



SEATTLE INSIGHT MEDITATION SOCIETY

SIMS Social Engagement Guidelines Adopted June 2010 by the SIMS Board

SIMS's main purpose is to support each sangha member in his or her practice of the dharma. In that light, we recognize that the practice of meditation naturally opens the heart, and that out of this opening there grows an expanded sense of connection to all creation. From this sense of connection, many members of SIMS may wish to be involved in social engagement activities. We wish to encourage that such action arise from the heart, based in wise understanding and the interconnectedness of all things, with interest in connecting as an equal with all concerned, not just from a need to "help" the other.

SIMS also recognizes the suffering of the world and will address the root causes of this suffering. We recognize that many members of the sangha struggle to figure out how the dharma instructs their actions in the world and what actions are appropriate for them in the face of suffering and injustice. SIMS does not intend to engage in political activity or take political positions. It will refrain from views, opinions, and politically based content discussion and will not be a forum for announcing, advertising, displaying flyers, or soliciting participation in any political action or positions on social issues.

The SIMS board may appoint a social engagement coordinator/board liaison in order to perform the functions described below. Social engagement activities are subject to review and approval by the board. The social engagement coordinator will:

1. Screen proposals brought by members of the sangha to:
 - Ensure that the social engagement activities meet the guidelines set forth herein
 - Assess the level of support for the activities to ensure that there is adequate commitment to sustain the project
 - Evaluate whether the activities meet other criteria as determined from time to time by the board
2. Bring acceptable proposals before the board for approval
3. Communicate with sangha members leading the social engagement activities and follow up on a regular basis to assess the ongoing support of the sangha members for each activity
4. Manage the social engagement announcements and descriptions on the website and bulletin board