



Declaration on The Child Safeguarding Standards

Within this publication, the NGO Youth leaders coalition declares to develop and follow the internal procedures of The Child Safeguarding Standards which always should be in line of The International Child Safeguarding Standards (Keeping Children Safe)¹, United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child² and the national legislation of Republic of Latvia, and which should be based on the following set of principles:

- All children have equal rights to protection from harm (the principle “Do no harm!” is taken into consideration at any activity, program and decision making process)
- Everybody (staff, volunteers, partners and the participants of the activities) has a responsibility to support the protection of children – everybody have a duty of care to children with whom they work, are in contact with, or who are affected by their work and operations
- All actions on child safeguarding are taken in the best interests of the child, which are paramount
- The policy reflects the rights of children to protection from abuse and exploitation
- The policy is approved by the organisation’s management body and applies to all the organisation’s staff and associates\
- The policy is publicised in an appropriate manner, promoted and distributed widely
- Managers have specific responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the policy
- All projects and programmes must be designed to minimise the risk of harm to the children they come into contact with or impact upon directly or indirectly by taking sufficient account of child safety, whatever the focus of the work
- A child safe project must ensure that it takes account of the environment, context and impact (intended or unintended) on the children and communities it is engaged with
- Organisations must therefore determine the context in which they are working and adopt an approach that includes risk assessing all proposed programmes, adapting programmes so they become safer for children and including additional safety strategies during the implementation phase
- Organisation makes clear this policy through the organisation’s codes of conduct, recruitment procedures, training and internal communications that child abuse by staff, volunteers and associates will not be tolerated

1 The International Child Safeguarding Standards, Keeping Children Safe, https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/f53f19ef-c655-4d63-91e5-db4fee59ca3e_en?filename=KCS-CS-Standards-ENG-200218.pdf

2 United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child, United Nations, Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989 entry into force 2 September 1990 <https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention>

- The obligation on staff, volunteers and associates to keep children safe extends to their conduct towards children with whom they have contact, outside the work environment as well as inside
- The activities and events aim to provide children with fun and/or educational experience. However when planning activities, various considerations need to be taken into account in order to avoid risks such as:
 - Recognising that the family or community do not always welcome the participation of children in the activities
 - The organisation is organising events or activities at times when children are supposed to be helping with household jobs or income-generating work
 - Ensuring that particular care is taken to ensure preventative measures are put in place to safeguard children if activities or events are to take place in unfamiliar places and outside family care
- It is essential to minimise the risk of inappropriate use of information, stories and visual images (photographs, video or social media) of children. Tips for good practice include:
 - Images of children must not show them in states of undress or in inappropriate poses;
 - Details attached to images and included in stories must not allow that child to be traced to his or her home or community
 - Distinctive buildings, street signs or landmarks should not be included in an image if they identify where a child lives or works
 - Geotagging of images should be disabled when taking photographs
 - Ensure the photographer/journalist/translator the organisation have employed has been properly vetted and reference checked
 - Make sure the organisation have been given permission by children and their parents/carers to take their image and use their information
- Abuse arising within the community may not be due to the organisation's programmes or operation
- The organisation has a responsibility to report on suspected or actual child abuse taking place - this should be reported to the formal authorities or, where they are weak or corrupt, to organisations that are able to deal with cases appropriately