

Keeping Children Safe

Ending child abuse in organisations worldwide

*The International Child Safeguarding
Standards for children and young people*

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Sometimes children and young people have been abused in organisations that impact on their lives. For example, in schools, sports clubs or youth clubs. This is always wrong and is always the fault of the person who abused the child.

Keeping Children Safe thought everyone should know what adults need to do to protect children from abuse in organisations. This is called child safeguarding. We made a list of all of these things and called them the International Child Safeguarding Standards. Standards are like rules that everyone agrees to follow. They are set to make sure things are done in the right way and to help people know what to expect.

We want these standards to be used by children, young people, their families and the organisations we work with to understand the things adults should do to stop children being abused. If you want, you and your family can use them to check if an organisation you know is doing everything it can to keep children safe.

Remember: You have the right to be safe in all organisations, all of the time!

If you feel unsafe or uncomfortable and need someone to talk to, but you are not sure who, you can try a child helpline in your country:

www.childhelplineinternational.org

What is abuse?

Anything that harms a child's health, survival, development or dignity.

This could include:

- Emotional abuse is when someone hurts a child's feelings. This hurts the child on the inside.
- Sexual abuse is when a child's private parts of the body are touched in a way that hurts, frightens or worries them. It could also be someone making a child watch things to do with sex or encouraging them to act in an inappropriate way. Sexual abuse is also when a child is made to do something with the private parts of their body or someone else's body that hurts, frightens or worries them. If a person is using a child in this way to make money, this is called sexual exploitation.
- Neglect is when a child's basic needs are not met and a parent or carer does not look after them properly.
- Physical abuse is when an adult deliberately hurts a child's body. This may leave marks on their body such as cuts or bruises.

Who should keep you safe from abuse?

Everyone! This includes people who work in all kinds of organisations. For example, teachers, sports coaches and youth workers.

What are your rights in organisations?

1. You have right to be protected from abuse and it is everyone's job to keep you safe.
2. You have the right not to be discriminated against, no matter who you are, where you live, what language you speak, what your religion is, what you think, what you look like, if you are a boy or girl, what gender you are, if you have a disability, who you love, if you are rich or poor and no matter who your parents or families are or what your parents or families believe or do. You should not be treated unfairly for any reason.
3. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect you. Your safety always comes first, in any plan or decision.
4. You have the right to give your opinions freely on all issues that affect you. Adults should listen and take you seriously.
5. If an organisation works with another organisation, they have to make sure that everyone working there protects you too.
6. People working in organisations should respect all of your rights under the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). This is the world's biggest set of promises about children's rights. These are strong promises made by governments to make sure that children lead a good life. You can read them here: www.unicef.org/sop/convention-rights-child-child-friendly-version

What should organisations do to keep you safe?

Organisations should do everything in the International Child Safeguarding Standards.

Standard 1: Policy - They should have a child safeguarding policy which describes how they will keep children safe. A policy is a

document written by the organisation that says how it will do something good or stop something bad happening.

- The policy should say that a child is everyone below 18 years old.
- It should say that all children have the right to be protected and the organisation will do everything they can to stop abuse.
- It should say how the organisation will always respect your rights as outlined in the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child.
- It should say that they will never ignore child abuse and always do everything they can to help a child who has been abused.
- The organisation should make sure everyone knows about and understands the policy. Including children and their families.

Standard 2: People - The organisation should make sure everyone working there understands exactly what they should do to protect children. For example, they should explain it to people when they start their job, do training sessions for everyone and share information.

- They should check everyone who works at the organisation to be sure they have never abused a child before anyone starts working with them.

They should ask people applying for jobs questions in their interview, to make sure they understand it is part of their job to stop child abuse.

- They should write a list of appropriate and inappropriate behaviours of adults towards children and make everyone sign it to show they agree. This is called a code of conduct.
- Sometimes children abuse other children, so there should be written guidelines for appropriate and inappropriate behaviour for children towards other children.
- They should have people working there called Child Safeguarding Focal Points. Their job is to make sure everyone in the organisation understands how to protect children from abuse. If any adult or child is worried about the safety of a child, they can tell the Child Safeguarding Focal Points and it is the Focal Point's job to help them.

Standard 3: Planning - The organisation should understand that children could be abused and have a good plan for keeping them safe.

- There should always be a safe way for children to tell the organisation if they have been abused. Or for people to tell the organisation that they are worried about a child.
- If somebody hurts a child, then the organisation should stop them straight away and make sure they can't do it again.
- If a child has been abused, then the organisation should have a plan to do everything they can to help them and to keep them safe.
- The organisation should make sure it has enough time and money for child safeguarding.

Standard 4: Making sure it happens - The organisation should regularly check if it is getting child safeguarding right.

- They should ask children and families what they think about child safeguarding and take their opinions seriously.
- They should share reports with everyone on how well the organisation is doing stopping child abuse.
- They should ask people who don't work in the organisation, but understand about child safeguarding, to check they are doing things right and tell them if they are not.
- If something goes wrong, the organisation should learn from its mistakes and never try to hide the truth.

You can read more about us on our website:

www.keepingchildrensafe.global