



THE FOLK UNION

FOLK UNION CHARTER

Projects, groups, or individuals who wish to be recognised as part of the Folk Union are asked to read, sign, and uphold the following. These are not rules but responsibilities and a shared understanding of what it means to keep folk culture alive, just, and honest.

PEOPLE AND WORK

Treat everyone involved with fairness and respect.
Pay people properly when money is involved; no unpaid labour under the guise of “exposure.”
Credit all contributors clearly.
Create safe and welcoming spaces for all participants and audiences.
Commit to accessibility (physical, financial AND social).
Encourage shared decision-making.
Oppose discrimination of any kind. Class, race, gender, sexuality, ability, or background.
Support the wellbeing of volunteers and participants.

CULTURE AND REPRESENTATION

Recognise folk as a living culture.
Represent traditions honestly, without pastiche or parody.
Avoid appropriating customs or symbols without understanding or consent.
Give credit to the communities and people from whom traditions arise.
Share knowledge freely; DO NOT knowingly monetise what belongs to the commons.
Resist the temptation to turn culture into content.
Value process and participation over product and prestige.
Tell stories that include the working class and the marginalised, not just the picturesque or nostalgic.

COMMUNITY AND COMMONS

Prioritise a place, a people, or a purpose.
Keep your project open and accessible to local communities.
Contribute time, skill, or profit back into the commons (e.g. free events, workshops, mutual aid).
Build partnerships.
Share what you learn so others can do the same.
Defend public and common spaces from enclosure and exclusion.
Stand in solidarity with other cultural and social movements that fight exploitation.

ENVIRONMENT AND LAND

Treat land, materials, and resources with care.

Use sustainable materials and processes where possible.

Consider the environmental footprint of travel, production, and waste.

Honour the natural world as part of folk life.

Support local producers, craftspeople, and growers.

Respect ancient and culturally significant monuments and spaces.

POLITICS AND PRINCIPLES

Reject nationalism and xenophobia.

Stand against the commodification and gentrification of folk culture.

Remain open to all who share these values, regardless of origin.

Keep folk political: on the side of the poor, the excluded, and the planet.

Act collectively when possible, not competitively.

Speak truth to power; do not sanitise struggle.

COMMITMENT

By signing this charter, you affirm that your project or practice:

ACTS IN GOOD FAITH TOWARD PEOPLE AND PLACE.

CONTRIBUTES POSITIVELY TO THE CULTURAL AND ECOLOGICAL COMMONS.

WILL UPHOLD THESE PRINCIPLES AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME.

NAME of PROJECT/COLLECTIVE _____

SIGNED IN GOOD FAITH

DATE

