

The General Circle Format

1

**Creating
the foundation
for dialogue**

- Welcome
- Opening ceremony
- Introduction / check-in (round)
- Guidelines consensus (keepers or round)
- Storytelling round
- Acknowledgement of those present
- Clarifying the purpose of the Circle

2

**Expressing
needs and
interests**

- Communicating feelings
- Identifying needs, interests, or shared vision
- Summary

3

**Exploring
options**

Circle addresses:

- Interests / issues (rounds)
- Options (rounds)
- Possible consensus for action plans (keepers)

4

**Building
consensus or
a sense of
unity**

Circle identifies:

- Points of agreement or common ground (rounds)
- Next steps (keepers)

5

Closing

- Summary: agreement / next steps (keepers)
- Check-out (round)
- Closing ceremony