

Child Protection Policy – ISTORECO Reggio Emilia

Introduction

The Istituto per la storia della Resistenza e della società contemporanea di Reggio Emilia (IT) - Istoreco Reggio Emilia is a cultural institute whose mission, since 1965, has been to promote research and the dissemination of knowledge on the province of Reggio Emilia's history in the twentieth century, with a particular focus on the period of Mussolini's dictatorship and the war of popular Resistance against Nazi Fascism.

Istoreco's activities are therefore based on anti-fascist values: freedom, democracy, cultural pluralism, human dignity and rights.

This Institute was founded in Reggio Emilia (IT), in the mid-1960s, with the aim of preserving, managing and promoting archival heritage and individual memories of the Italian Liberation War.

So Istoreco's core mission is to raise public awareness of historical heritage through educational activities involving students, teachers and citizens, in the firm belief that historical knowledge can promote fundamental principles such as anti-racism, solidarity, coexistence and mutual respect.

Therefore, it is crucial to prioritize the safety of children in our staff, operations, and programs, ensuring the prevention of harm and the avoidance of any risk of abuse. We must promptly report any concerns regarding children's safety in the communities we work to the appropriate authorities.

The governing body of our organization has approved this policy, which applies to all staff and collaborators, both in Italy and in our foreign locations. We integrate child protection measures into our organization's systems and processes to suit the diverse national and local contexts in which we operate.

Principles and values:

This policy reflects the rights of children to protection from abuse and exploitation as outlined in the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). In accordance with the **General principles** defined in the Child Safeguarding Standards, we believe that:

- All children have equal rights to protection from harm. In accordance with the Convention, we are committed to respecting and ensuring the rights set forth in it to every child without discrimination of any kind, regardless of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status of the child or of the child's parents or legal guardians.
- It is the responsibility of everyone to support the protection of children
- We have the duty to take care of the children we work with, come into contact with, or who are

3. Child sexual exploitation: A form of sexual abuse that involves children being engaged in any sexual activity in exchange for money, gifts, food, accommodation, affection, status, or anything else that they or their family needs;
4. Neglect and negligent treatment: a persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, which is likely to result in serious impairment of a child's healthy physical, spiritual, moral and mental development;
5. Emotional abuse: Persistent emotional maltreatment that impacts a child's emotional development;
6. Commercial exploitation: 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.

Our commitments

Establishing child-safe projects and programs. Irrespective of the work's objective, all projects and programs must be designed to minimize the risk of harm to children they may encounter or influence directly or indirectly. A child-safe initiative must make sure that it considers the surroundings, context, and influence (intentional or not) on the kids and communities it works with. For this, where relevant, a rigorous social and environmental impact assessment must be carried out, including a child safety impact assessment. **Measures to protect children are integrated into current procedures and frameworks (strategic planning, budgeting, recruitment, programme cycle management, performance management, procurement, partner agreements and management systems etc.).**

Organizing safe events and activities for children. When planning activities, it is crucial to consider various factors to mitigate risks. These include:

- a. Understanding that engagement of children in such activities is not always welcomed by the family or community;
- b. Ensuring that particular care is taken to ensure preventative measures are put in place to safeguard children if activities or events are to take place in unfamiliar places and outside family care;
- c. Even when activities are not directly aimed at children, but at mothers for example, we must always have the child's safety in mind;
- d. Developing partnerships with families and communities that are appropriate to support our work on safeguarding;
- e. Engaging partners, including donors, local NGOs, government, contractors, and suppliers that agree to the commitment to keep children safe.

- they are weak or corrupt, to organisations that are able to deal with cases appropriately;
2. If the concern pertains to the **behaviour of staff, associates, or partners**:
- a. If the concern needs reporting to local/national authorities, it will then be up to the Representative to report the case to the formal authorities or, where they are weak or corrupt, to organisations that are able to deal with cases appropriately;
 - b. Any breach of the contents of this Policy by a staff member must be reported to the Desk Officers, the President and the Executive Board;
 - c. Istoreco R.E., in order to protect its image and assets, reserves the right to take the necessary measures both in legal terms and in terms of sanctions, as provided for in the Istoreco R.E. regulations on labour relations.

Monitoring

We **regularly monitor** the implementation of child safeguarding policies and procedures. At the operational level, national focal points oversee the monitoring, while the appointed focal point of the Executive Board handles the management-level monitoring. Anyone can report any criticism of the abuse reporting procedure to the Focal Point on the field at any time. Active monitoring means routinely examining to make sure that this Policy is being followed and protections are functioning. Moreover, lessons learned from the practical experience of this policy inform its review and changes to child protection measures.

Reggio Emilia (IT), May 28, 2024

The President of Istoreco

Arturo Bertoldi

ISTORECO
Istituto per la Storia della Resistenza
e della Società Contemporanea
Via Dante, 11 - 42121 Reggio Emilia