



KEEPING THE FAITH

VALUES, ETHICS AND CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PROFESSIONAL TOWN PLANNERS: Gender considerations

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WHAT IS TOWN PLANNING?

Beyond Keeble.....

- ▶ Town Planning is the art and science of ordering the use of land and siting of buildings and communication routes so as to secure the maximum practicable degree of economy, convenience and beauty (Keeble, 1969)
 - To embrace our real calling
 - The particular sphere of concern for town planning should be the **UNIFIED SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITIES AND THEIR ENVIRONS**. (Blowers & Evans, 1997)

SKILLS OF A TOWN PLANNER FOR TODAY



"OH YES, YOU NEED SPECIFIC CREDENTIALS
TO BE A TOWN PLANNER"

- Knowledge of urban spatial structure the way in which cities work.
- Ability to analyse data and demographic trends.
- Knowledge of plan-making and project evaluation.
- Understanding of local, state, and federal government programs, regulations and processes.
- Understanding of the social and environmental impact of planning decisions on communities.
- Ability to work with the public and articulate planning issues to a wide variety of audiences.
- Understanding of the interaction among the economy, transportation, health and human services, and land-use regulation.
- Ability to solve problems using a balance of technical competence, creativity, and pragmatism.
- Ability to envision alternatives to the physical and social environments in which we live.
- Mastery of geographic information systems and office software.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A PLANNER

- To serve the **Public Interest**.
- To diligently and competently perform work on behalf the **Client or Employer**.
- To contribute to the development of the **Planning Profession** and **their colleagues**.
- to exhibit and maintain high standards of **Personal and Professional** integrity, proficiency and knowledge

Planners Responsibility to the Public

To comply with our obligation to the public, we aspire to the following principles:

- We shall have special concern for the **long-range consequences of present actions**.
- We shall **provide timely, adequate, clear, and accurate information on planning issues to all affected persons and to governmental decision makers**.
- We shall **give people the opportunity to have a meaningful impact on the development of plans and programs that may affect them**.
- We shall **seek social justice** by working to expand choice and opportunity for all persons,
- We shall **promote excellence of design** and endeavor to **conserve and preserve the integrity and heritage of the natural and built environment**.
- We shall **deal fairly** with all participants in the planning process.

Planner's Responsibility to the Client or Employer

- ▶ We owe **diligent, creative, and competent performance** of the work we do in pursuit of our client or employer's interest.
- ▶ **Our commitment to our client shall always be consistent with our faithful service to the public interest.**
- ▶ We shall exercise **independent professional judgment** on behalf of our clients and employers.
- ▶ We shall **avoid a conflict of interest** or **even the appearance of a conflict of interest** in accepting assignments from clients or employers.

Planner's Responsibility to the Profession

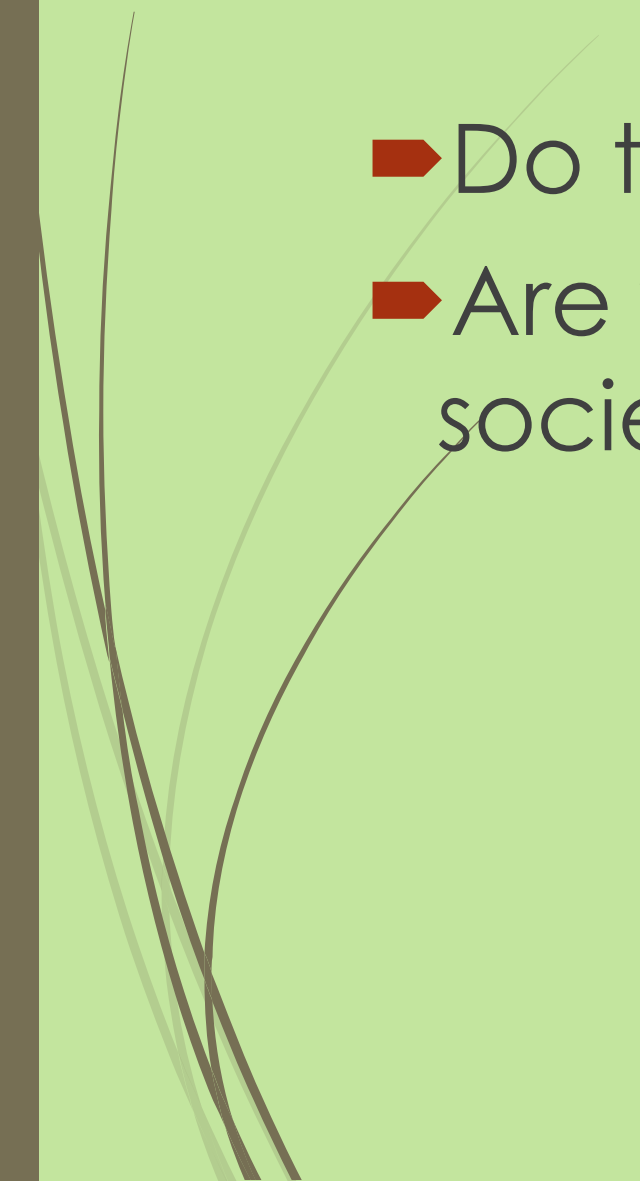
- ▶ We shall **contribute to the development of, and respect for our profession** by improving knowledge and techniques, making work relevant to solutions of community problems, and increasing public understanding of planning activities.
- ▶ We shall **educate the public** about planning issues and their relevance to our everyday lives.
- ▶ We shall **describe and comment on the work and views of other professionals in a fair and professional manner.**
- ▶ We shall **share the results of experience and research that contribute to the body of planning knowledge.**
- ▶ We shall **contribute time and resources to the professional development of students, interns, beginning professionals, and other colleagues.**
- ▶ We shall **continue to enhance our professional education and training.**
- ▶ We shall **systematically and critically analyze ethical issues** in the practice of planning.

Planners Responsibility to Self

- Act with competence, honesty and integrity;
- Fearlessly and impartially exercise independent professional judgement
- Discharge duties to employers, clients, colleagues and others with due care and diligence in accordance with the provisions of the code of conduct.
- Not bring the profession or the Institute into disrepute.



For Female planners:

- ➡ Do the same rules apply?
 - ➡ Are we called to higher responsibility to society, profession or self?
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GAPS: Responsibility to the Public and the Client

- **Knowledge gaps**
- **Skills and technical competence gaps**
- **Public Distrust**
- **Communication skills gaps**
- **Hugging Boundaries: geographic and communities of practice**
- **Refusal to embrace change**
- **Courage gaps**



GAPS: RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PROFESSION AND TO SELF

- Knowledge gaps
- Skills and Technical Competence Gaps
- Mentoring gaps
- Discipline gaps
- Courage gaps
- Lack of Unity
- Refusal to embrace change
- Hugging Boundaries: Geographic and Communities of Practice

Paradigm Shift:

Bridging the Gap = Keeping the Faith

Keeping the Faith Requires a Renewed Commitment to:

- Knowledge and Skill Upgrade
- A commitment to Personal Integrity and Professional Discipline
- A commitment to Professional Excellence
- A commitment to upholding Social Justice and advocating for gender equity
- A commitment to renegotiate Change
- A willingness to embrace new boundaries and communities of practice
- A Commitment To Mentorship and sponsorship
- A Commitment To Upholding The Tenets Of The Profession



WHY SHOULD WE KEEP THE FAITH?

- We are in an urban age where **global attention is shifting to cities.**
- Nigeria is now demographically an **urban majority** (UN Habitat, 2014), and the new government is committed to sustainable urbanisation.
- Professional callings are increasingly **multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary.**
- As female professionals, we have an added responsibility to **enable gendered urbanism**, social inclusion and a child friendly city.