



ISPCAN CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY

2020

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Child Safeguarding Policy is to state the position of the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) regarding the prevention of and response to **all forms** of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence towards children.

ISPCAN's work is in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and all of the related supplemental protocols. Additionally, ISPCAN helps to lead the World Health Organization's INSPIRE strategy and the UN Global Partnership to End Violence against Children. Our work seeks to ensure that children are given the best opportunities to live a life of safety and well-being, with protection in their families and communities.

Child abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children are acts of profound disrespect to child rights. In principle and practice, it is the responsibility of States and Governments, leaders and communities, families and caregivers, individuals and civil society organizations, to ensure that priority is given to children's safety, welfare and well-being, in all settings and circumstances.

ISPCAN advocates that societies and all parties that interact with ISPCAN ensure that children are protected in all circumstances and at all times.

ISPCAN PLEDGE

As an organization, ISPCAN pledges that it will act with honesty and integrity and commit to preserve and protect children's safety at all times. Our conferences, publications and training programs will use language and activities that respect and do not inflict harm of any kind on people.

ISPCAN Councilors, staff, partner organizations, country partners and regional resource center staff, and local partners co-hosting events with us will be respectful towards both children and adults and adhere to The Policy at all times. Child abuse, neglect and exploitation are deeply harmful to all aspects of child development and violate children's rights. Furthermore we acknowledge that children who have been victimized must be respected and protected.

Violence in any form towards children or adults, direct or indirect, will not be tolerated in ISPCAN. This includes verbal and written communications, cyber-space postings, physical actions or other abusive actions, including the disparaging treatment of children, adults, their culture or family relationships.

KEY PRINCIPLES

All parties engaged in any way with ISPCAN will:

- Never abuse or exploit a child or put children at risk of harm;
- Respect the privacy and rights of children;
- Never knowingly expose children to neglect, substance misuse or environmental danger.



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GUIDELINES FOR ISPCAN BUSINESS PRACTICES

ISPCAN staff, officers, partners and members are expected to conduct themselves with utmost care and respect towards children in accordance with this ISPCAN Child Safeguarding Policy and to ensure child safety at the highest level by:

- all ISPCAN staff, volunteers, members, and council members signing a statement committing to:
 - Never having had a history of child abuse or neglect crime or misconduct; and
 - Continued compliance with the required ISPCAN standards of conduct.
- Taking actions to immediately report any suspicions, incidents of concern, or potential child crime or maltreatment to the relevant national or local Law Enforcement Agency and/or child protective services, and to also report the incident to the ISPCAN President, a Councilor or Executive Director;
- Consulting with local/national organizing partners or members of ISPCAN in the region if country level processes are unclear in order to ensure proper reporting;
- Ensuring that, where interaction with children occurs under ISPCAN's auspices, facilities are safe and encourage safe participation especially when vulnerable children are known to be present;
- Safeguarding personal information about any child who reports alleged abuse that might expose them, their family or their community to further risks of harm;
- Ensuring that all ISPCAN's contracts and memoranda of understanding include compliance with ISPCAN's Child Safeguarding Policy.

NON-COMPLIANCE WITH ISPCAN'S CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Anyone found to have a criminal or civil record of causing any form of harm to children will not be eligible to take up any role within or on behalf of ISPCAN. Failure to comply with ISPCAN's Child Safeguarding Policy at all times will result in ISPCAN severing its relationship with the person concerned. Although ISPCAN is not responsible for the actions of others, we seek to educate and ensure the rights of children everywhere. There is a mandatory obligation for all ISPCAN Staff, Councilors, members and volunteers to report any concern or suspicious behavior.

Actions to be taken for non-compliance with the ISPCAN Child Safeguarding Policy:

1. A written report of the allegation reported to appropriate national or local authorities will be forwarded to ISPCAN (execdirector@ispcan.org or president@ispcan.org). A committee of 3 Councilors will be convened by the Chairperson of the Personnel Committee and a meeting held within 7 calendar days or as soon as possible after the report has been filed, to determine if any other disciplinary action is needed. A confidential record will be kept of the report, the committee process, any referrals and feedback from the referral and outcomes of the process to which only the President, Executive Director of ISPCAN and the Chairperson of the Personnel Committee have access.



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2. The appropriate authorities will be contacted by ISPCAN to comply with child abuse reporting laws or requirements of the jurisdiction in which the alleged act or acts took place.
3. Where child maltreatment has occurred, ISPCAN recommends that the child (and/or child's family) should be referred for appropriate support and treatment by the investigating or supervising entity.
4. During the period of investigation, the ISPCAN personnel committee will determine if the individual involved will be suspended from all ISPCAN activities pending the outcome- of the investigation.

Agreement of compliance with ISPCAN's Child Safeguarding Policy

By signing this agreement, you consent that you have read, understood and agree to abide by ISPCAN's Child Safeguarding Policy at all times.

Signature:

Name:

Date:

Organization:

Email:

Association with ISPCAN - please mark which category you belong to:

- Staff
- Councilor
- Volunteer
- Member
- Partner organization
- Other (please describe) _____