

## Theakston Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival Code of Conduct Policy

We are thrilled to have you join us for this exciting celebration of crime writing at the 2026 Theakston Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival. Whether you are an author, audience member, or supplier, we invite you to help us foster the Festival's warm, respectful and inclusive atmosphere, ensuring everyone can enjoy the event to its fullest.

As an arts charity, Harrogate International Festivals has been dedicated to enriching the cultural fabric of Harrogate for 60 years. This event is made possible by the generosity of our sponsors - most notably our title sponsor, T & R Theakston Ltd - and our partners in the local community. We are grateful for their essential support and look forward to creating a memorable experience for all attendees.

### **Our Commitment to Safety and Inclusivity**

We are committed to providing a welcoming, safe, and positive environment for everyone, free from harassment, intimidation, or abusive behaviour. We expect all participants to show respect and consideration toward each other, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, race, ethnicity, religion, belief, or social background. Disrespectful behaviour will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

### **Unacceptable Behaviour**

Harassment in any form is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: stalking, verbal or physical intimidation; offensive comments or actions, both verbal and physical; physical assault or unwelcome contact; harassing or non-consensual photography or recording; inappropriate or unwanted attention of any kind.

If any individual's behaviour is deemed harassing or abusive, Festival staff and security reserve the right to take any necessary action, including removal from the Festival and, if warranted, reporting the matter to the relevant authorities.

### **Encouraging Respectful Dialogue**

We encourage lively discussions and diverse viewpoints as hallmarks of a vibrant literary event. While spirited exchanges are welcome, they should remain respectful and considerate of differing perspectives. Authors, audience members, and suppliers alike are reminded to approach conversations and activities thoughtfully (and professionally where applicable), both on and off the stage. This approach will help us cultivate an environment that feels secure and inclusive for everyone.

### **Fostering a Positive Festival Experience**

This Festival is a celebration of literature, creativity, and camaraderie, centred around our shared love of crime writing. By respecting one another and upholding the spirit of mutual appreciation, we ensure a supportive and inspiring experience for all. If you witness or experience any behaviour that makes you uncomfortable, please reach out to a member of our Festival staff immediately. We are here to support you and to help maintain a safe and enjoyable environment for everyone involved.

### **How to Report an Issue**

If there is an issue on-site, please report it immediately to the team on site. Trained security personnel are on-site from 08:00 to 23:00 during all programmed events, and the box office and information desk are also staffed during these hours to handle any issues, complaints, or concerns. For assistance outside of these hours, please contact the duty manager at your hotel, who can reach HIF on-site security if needed.

### **Thank you for being a part of the Theakston Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival!**

We look forward to a memorable event filled with creativity, discovery, and respect. Let's celebrate the stories we love while ensuring a positive experience for all.

*This Code of Conduct is a working document and may be subject to updates as we grow and learn together.*