



Child Protection Policy

It is important for all participants to be aware of the importance of child protection throughout the trip. A child is defined as a person/people under 18 years old. The welfare of all children is paramount, whether they are a fellow participant, a child at a community project or a member of the public and regardless of their culture, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity.

We ask all participants to read, agree to and sign our good practice policy to ensure all young people are kept safe and protected:

I agree to:

- Always work in an open environment. E.g. never spend time alone with a child, avoid private or unobserved situations, and encourage open communication with no secrets, ensuring two adults are always present etc.;
- Treat all young people equally and with respect and dignity;
- Always put the welfare of the young person first;
- Act appropriately in the relationship with the children at the same time show them respect and compassion;
- Avoid unnecessary physical contact with young people. Where any form of manual/physical support is required it should be provided openly and with the consent of the young person;
- Ensure that adults never enter a young person's room or invite young people to their rooms;
- Be an excellent role model, which includes not smoking or drinking alcohol in the company of young people, and being sensitive about my use of language, topics of conversation and physical expressions;
- Provide constructive feedback rather than negative criticism where this situation may arise;
- Ask for consent from children, parents and/or guardians, and/or project leaders before filming or taking photographs of them;
- Always be responsible for my behaviour with a child and immediately stop any interaction with a child if a child says stop or if the child appears uncomfortable with the interaction.

I agree not to:

- Place a child in situations of exploitative labour, permit them to assist on community project tasks, or place them in danger by allowing them on a community project site.
- Hold or touch the children in an inappropriate, culturally insensitive or sexual way.
- Have sex with a child or children, flirt or make suggestive comments, expose them to sexual materials or abuse them through non-contact sexual activity.
- Slap, hit or physically abuse any child, nor will I psychologically and/or verbally abuse any child.

Any inappropriate behaviour on the part of any individual toward any child will be dealt with immediately and the matter will be reported to the relevant co-ordinator(s) immediately.