

KÖZ-Pont Ifjúsági Egyesület
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4400 Nyíregyháza, Bocskai utca 25.
5000 Szolnok, Ady Endre utca 28/A.
5300 Karcag, Városvár 1.



Child Safeguarding Policy

Mission

The Centre Youth Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting young people aged 10 to 30 in Hungary through sustainable projects. Our mission is to create opportunities for youth engagement, personal development, and community building by promoting volunteering and participation in student government activities, fostering values such as collaboration, trust and responsibility.

Scope of the Policy, commitment

The purpose of this Child Safeguarding Policy (the "Policy") is to ensure the safety and protection of children who are in contact with the Association in any way, and to exclude the possibility that the Association or any person providing services to (volunteer, traineeship agreement, etc.), or acting on behalf of the Association (hereinafter collectively, "staff"), and may be harmed by the Association's partners in the course of their activities. A further objective is to enable the Association, upon suspicion of abuse or endangerment, to take effective measures to detect, adequately deal with and follow up on such cases, through the transparent framework set out in this Policy.

From the date of its adoption, the Policy shall apply to all areas of the Association's activities: they shall have binding force on the general operation and the individual programs.

The Policy is approved by the Board of Association. The Board of Association shall monitor the implementation of the Policy on a continuous basis, take measures within its competence and review them at least annually and whenever necessary.

The Association attaches the utmost importance to conducting its activities and operations in accordance with this Policy: the scope of this document and its annexes extend to anyone who cooperates with the Association in any capacity or acts on behalf of the Association.

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To fulfil this, the Association is responsible for ensuring that all staff are aware of and understand their roles and responsibilities in the field of child protection, and act accordingly. The Association also cooperates with external organizations and individuals in accordance with the principles and rules laid down in the Policy.

In all cases, the Association takes the violation of the Policy seriously, and in any case, such cases cannot be without consequences.

Principles for security

Nothing in the Policy may conflict with existing legislation on the rights of the child or the protection of children, but the principles set forth in this Chapter may go beyond that. Where this Policy contains stricter requirements than those contained in the legislation, the rules of the Policy shall apply. The Association organizes its activities for the safety of children according to the following principles:

- **Protection:** all children, regardless of age, gender, ability, culture, race, language, religion, and gender, gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation, have the right to protection;
 - **Zero tolerance:** all forms of child abuse, violence, harassment, and abuse are unacceptable. A safe environment and community for children should be created and no professional relationship should be established – or an existing relationship should be immediately terminated – with anyone who poses a danger to children;
 - **Child-centered:** the well-being of children is paramount, all decisions must be made in the best interests of the children and respect their rights;
 - **Meaningful child participation:** child participation processes are in line with the 4 ethical principles set out in General Comment No. 12 (2009) – The right of the child to be heard – of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child;
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- **Transparency:** all decisions, activities and procedural mechanisms are transparent and guided by the best interests of the children;

- Prevention: reducing the risk of child abuse should be promoted through awareness-raising, good practice, regular risk analysis and reduction, and training;
- Individual responsibility: ensure that all staff are aware of the rules of protection, but it is important that everyone is individually responsible for the safety of children;
- Procedural guarantee: all indications of children's rights violations, their mistreatment or endangerment must be taken seriously and appropriate child protection measures must be taken;
- Support: all children, groups of children and staff involved in child abuse cases should receive appropriate support;
- Co-operation: cooperate with other civil, state and international organizations as appropriate, with particular respect to the members of the child protection alert system, bearing in mind that reconciling different perspectives and joint thinking on common issues will facilitate the most efficient handling of cases;
- Follow-up and review: child protection rules and practices should be regularly reviewed to identify and address any deficiencies and to comply with relevant legislative changes;
- Secure data management and confidentiality: it is required to treat confidentially, in accordance with applicable laws, the personal data and sensitive information of children;
- Legal compliance: the Association works in accordance with applicable international and domestic child protection regulations

Key concepts

Who is protected by the Policy?

This Policy protects the entire community of the Association through the introduction of preventive tools and the establishment of transparent procedures, while at the same time supporting all members of the community in their commitment to the protection of children. However, it is important to underline that the Policy is primarily intended to protect children.

- Child: Anyone who has not reached the age of 18 and is in any form associated with the Association. The Association bears the greatest responsibility for the children who are in direct contact with it, such as members of the Child Rights Ambassador Program and Child volunteers, but also for the safety of children whom it occasionally meets in Association training, lectures, other programs, and in the office.
- Child volunteer: Volunteers under the age of 18 with whom the Association has a legal relationship.
- Young adult: The Policy also protects individuals who have been in contact with the Association as a child but have reached the age of 18 as a result of the partnership and have not terminated their legal relationship/partnership with the Association.

What does the Policy protect?

The Association condemns and finds unacceptable all forms of child abuse and maltreatment, even if the injury is only subsequently pursued; or not directly recognized by the child concerned. The following concepts, as well as the possible signs of child abuse, should be understood by all staff at the Association. The Association will facilitate the acquisition of this knowledge through appropriate training.

- Child abuse: Anything that is done by individuals, institutions or procedures, or caused by an omission, that directly or indirectly causes harm to children or hinders their safe and healthy development into adulthood. Forms of child abuse include:

- Physical abuse: The use of physical violence that causes actual or probable physical injury or suffering.

Example: punching, shaking, burning, torturing, kicking, lashing, locking, pulling, dropping, poisoning, scalding, careless dropping, drowning, strangulation

- Emotional abuse: A continuous and degrading emotional treatment that has a long-term and severe negative impact on the child's emotional development. Emotional abuse usually occurs in combination with other forms of maltreatment of the child, however, it can occur on its

own as well. Example: bullying, criticizing, belittling, prolonged stigma, detention and isolation, persuading a child to be worthless or inappropriate, refusing, denying emotions, setting expectations that are inappropriate for the child, or situations in which the child may witness violence between family members.

- Neglect, neglected treatment: Persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or emotional needs, which can result in severe impairment of health and development. We also mean neglecting to prevent violence, abuse and abuse of children! Example: No adequate food, clothing, shelter, supervision, access to health care and treatment, basic care and no harm, denial of basic emotional needs, indifference, emotional security, permanence, lack of affection, child emotional attachment gross neglect.

- Sexual abuse: Behavior in which an adult uses a child to engage in activities that are not appropriate for the child's age or development to satisfy his or her sexual interest or desire. This includes anything that the child does not fully understand and to which he/she cannot give his/her true consent.

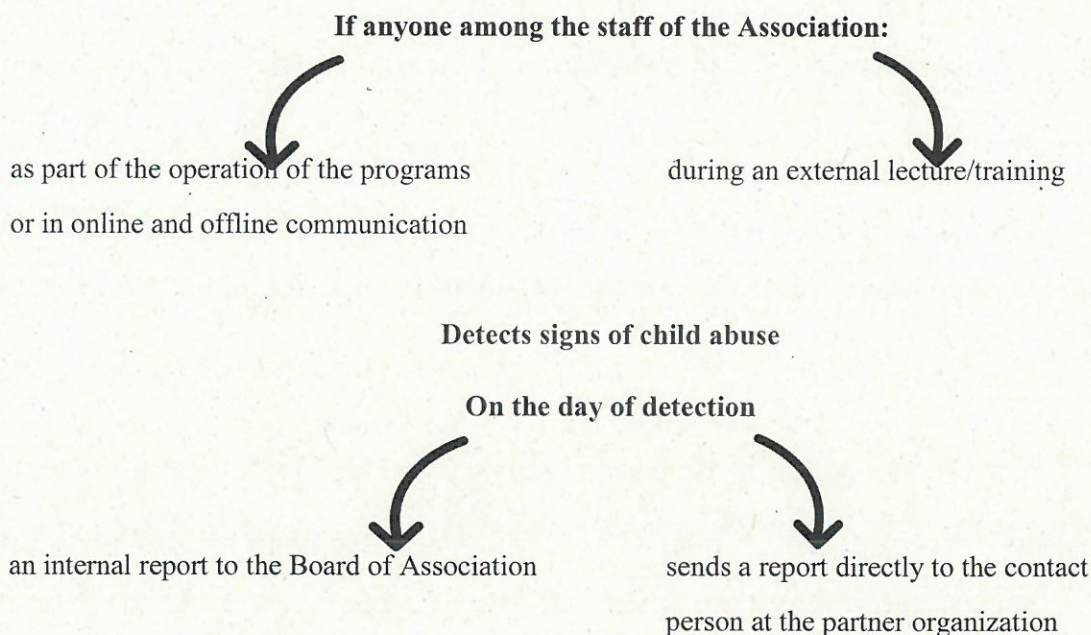
Example: Unfair stroking, touching intimate parts, sexually suggestive comments, comments, stories, online sexual activity, sexting, sharing sexually explicit pornography/showing children, or intentionally sexually explicit sexual activity. The full definition also includes exploitative and commercial forms of sexual violence, such as prostitution, pornography, sex tourism, forcing children to marry or genital mutilation.

-Online harassment: Causing a series of intentional and prolonged harassment on the Internet, which may include humiliation, threat, bullying, exasperation, denigration, or denial.

Example: posting offensive, abusive messages on someone's newsfeed/profile or in a personal message, hacking an account, creating a fake profile, uploading abusive photos/videos. Possible signs include anxiety, profile deletion, change of Internet usage habits, school absconding, escape, etc.

Procedural protocol

The Association takes all suspicions, signs, and signals of child abuse or endangerment seriously. Accordingly, it will investigate the matter and promptly take the necessary steps.



The observer can report in to the detector in writing through the Google form, which is accessible only to members of the Board of association. It is also possible to report anonymously through the form.

The Board of Association will immediately investigate the circumstances of the case upon receipt of the internal alert: it will carefully evaluate the information it receives and, if necessary, collect additional information to clarify the case, which may include the involvement of relevant staff.

The Board of Association shall in all cases:

- take the necessary steps to avoid further danger
- provide advice and information to those affected by the case

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- make confidential and archive the alert within 24 hours of being notified of the incident
 - within 72 hours, discuss the next steps with the affected staff

If justified by the best interest of the situation/child concerned:

- provides the processing staff with a supervisory watch/discussion circle
- informs the child's legal representative
- convenes a case study to investigate what measures are needed, what professionals (lawyer, psychologist, psychiatrist, doctor), external organizations or formal proceedings are needed

General responsibility

The Association undertakes the responsibility to ensure that the functioning of the organisation and the preparation, implementation, and follow-up of its projects are all performed in accordance with the Child Safeguarding Policy and with the highest possible level of diligence. It is also their responsibility to ensure that every child, employee, and partner in contact with the Association is familiar with the Policy. In addition, every employee is individually responsible for complying with the Policy when performing work for the Association, by avoiding any infringement, abuse of personal information, or posing any threat to the safety of children.

Accordingly, all employees are obliged to:

- actively and supportively contribute to the protection of children's rights;
- participate in the training provided by the Association to raise awareness of their responsibilities laid down in this Policy;
- perform their work in accordance with the Policy and the principle of reasonable diligence;
- ensure the protection of children during appearances and communication with third parties in connection with the Association's projects.

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Responsability of the Board of Association:

- introduce the Policy; keep track of and monitor its implementation; evaluate professional interventions and actions taken based on the Policy;
- ensure that children coming into contact with the Association are familiar with the relevant parts of the Policy;
- ensure that all employees are aware of their responsibilities laid down in this Policy, and are provided with the necessary preparation and information;
- carry out proceedings of prosecution if necessary.

Guidelines concerning the making and usage of image-, sound- and video recordings

The Association can, to document its projects and during the internal and external communication regarding said project, make recordings of children participating in the project, and is free to use them (especially the Child volunteers). Here the following guidelines should be implemented:

- Image-, voice- or video recordings can only be made in relation to the projects of the Association, while the children's dignity remains intact.
- Before making any recording, permission should be sought from the child concerned, and a written permission from the legal representatives should be acquired every time. The permission is considered valid only if the child has been given information about the purpose of the recording according to their age and needs.
- Without consent, no recordings can be made of the child, or they cannot be used.
- The personal data of the child (name, address, date and place of birth, etc.) cannot be presented in the recordings. The Child volunteers are an exception, as their full name – in compliance with the General and written communication guidelines' recommendations – can be present in articles about them, or during television appearances.

- It should be made certain in every case that the child is partaking in the communication without any external forcing, on their own will. When making film, video or radio interviews, the impact of the visual- or sound effects on the child should be taken into consideration.
- The child and his/her legal representative should be informed about the publishing of the recording, its purpose and duration, and the possibility of removing said recording.

GDPR

The Centre Youth Association handles personal data with the utmost care in accordance with the prevailing legal requirements and the security rules of the organization. Employees associated with the Association will keep personal information of children they become aware of confidential. All employees are bound by the obligation of discretion and confidentiality. In pursuance of this section, information about the circumstances of children, young adults and every person associated with the Association, any personal information shared about or by them, may not be disclosed to third parties.

Exceptions to the rule:

- explicit written consent of the data subject to share his or her personal data

Online safety

To filter out any abusive content on any device owned or used by an employee of the Association during the implementation of a Association project, a filtering/content blocking program or application is required if it is accessed or used by a child associated with the Association. Employees should notify the program manager immediately if any abusive or offensive content has been received. Program managers will ensure that such content is properly reported and deleted.

The Association encourages children to use the various tools of the internet and social media in a safe manner. The Association manages the communication and supervises the safety of the participants on its official, accessible communication interfaces.

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Staff members can only communicate with children online via their official email address (lastname.firstname@kozpontegyesulet.hu).

Legal regulations

The present Policy is in keeping with the current domestic and international regulations in effect, especially:

- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (enacted as Act LXIV of 1991),
- Act XXXI of 1997 on the Protection of Children and the Administration of Guardianship (Child Protection Act)
- Act V of 2013 on the Civil Code,
- Act C of 2012 on the Criminal Code,
- Act I of 2012 on the Labor Code,
- Universal principles and methodology to recognize and prevent child abuse as part of the child protection alert system,
- Protocol of the Ministry of Human Capacities on family and child welfare services,
- Act CXII of 2011 on Informational Self-determination and Freedom of Information (Privacy Act).

Debrecen, 2023.09.01.

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