

Message from IMS's Guiding Teachers for IMS Teachers
Re Yogis with Teacher Crushes
April 2017

Dear teaching friends and colleagues,

In response to a challenging incident, we would like to offer the following guidance for situations when a yogi at IMS's Retreat Center or Forest Refuge declares themselves to have a crush on, be in love with, or in some way be obsessed with a teacher.

It is critical to now flag whenever such statements are made directly to a teacher, even though we recognize that many sane and rational yogis can, on occasion, develop a harmless crush on a teacher. However, due to potential risks for all parties, we ask you to take these instances seriously.

Appropriate responses will differ according to the situation, but in all cases it is important for the teacher to whom a declaration has been made to promptly inform co-teachers of this development.

In addition, we recommend that the teacher might immediately tell the yogi that, under the circumstances, one-on-one conversations are no longer helpful or appropriate, and need to end, so there is no room for misunderstanding. The teacher should say they will arrange to have another teacher meet/interview with the yogi.

The lead teacher, in consultation with the teaching team, is then responsible for:

- finding alternate meeting or interview support for the yogi for individual and/or group meetings, and tracking the situation throughout the retreat.
- following up at the end of the retreat by submitting appropriate 'green screen' text, based on the outcome of the teaching teams' observations and tracking throughout the course. This may range from determining the situation is harmless all the way through to preventing the yogi from attending another IMS retreat, either taught by the teacher in question, or at all.

With much appreciation for your support of these steps,
IMS's Guiding Teachers – Carol, Christina, DaRa, Guy, Joseph, Kamala, Narayan, Rebecca and Sharon
