

Authority Pause Refusal and Correction

Protocol for bounded co-creation, consequential decisions and dignified endings

Candidate v0.3 · 21 September 2026 · English · candidate for practical testing, inquiry and later Board review

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MATERIAL HOME	STRUCTURE	SCOPE	MATURITY
Protocol	Process	Cross-domain	Candidate v0.3

The proposition

Spiralweb seeks to make consequential cooperation possible without making continued relationship compulsory. Anyone affected may raise a signal. A person may stop their own participation. A named holder may place a bounded protective hold on movement within their mandate. Only a competent and conflict-free human decision maker or body may make the final institutional decision. Reasons, material obligations, significant dissent, Return and the route to correction remain traceable.

The human ground

People enter a relationship as more than their assigned roles. Capacity, understanding and boundaries can change over time. A previous yes does not create a permanent claim, and a present no need not pretend to be an eternal judgement. Personal experience has standing, but it does not by itself confer authority over other people, shared resources or a living place. Where action carries consequences beyond oneself, freedom meets accountability.

Difference does not have to disappear before people can work together. Nor does every difference have to be reconciled. A relationship may continue, change form, enter protected dormancy or end. Repair may restore a relationship, but it may also complete what remains owed and allow a separation to become real.

The peace discipline

Red means that continued movement may deepen avoidable harm, exceed mandate or create a hard-to-reverse consequence. When a movement becomes Red, the first task is not to win the interpretation. It is to interrupt avoidable harm, protect the possibility of response and

identify what still needs to move. Safety, stabilising care, agreed livelihood, translation, humanitarian support and necessary record work may continue while the affected action is held. A pause creates no presumption that the relationship must resume.

PART 01

Purpose and scope

This protocol applies when an Association-controlled movement crosses into material consequence. This includes support, payment, publication, representation, use of data or story, partnership, a field agreement, a significant public claim, an exception, a serious risk or the continuation of work after a concern has been raised.

The protocol has four purposes:

- make it possible to interrupt momentum before avoidable harm, capture or irreversibility deepens;
- keep personal autonomy, local authority, institutional competence and professional duty distinct;
- locate the human being or body that may decide; and
- allow continuation, change, repair, dormancy or ending to remain available without erasing responsibility.

Limits of the protocol

- It does not replace law, the Association bylaws, contracts, safeguarding duties, professional responsibility or public authority.
- It does not give the Association authority over a local place merely because it provides money, knowledge, attention or publication.

- It does not make every concern a Board matter. Decisions remain at the smallest competent level, with escalation where consequence, conflict or the bylaws require it.
- It does not require reconciliation, forgiveness, continued contact or disclosure of private experience.
- It does not convert a pause into proof that one party is right. A pause protects the conditions for a responsible next judgement.

PART 02

The relation held by the protocol

Spiralweb connects people, places, knowledge, resources and public attention. These movements are never neutral. Funding may widen possibility and create dependence. Documentation may support learning and expose a person. Translation may open a relationship and alter what can be heard. Publication may return knowledge to a commons and give the publisher disproportionate power over the public account.

The Association therefore acts as a bounded legal and operational holder within a wider habitat. It may decide what it will support, fund, publish, represent or bind itself to. It does not own the places, people, relationships or knowledge with which it works. Participation does not create a duty to continue beyond agreed obligations, and any route for entry must include a usable route for refusal, correction or departure.

Co creation and non participation

Co-creation exists only where participants can affect the question, interpretation and next movement. The real possibility of refusal is part of that condition. Where no shared movement can be found, the process may end without declaring either party a failed version of the other.

Room for people and limits on action

The protocol begins from equal human dignity, not from the equal acceptability of every action. A person remains more than the conduct that must be refused. Conduct that removes another person's agency, safety or conditions of life may meet a firm boundary. Ecological and legal limits also remain relevant where all present participants would prefer to proceed.

PART 03

Five kinds of boundary

A boundary must be located before it is enforced. The same word no can protect autonomy, govern a shared process, apply an institutional mandate or name a material limit. These acts do not carry the same authority.

Boundary	Primary holder	Discipline
Personal participation	The person concerned	A person may refuse access to their body, story or participation. Explanation may support relationship but is not the price of bodily autonomy or withdrawal.
Relational form	The parties to the relationship	Terms may be negotiated and corrected. No party can require another to remain in voluntary relationship.
Institutional competence	Law, bylaws, agreement and explicit delegation	A role may decide only what falls within its actual authority. Informal influence does not create competence.
Material ecological and legal limit	The relevant evidence, rights, duties and legitimate decision holders	The meaning of the limit may require inquiry. It cannot be removed merely because all present actors prefer another answer.
Epistemic boundary	The people and sources holding distinct knowledge	Unknown, dissent and incompatible readings remain visible. They are not silently converted into consensus.

Boundaries can change

A boundary may change with capacity, new knowledge, altered conditions or a changed relationship. The change does not make the earlier boundary false. Agreements should allow a person or field to say not now, not this way, not under these conditions, no longer or no. A renewed yes must be free enough to be meaningful.

Embodied knowledge

The body may register an unsafe tempo, exhaustion, pressure or a decision that is not ready before a complete explanation is available. Such a signal can interrupt a person's participation and may justify a protective hold. It enters the inquiry as situated evidence rather than as an automatic verdict over the whole field. Calm is not an entrance requirement for being heard.

PART 04

Eight movements

The movements below are distinct. Keeping them separate prevents an early warning from becoming an unreviewed veto and prevents formal power from making warning impossible.

Movement	Meaning	Who may exercise it
Signal	A concern, contradiction, new observation, dissent or request to look again.	Anyone with relevant knowledge or who may be affected.
Protective hold	A short and bounded interruption while safety, consent, evidence or competence is clarified.	A person responsible for the affected Association-controlled movement, within mandate.
Pause	A recorded decision not to continue the affected movement for now.	The competent local holder for local participation; a delegated Association role or the Board for Association action.
Refusal	A person or legitimate local holder declines participation, access, use, support or representation.	The person or holder whose consent or participation is sought.
Protected dormancy	Contact or activity rests because war, disaster, repression, illness, communication failure or comparable conditions prevent a free process.	The affected party, the competent local holder or the Association within its own responsibilities.

Movement	Meaning	Who may exercise it
Institutional no	The Association declines to fund, publish, enter, represent or continue a movement.	The Board or a role with explicit delegation and within its threshold.
Withdrawal or closure	A relationship or activity ends while surviving financial, legal, safety, repair and record duties remain visible.	Each party for its own participation; the competent body for Association closure.
Reopening	A matter is considered again because conditions, evidence, mandate or the proposal changed.	The same competent level, or a higher body where law, bylaws or consequence require it.

A stop right must interrupt momentum

Any affected person may raise a signal and stop their own participation. A signal does not automatically decide the whole matter. It requires the responsible holder to protect against avoidable harm, locate the concern and identify who has competence to decide. Where immediate safety, consent or hard-to-reverse harm is credibly at issue, protection comes before completion of the analysis.

Protection from retaliation

No person may be subjected to financial, relational, professional, procedural or narrative retaliation for raising a signal in good faith, refusing participation, correcting a record, declaring an interest or contributing to an authorised inquiry. This protection does not prevent proportionate action concerning knowingly false statements, unlawful conduct or failure to meet material obligations that were disclosed before agreement.

Protected dormancy is not withdrawal

Silence under war, disaster, illness, repression or lost communication is neither consent nor automatic departure. Reporting and Return may be suspended. The Association should reduce demands, protect sensitive information and maintain only the contact and support that can move safely. Any later reopening begins from the changed conditions, not from an assumption that the former arrangement resumes.

The operational path

A matter may move forward, narrow, return to inquiry or end at any point. The path below is a discipline of attention, not a claim that a living process is linear.

01 Receive Name what has arrived and distinguish observation, report, interpretation, disagreement and unknown.	02 Protect Hold the affected movement where continuation could deepen harm, capture or irreversibility. State what may still move.
03 Locate Identify affected people, boundary type, local authority, lawful duties, material dependencies and the competent Association holder.	04 Inquire Allow distinct readings to meet. Seek evidence in proportion to the possible consequence and do not make explanation the price of personal withdrawal.
05 Decide A named and appropriately conflict-free human being or body decides within mandate to continue, narrow, condition, pause, refuse, enter dormancy or close.	06 Return Give the affected relationship a usable account in an agreed language and form, within safety and privacy boundaries.
07 Remember Record mandate, evidence standing, decision, dissent, obligations, review point and what later changed.	08 Revisit or release Reopen where something material changes, or complete what remains owed and let the ending stand.

The pause test

A protective hold or pause must state:

- the exact movement being held;
- the person or body holding it and the source of that authority;
- the reason and present evidence standing;
- what care, support, safety work or lawful duty may continue;
- the review date, condition or event; and
- what happens if the basis for decision remains Unknown.

A protective hold without a review point is incomplete. If the review point passes without a decision, the hold must be renewed with recorded reasons or be escalated, converted into a pause, protected dormancy, refusal or closure, or released.

PART 06

Authority and competence

Authority is distributed but must remain locatable. Local authority concerns a place and the people who live with its consequences. Institutional authority concerns what the Association may lawfully support, fund, publish, represent or bind itself to. Personal autonomy concerns one's own participation and boundaries. None cancels the others.

Holder	May	May not
Affected person	Signal, correct, refuse consent, stop their own participation and use available legal or contractual routes.	Automatically decide for other affected people or bind shared resources.
Local steward or holder	Contribute situated knowledge and exercise authority grounded in consent, right, agreement or actual role.	Speak for every person or bind the Association financially or legally without agreement.

Holder	May	May not
Working director or delegated role	Coordinate inquiry and place a bounded hold on Association-controlled movement within written mandate.	Exceed delegation, decide their own interest or treat coordination as local authority.
Board	Hold formal governance, major commitments, significant risk, conflicts and matters reserved by the bylaws.	Acquire authority over a place merely through support, documentation or public attention.
General Assembly	Exercise the highest authority within the Association under the bylaws.	Exercise authority over a local field or conduct ordinary decisions not placed there by the bylaws.
Adviser or expert	Identify risk, missing evidence, alternatives and reasons for protection or correction.	Decide unless separately and lawfully mandated.
AI tool or Ledger	Retrieve, compare, translate, structure, flag and preserve traceable memory.	Consent, carry moral responsibility, hold local mandate, authorise payment or cast a final vote.

Competence questions

1. What exactly is being decided?
2. Whose participation, place, rights, resources or public representation may be affected?
3. Which law, bylaw, agreement or delegation gives this person or body authority?
4. What personal, professional, financial, intellectual property or close relationship interest may affect the process?
5. What remains outside this decision-maker's jurisdiction?

Conflict of interest

Where one person carries several roles, the record states which role is acting. A relevant interest is declared before substantive judgement. The person may provide requested facts or material needed for an orderly process, but must not control the assessment, recommendation

or final decision. The required extent of withdrawal follows the governing bylaws, applicable law where relevant, adopted policies, the mandate governing the decision and the judgement of the remaining competent body.

Signals concerning a role holder

A signal may be raised with the responsible holder or directly with the Board. A signal concerning the working director or a Board member may be directed to the Chair or Vice-chair. The person concerned may provide requested facts but must not control receipt, preparation, consideration, recommendation or decision. Contact arrangements may remain simple while the Association is small, but the route must not depend solely on the person concerned.

PART 07

Evidence uncertainty and power

The evidence burden follows possible consequence rather than the prestige of a method. A reversible and low-risk step may proceed with a light record. Safety, irreversible land change, significant money, public representation, shared water, sensitive data or hard-to-reverse dependency require stronger standing and clearer review.

Unknown has standing

Unknown identifies a missing basis for judgement. It is not a softer Yellow and not an instruction to gather everything. The response may be a smaller action, targeted evidence, a protective condition, pause or refusal. Where delay itself can cause serious harm, that consequence also enters the record.

Dependence changes consent

Formal permission is not enough where livelihood, housing, status, public legitimacy or future support depends on agreement. The decision process asks what a no would cost each party and whether support has created an unspoken claim on loyalty, visibility, evidence or continued participation. Documentation and Return work must be proportionate and resourced rather than silently shifted to a local steward.

Documentation and refusal

A person may refuse participation, personal narrative, imagery, interview or public disclosure. Where Association funds are received, the minimum financial, identity, safeguarding and activity documentation required for lawful administration and review must be stated before agreement and before funds move. A refusal of that disclosed minimum means that the Association cannot make or continue the payment; it does not create a claim to the person's body, private experience or public story. Documentation must remain proportionate, protected and resourced.

No purity test

A field does not have to solve a regional or planetary crisis before receiving support. Nor may the Association ignore wider effects because one action appears locally small. Local need, cumulative consequence, alternatives, time horizon and distribution of burden remain separately visible. A difficult transitional action may be considered without being described as uncomplicated or fully aligned.

PART 08

Repair return and ending

A decision is incomplete until it has returned in a form the affected relationship can use. A public page, English report or Board minute is not automatically a Return. Return does not require full disclosure. Safety, privacy, legal duty, protected absence and relational dignity may require a narrower account.

Forms of repair

- stop and protection that prevent further harm;
- material correction, restitution or completion of an outstanding obligation;
- changed conditions, roles or governance that address what produced the harm;

- correction of the record so disagreement, absence or withdrawal is not rewritten;
- renewed relationship where all relevant parties freely choose it under changed conditions; and
- separation that completes what remains owed without requiring reconciliation or further contact.

No compelled reconciliation

No person is required to forgive, reconcile, disclose private experience or remain available in order for the Association to complete its responsibility. Repair of harm is distinct from restoration of relationship. A relationship reopens only through renewed consent and conditions capable of carrying it.

What survives an ending

Closure does not erase accrued payment, safeguarding, data protection, lawful retention, handover, ecological remediation, correction or other surviving duties. The closing record states what must still be completed, who holds it, what contact remains necessary and when the relationship may otherwise rest.

PART 09

Record privacy and public memory

The Governance and Decision Log is the normal institutional memory for a material hold, pause, refusal, exception, revision, dormancy or closure. Financial consequences also enter the formal accounts and, where in scope, the Financial Ledger Sheet. A public Flow view contains only the reconciled share that can responsibly travel.

Record level	What it may hold	Boundary
Private working record	Early signal, sensitive facts, legal or safety material, and identities needing protection.	Need-to-know access. No automatic public use.

Record level	What it may hold	Boundary
Relationship record	Purpose, authority, agreement, decision, conditions, Return, obligations and correction.	Agreed access and usable language. Third parties remain protected.
Institutional decision log	Mandate, conflict handling, evidence standing, dependency, rationale, dissent, decision and review route.	Held under Association governance, access and retention duties.
Public summary	Enough to make the Association's movement and learning accountable without exposing protected material.	Publication requires purpose, lawful basis or consent, proportionality and correction path.

Minimum decision record

- matter, date, scope and present status;
- the signal and the people, places or rights that may be affected;
- the relevant boundary type and decision-maker's mandate;
- conflict declarations and how the process was separated from the interested role;
- evidence standing, material dependency, significant alternatives and dissent;
- the decision, conditions, responsible holder and what remains allowed to move;
- Return recipient, form, language, privacy boundary and correction route; and
- review point, reopening condition or a clear statement of closure.

Pressure tests

The examples test the protocol. They do not decide the underlying cases.

Field water request

A steward requests support for deeper groundwater access while local viability, cumulative abstraction and alternatives remain uncertain. The request creates no approval. The Association holds its own commitment, resources a proportionate local inquiry and keeps need, shared water, alternatives and Unknowns visible. A locally legitimate choice may still fall outside what the Association can support. Reasons return to the steward, who may correct the factual basis.

International field support

A promising activity has a clear local purpose but incomplete legal, banking, budget, safeguarding or employment boundaries. Local enthusiasm does not create disbursement authority. A pause may preserve the relationship while no funds move. Agreed communication and stabilising support may continue where lawful and safe.

Public field account

A learning account includes a named person, location, financial detail or ecological risk that was not clearly cleared for public use. Publication pauses. The holder separates what may be learned from what may be exposed and seeks correction, consent or a narrower form. Public usefulness does not erase the person's boundary.

AI assisted claim

An AI synthesis appears coherent and urgent but blends reported, inferred and verified material. The output remains provisional. A named human tests the sources, affected views and foreseeable consequences. Fluency does not set a colour, authorise payment or establish a public claim.

Conflict of interest

A Board member or working director has a close relationship, financial interest, intellectual property interest or overlapping role in the matter. The interest is declared before judgement. The person provides requested facts without controlling the analysis or decision. The remaining competent body records the basis and decides.

War disaster or lost contact

A field relationship becomes unsafe or unreachable. Silence is not treated as consent, refusal or failure. Reporting stops unless necessary for protection. Sensitive records are secured, safe support may continue, and the Association records what obligations remain. Reopening begins only when contact and local conditions can carry a free process.

PART 11

Testing use and later review

This candidate may be tested through scenarios and, when real activity opens, through bounded practice. Before it is described as adopted Association policy, the competent Board should:

1. confirm consistency with the governing Danish bylaws and applicable law;
2. approve or amend the constitutional limits and the distinction between boundary types;
3. define delegations, financial thresholds and who may place which protective holds;
4. confirm the signal route, protection from retaliation and conflict-of-interest procedure, including preparation, requested facts and final decision;
5. confirm the disclosed documentation minimum for any movement of Association funds;
6. name the Governance and Decision Log holder, retention period and protected access and correction conditions; and
7. set a review point after first use and identify what affected party Return must inform the revision.

Use before adoption

Until adoption, the document may guide inquiry, scenario testing and the preparation of matters. It must not be cited as proof that authority has been delegated, a decision approved or a field activated. Existing law, bylaws, Board decisions, agreements and professional duties continue to govern. Concrete channels, thresholds and fallback procedures may be added as the Board, roles and activities develop.

Questions for first review

- Could people say no, pause or leave without retaliation or narrative punishment?
- Did material dependence make formal consent misleading?
- Did a protective hold remain bounded, or did it become indefinite limbo?
- Did support and care continue where they could move safely?
- Did local knowledge, external evidence and dissent remain distinct enough to correct one another?
- Did repair become an expectation of reconciliation or continued contact?
- Did the final decision remain human, competent and locatable?

Thirteen days of ceasefire

This candidate was written on 21 September 2026, the United Nations International Day of Peace. Since 2001, the day has carried an invitation to global ceasefire and non-violence. The following is a horizon note and afterthought, not an operative rule or adopted position of the Association.

What might become perceptible if communities, institutions and states agreed to thirteen days without organised violence? Food, water, medical care, evacuation, family contact, protection of civilians, repair of essential infrastructure, diplomacy, burial, mourning and truthful witness would continue. The movement deliberately held would be the one that deepens injury and calls the next injury into being.

A ceasefire is not peace, and its terms are not automatically just. A pause may freeze an intolerable condition, conceal unequal power or be used to prepare further violence. Refusal may arise from fear, broken guarantees or the belief that the proposed peace requires surrender. The response to a pause is therefore part of the evidence, not a complete moral verdict.

Thirteen days is offered here as an interval long enough to notice what the momentum of conflict makes difficult to perceive. It is not a universal prescription. Some would enter it and some would not. The question is whether a protected interval could restore enough choice for another movement to become imaginable.

Spiralweb has no mandate to call a global ceasefire. It can hold the question as a horizon for its own small practice: when a movement becomes Red, interrupt avoidable harm, keep life-supporting flows open, let distinct readings remain present and do not allow momentum alone to decide what happens next.

Sources and lineage

This candidate consolidates the Association's current public architecture as read on 21 September 2026. It is a governance and editorial synthesis, not external legal advice. A live governing source, adopted policy or agreement prevails where it changes.

- **Spiralweb Stewardship Association Bylaws 2026**
- **Constitutional Ground**
- **The Protocol Habitat**
- **Methods evidence and shared learning**
- **The Steward's Journey**
- **The Correction Loop**
- **The PG Ledger and Governance and Decision Log**
- **Flow and Return Protocol**
- **The Living Field**
- **Green Paper 08 Ritual and Repair**
- **Green Paper 15 Elia Love Without Capture**
- **Green Paper 16 Nervous System Love**
- **Green Paper 18 Boundaries Are Not Violence**
- **Green Paper 19 Ritual After Regulation**
- **Green Paper 20 Planetary Guardianship Holding the Line**
- **Rule of Life**
- **United Nations General Assembly resolution 55 282 International Day of Peace**
- **United Nations General Assembly resolution 71 189 Declaration on the Right to Peace**

Revision note

Candidate v0.3 defines Red; adds protection from retaliation and a simple Board route for signals concerning a role holder; applies the governing conflict-of-interest rule to preparation as well as decision; distinguishes personal refusal from the disclosed documentation minimum for Association funds; prevents an unreviewed protective hold from becoming indefinite; and reframes adoption as practical testing and later Board review. The human and relational ground and the peace postscript remain part of the candidate inquiry. No authority is created by this revision.

CANDIDATE PROPOSITION

Cooperation can remain possible without making continued relationship compulsory.

Signal, pause, refusal, repair, dormancy and ending retain distinct meanings. Consequential decisions remain human, competent, locatable and open to correction.

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