

Refuge Recovery and Social Media

We want to spread the word that recovery is possible through Refuge Recovery. Unlike established twelve step recovery programs, in RR we use official Refuge Recovery branded social media pages and groups. Extensive use of social media by a recovery program is relatively unprecedented.

In order to effectively offer these social media tools as a recovery program, guidelines are needed to offer a middle path approach to social media use that communicates our message while protecting the integrity and reputation of our program.

With this approach comes great responsibility. Please consider that we are representing RR to the world on all FB pages and groups, and all Instagram accounts. The first impression of Refuge Recovery is likely to happen online. We owe it to our program and all who come to our program seeking recovery to ensure our social media platforms are not a source of division but a refuge for the path of healing and transformation.

Therefore, we ask all Refuge Recovery groups and members to practice principles while online that create and maintain group unity.

To promote group unity:

At no time should images and names of RR members who have not given express permission be posted on social media. Always ask when photographing in a Refuge Recovery setting.

Our personal political preferences, viewpoints and opinions on issues outside of Refuge Recovery should be discussed elsewhere.

Similarly, our personal opinions on matters of importance to RR as an organization should be discussed in private, face-to-face forums like group business meetings, Inter-Sangha meetings, conferences and conventions. Social media is not an appropriate or productive place to have such conversations. Even in closed forums online these discussions can be made public and harm Refuge Recovery as a whole. Please allow the process of service structure creation to happen in person. We encourage you to participate, beginning at your local level.

On our Refuge Recovery social media, we ask that posting be limited to:

Refuge Recovery meeting notices

Refuge Recovery Inter-Sangha meeting notices

Refuge Recovery meeting and Inter-sangha events

Refuge Recovery State and Regional events

Refuge Recovery World Service events

Our individual experience with, and discussions of, living the program and practices of Refuge Recovery

For Groups using RR social media:

As the non-profit entity tasked with protecting the Refuge Recovery name, image and trademark, RRWS is the only group authorized to create and administer RR FB pages and groups. RRWS has the ability and desire to offer editorial access to sangha members serving their local and regional groups. This authorization extends to all other social media created using the Refuge Recovery name and or logo. Please receive authorization from world services before creating Instagram or any other social media accounts using the Refuge Recovery name and logo.

The reasons for our need as a recovery program to have a stable non-partisan group create and admin Refuge Recovery social media are relapse, rotation, and reputation.

Our groups, like all recovery groups, experience relapse among the membership. Members with control of social media in relapse pose a potentially severe threat to our program's image.

Our groups operate on a democratic rotation system, and our service board ensures smooth transition between those elected to do service in the social media realm.

Our fellowship needs an overall mechanism to remove members from service who harm the reputation of Refuge Recovery. We must be prepared for these situations as a responsible fellowship.

This process of creating stable Refuge Recovery social media began in August with invitations from many RR social media accounts to RRWS to become a page or account admin.

Existing Refuge Recovery social media accounts that have not already done so should be switched over to designate RRWS as the “creator,” or top admin as soon as possible. If you have not done so as a RR social media admin, please contact us to accomplish this:

refugerecoveryworldservices@refugerecovery.org

For Refuge Recovery World Services to carry out its duty to protect the integrity of Refuge Recovery as a whole, all groups using RR social media should understand that RRWS necessarily is the final decision maker if and when any issues arise regarding RR social media content.

At RRWS, our primary purpose is in line with Refuge Recovery’s primary purpose: To help all those suffering from addiction and to carry the message of Refuge Recovery to all those still suffering. We carry out this primary purpose by working to encourage unity among our groups and members and to ensure this unity is reflected on all of our online platforms.