are uncomfortable to others. This tradition is where the term “outside issues” comes from. The Tradition is directed to the program of SLAA, not to individual members. It is important that SLAA take no position on any issues other than recovery from sex and love addiction, so that the program is not drawn into public controversy or distracted from our recovery. If SLAA posted Black Lives Matter on its website, that would be SLAA taking a position on an outside issue. Members who share about their experience with racism or any other “ism” and how it affects their sobriety are not violating this tradition.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Tradition of SLAA states, “Our common welfare should come first, personal recovery depends upon SLAA unity.” Unity is not uniformity. There are many people from many different backgrounds and life experiences, and it is essential for everyone to be able to share freely about their recovery in meetings.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Step of SLAA states, “having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to sex and love addicts and to practice these principles in all areas of our lives.” Racism, sexism, classism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, antisemitism, anti-Arabism, and all “isms” affect our recovery. Sex and Love addiction is merely a symptom of our disease, which is a spiritual affliction that requires us to practice these principles in all areas of our lives.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Step of SLAA states, “made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves,” and the 10<sup>th</sup> Step states, “continued to take personal inventory and when wrong promptly admitted it.” Whatever fears or resentments we may have about how other people identify or how they express their experience in meetings is a great opportunity to reflect on our inventory.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Tradition states, “each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or SLAA as a whole.” While each group has the right to be wrong, please be conscious of guidelines your groups make that may affect the inclusivity of SLAA.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Tradition states, “each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the sex and love addict who still suffers.” To carry the message to every sex and love addict who still suffers requires us to reflect on our own privilege and fears or resentments we have about how others identify or experience their disease and the world around them.