

## **Terms of BCA Membership**

As a member of the British Counselling Association (BCA), you are required to adhere to the following terms. By joining the BCA, you agree to comply with the standards set out below, which are essential to fostering a professional, respectful, and effective environment for all members.

### **1. Acceptance of BCA Working Documentation**

All members must accept and abide by the BCA working documentation, which includes the following policies:

- Privacy Policy
- Diversity and Harassment Policies
- Liability of members

These policies set the expectations for conduct within the association and ensure that a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment is maintained for all participants.

#### **1.1 Liability of members**

Members are required to be aware of and in agreement with the BCA liability below:

The liability of each member is limited to £1, being the amount that each member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of its being wound up while they are a member or within one year after they cease to be a member, for:

- (a) payment of the company's debts and liabilities contracted before they cease to be a member;
- (b) payment of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up; and
- (c) adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.

### **2. Acceptance of the BACP Code of Ethics**

Members are required to follow the BACP (British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy) Code of Ethics. This can be accessed at the following link:

The BACP Code of Ethics outlines the principles and standards for ethical and professional conduct. Adherence to these guidelines is mandatory good practice for all BCA members.

### **3. Accurate and Relevant Information**

Members must provide accurate and relevant information during their application process. Any false or misleading information may result in the possible termination of membership.

### **4. Positive Contribution to BCA Activities**

All members are expected to contribute positively to the work and activities of the BCA. Active participation in events, projects, and discussions is encouraged to promote the development of the association and the counselling professions. Above all, it will enable sharing of skillsets and create a good climate of networking and camaraderie for members.

### **5. Commitment to Members**

As members of the BCA, we recognize our commitment to other members, ensuring their trust and confidence as we work together. This requires a trustworthy and ethical approach to all interactions and professional activities within the association. Our commitments include the following:

### **5.1. Putting Members First**

We will prioritize the wellbeing and interests of our fellow members by:

- Making the needs of other members our primary concern when engaged in professional or collaborative activities.
- Providing an appropriate standard of support and service to fellow members.

### **5.2. Working to Professional Standards**

Members agree to maintain the highest professional standards by:

- Working within their areas of competence.
- Keeping their knowledge and skills up to date.
- Collaborating with colleagues to improve the quality of services and activities offered to members.
- Ensuring their personal wellbeing is sufficient to sustain the quality of their contributions.
- Keeping accurate and appropriate records where necessary.

### **5.3. Showing Respect**

Members will show respect to all colleagues and participants by:

- Valuing each member as a unique individual.
- Protecting the confidentiality and privacy of members.
- Agreeing clearly on how they will collaborate and work together.
- Working in partnership with members to achieve common goals.

#### **5.4. Building Appropriate Relationships with Members**

Members will establish and maintain professional relationships by:

- Clearly communicating what members can expect from the association and its activities.
- Outlining any benefits, costs, and commitments that may reasonably be expected from members.
- Respecting the boundaries between professional work and personal interaction.
- Avoiding any form of exploitation or abuse of fellow members.
- Actively listening to and understanding how members experience their interactions within the association.

#### **5.5. Maintaining Integrity**

All members will maintain high levels of integrity by:

- Being honest about their professional roles and contributions.
- Accurately communicating their qualifications, experience, and working methods.
- Working ethically and ensuring that all activities comply with legal and professional obligations.

By agreeing to these Terms of Membership, you commit to upholding the values, ethics, and professional standards that define the BCA, ensuring a supportive and productive environment for all members. Failure to comply with these terms may result in disciplinary action.

**Birkbeck Counselling Association**  
**March 2025**