

IOA Virtual Networking in Gather

International Ombuds Association Conference

Purpose of the Gather Space

- Connect with fellow ombuds professionals.
- Engage in informal discussions and small group conversations.
- Visit the Ombuds Lounge for peer dialogue and professional exchange.
- Recreate the feel of hallway networking and coffee break conversations.

How to Enter and Move

- Click the Gather link provided by IOA.
- Enter your name as registered.
- Allow microphone access. Camera is encouraged but optional.
- Use your arrow keys to move your avatar around the space.
- Move toward others to begin conversation. Step away to exit.

The Ombuds Lounge

- A dedicated space for informal topic discussions.
- Meet new IOA members and reconnect with colleagues.
- Discuss trends, practice insights, and shared challenges.

Creating Meaningful Networking Moments

- Gather uses proximity-based conversations.
- Have private one-on-one discussions or small group clusters.
- Move naturally between conversations just like an in-person event.
- Wear headphones for the best audio experience.

Technical Tips

- Use Google Chrome for best performance.
- Refresh your browser if audio or video stalls.
- Close unused browser tabs.
- Check microphone permissions if others cannot hear you.