

# CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY- SUMMARY

## 1. What is Child Safeguarding?

Child Safeguarding is the set of internal facing, business critical, policies, procedures and practice that we have put in place to ensure that Save the Children is a child safe organization.

It is our method of:

- Ensuring that everyone associated with the organisation is aware of and responds appropriately to issues of child abuse and the sexual exploitation of children.
- Ensuring that anyone who represents our organisation behaves appropriately towards children and never abuses the position of trust that comes with being a member of the Save the Children family.
- Assessing and reducing the risks to children that are associated with our activities.

## 2. Our Commitment to Safeguarding Children includes:

- Raise Awareness
- Prevent harm or abuse from happening
- Report any concerns to a designated member of staff
- Respond appropriately to the child and providing the necessary support

## 3. What is abuse?

Child abuse consists of anything which individuals, institutions or processes do or fail to do, which directly or indirectly harms children or damages their prospect of a safe and healthy development into adulthood.

## 4. Types of abuse & Harm:

**Physical abuse** involves hitting, slapping, pinching, burning, cutting, throwing, use of corporal punishment and others.

**Emotional abuse** involves constant criticism, persistent shaming, solitary confinement and isolation, yelling, telling children they are worthless, humiliating, insulting, blaming, shaming etc.

**Sexual abuse** may involve inappropriate physical contact, or touching, sexual assault, showing photography, rape, use of sexually explicit language and early marriage.

**Neglect** is the failure of parents or carers to meet a child's physical and emotional needs when they have the means, knowledge and access to services. E.g., leave the child hungry as punishment.

**Exploitation** refers to exploiting a child in work or other activities for the benefit of others and to the detriment of the child's physical or mental health, education, moral or social-emotional development.

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All children have the right to protection. It is our responsibility to protect children from abuse and harm. People should not hurt children by either hitting them, sexually abusing them, shouting at them or not caring for them.

**Online abuse** is any type of abuse that happens on the internet. It can happen across any device that's connected to the web, like computers, tablets and mobile phones. And it can happen anywhere online, including social media; text messages and messaging apps; emails; online gaming; online chats; live-streaming sites.

**Road traffic** accidents involving child participants.

**Unsafe Programming** causing harm to children through our programme work; failing to ensure safe environment for children in our programmes.

**Other incidents** which are violations of the Child safeguarding policy.

**5. Quick reminder** of the minimum behavior expected from staff, partners and any representative (this is not an exhaustive list):

1. Hit or otherwise physically assault or physically abuse children.
2. Engage in sexual activity or have 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. Develop relationships with children who could in any way be deemed exploitative or abusive.
4. Act in ways that may be abusive in any way or may place a child at risk of abuse.
5. Use language, make suggestions or offer advice, which is inappropriate, offensive or abusive.
6. Behave physically in a manner which is Child safeguarding inappropriate or sexually provocative.
7. Have a child/children with whom we are working to stay overnight at my home unsupervised unless exceptional circumstances apply and previous permission has been obtained from my line manager.
8. Sleep in the same bed as a child with whom we are working.
9. Sleep in the same room as a child with whom we are working unless exceptional circumstances apply and previous permission has been obtained from my line manager.
10. Do things for children of a personal nature that they can do themselves.
11. Condone, or participate in, behaviour of children which is illegal, unsafe or abusive.

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12. Act in ways intended to shame, humiliate, belittle or degrade children, or otherwise perpetrate any form of emotional abuse.
13. Discriminate against, show unfair differential treatment or favour to particular children to the exclusion of others.
14. Spend excessive time alone with children away from others.
15. Place myself in a position where I am made vulnerable to allegations of misconduct.

Save the Children, staff and representatives are **not allowed** to do any abusive practices and make you feel hurt, humiliated, and frightened. If they do, this **must be** reported to the organisation immediately.

## **6. Any Child Safeguarding Concerns should be reported to the person listed below:**

### 6.1. Child Safeguarding National Focal Person

Name: Tshegofatso Moloisane  
Title: National Child safeguarding focal person  
Telephone Number: +27 12 430 7775  
Mobile Telephone Number: +27 78 555 2962  
Email: [tmoloisane@savethechildren.org.za](mailto:tmoloisane@savethechildren.org.za)

*Or the relevant SCSA contact person.*

### 6.2. Whistleblowing Hotline:

Email: [savethechildren@behonest.co.za](mailto:savethechildren@behonest.co.za)  
Toll-free: 0800 604 605  
WhatsApp: 0860 004 004  
Online: [behonest.co.za](http://behonest.co.za)

For more information, contact the National Safeguarding Focal point.