

SAVE THE CHILDRENS SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Our values and principles

Child abuse is when anyone under 18 years of age is being harmed or isn't being looked after properly. The abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional or neglect. The abuse and exploitation of children happens in all countries and societies across the world. Child abuse is never acceptable.

It is expected that all who work with Save the Children are committed to safeguard children whom they are in contact with.

What we do

Save the Children is committed to safeguard children through the following means:

Awareness: Ensuring that all staff and those who work with Save the Children are aware of the problem of child abuse and the risks to children.

Prevention: Ensuring, through awareness and good practice, that staff and those who work with Save the Children minimise the risks to children.

Reporting: Ensuring that you are clear on what steps to take where concerns arise regarding the safety of children.

Responding: Ensuring that action is taken to support and protect children where concerns arise regarding possible abuse.

To help you clarify our safeguarding approach, we list here examples of the behaviour by a representative of Save the Children which are prohibited. These include but are not limited to:

1. Hitting or otherwise physically assaulting or physically abusing children.
2. Engaging in sexual activity or having a sexual relationship with anyone under the age of 18 years regardless of the age of majority/consent or custom locally. Mistaken belief in the age of a child is not a defence.
3. Developing relationships with children which could in any way be deemed exploitative or abusive.
4. Acting in ways that may be abusive in any way or may place a child at risk of abuse.
5. Using language, making suggestions or offering advice which is inappropriate, offensive or abusive.
6. Behaving physically in a manner which is inappropriate or sexually provocative.
7. Sleeping in the same bed or same room as a child, or having a child/children with whom one is working to stay overnight at a home unsupervised.
8. Doing things for children of a personal nature that they can do themselves.
9. Condoning, or participating in, behaviour of children which is illegal, unsafe or abusive.
10. Acting in ways intended to shame, humiliate, belittle or degrade children, or otherwise perpetrate any form of emotional abuse.

11. Discriminating against, showing unfair differential treatment or favour to particular children to the exclusion of others.
12. Spending excessive time alone with children away from others.
13. Placing oneself in a position where one is made vulnerable to allegations of misconduct.

In order that the above standards of reporting and responding are met, **this is what is expected of you:**

If you are worried that a child or young person is being abused or neglected, (such as in points 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9 and 10 above for example) or you are concerned about the inappropriate behaviour of an employee, or someone working with Save the Children, towards a child or young person, then you are obliged to:

- act quickly and get help
- support and respect the child
- where possible, ensure that the child is safe
- contact your Save the Children manager with your concerns immediately (or their senior manager if necessary)
- keep any information confidential to you and the manager.

If you want to know more about the Child Safeguarding Policy then please contact your Save the Children manager.

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