

Cooperativa Sociale

Sede Legale ed Amministrativa

ViVeRe VErDe O.n.L.u.S.

Via Corvi n. 18 – 60019 Senigallia (AN)

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CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Vivere Verde Onlus (Vvo) is committed to keeping children safe. The organization promotes effective actions aimed to ensure children wellbeing and protection, focusing on the prevention of physical and mental abuses and all forms of violence against children.

Vvo recognizes that all Vvo Managers, Employees, Associates and Representatives and those of partner organizations coming into contact with children have a fundamental duty of care towards them. Vvo condemns all forms of abuse and violence against children that can be perpetuated outside and inside the organization.

Vvo Child Protection Policy is grounded on

- Vvo mission, vision and values;
- UN Child Rights Convention (Art. 19);
- General Comment No. 13 (2011) of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child – the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence;
- Keeping children Safe Coalition Child Protection Standards.

DEFINITIONS UNDER THE CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Children

In line with the UNCRC, for the purposes of the present Policy, a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years. (UNCRC Article 1).

Abuse

In line with WHO definitions, child abuse or maltreatment constitutes all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power.

Physical abuse is defined as those acts that cause actual physical harm or have the potential for harm.

Sexual abuse is defined as those acts where a perpetrator uses a child for sexual gratification.

Emotional abuse includes the failure of a caregiver to provide an appropriate and supportive environment, and includes acts that have an adverse effect on the emotional health and development of a child. Such acts include restricting a child's movements, denigration, ridicule, threats and intimidation, discrimination, rejection and other non-physical forms of hostile treatment.

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Neglect

Neglect refers to the failure of a caregiver to provide for the development of the child in one or more of the following areas: health, education, emotional development, nutrition, shelter and safe living conditions.

PRINCIPLES

This policy is set up by a set of principles that are derived from the UNCRC and from the Comment No. 13 (2011) of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, and includes:

- No violence against children is justifiable; all violence against children is preventable;
- A child rights-based approach to child caregiving and protection requires a paradigm shift towards respecting and promoting the human dignity and the physical and psychological integrity of children as rights-bearing individuals rather than perceiving them primarily as “victims”;
- the concept of dignity requires that every child is recognized, respected and protected as a rights holder and as a unique and valuable human being with an individual personality, distinct needs, interests and privacy;
- Children’s rights to be heard and to have their views given due weight must be respected systematically in all decision making processes, and their empowerment and participation should be central to child caregiving and protection strategies and programmes;
- The right of children to have their best interests be a primary consideration in all matters involving or affecting them must be respected, especially when they are victims of violence, as well as in all measures of prevention.

SCOPE

The Child Protection Policy applies to all Vvo Managers, Employees, Associates and Representatives who must comply with its requirements. In addition, Vvo Child protection policy applies to all Vvo partner organizations’ staff and representative, so to ensure that all children involved in Actions directly implemented or supported by Vvo are kept safe from all forms of abuse, violence and negligence.

Where required by law or local practices, Vvo may enhance the standards as set out in this policy.

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OBJECTIVES

To make all Vvo Managers, Employees, Associates and Representatives and Partner organizations' staff and representative aware about all aspects of child protection and all the procedure about the prevention, disclosure, reporting and responding of abuses.

To ensure that all Vvo Managers, Employees, Associates and Representatives and Partner organizations' staff and representative are well supported in meeting their Child protection responsibilities and engage positively with children and communities.

To avoid and prevent cases of abuse, violence and neglect from happen in the context of any Actions directly implemented or supported by Vvo.

To guarantee that safe environments for children are created in all aspects of Vvo work whether fundraising or program implementation, where children are respected, protected and empowered as their capacities evolve.

To contribute to generate awareness in children about their rights and the role they pay in the prevention, identification, disclosure and management of abuses.

To guarantee that fair, secure and transparent reporting channels are put in place in all types of programmes that fulfill the right of stakeholders to be heard.

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IMPLICATION FOR VIVERE VERDE ONLUS

Vvo staff, associates and representatives, and all partner organizations' staff, associates and representatives are bound to the respect of Vvo Child Protection Policy.

By respecting Vvo Child Protection policy, Vvo and all partner organizations working with Vvo commit themselves to:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Promote the open and free discussion about all issues related to child protection and keeping children safe from abuse and violence- Provide adequate information to its staff, associates and representatives about Vvo Child Protection Policy- Adopt written guidelines for appropriate and inappropriate behavior of adults towards children and of children toward other children- Establish clear roles and responsibilities regarding the monitoring of the respect and the enforcement of Vvo Child Protection Policy- Ensure that children are informed about their rights to be heard and to grow up free from all forms of physical and psychological violence	Awareness generation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Guarantee high professional standards to be applied during the selection of staff, associates and partner organizations- Provide adequate training to staff, associate and representative on child protection and to include child protection as regular topic in all training programmes- Foreseen specific supervision mechanisms for staff, associates and representatives directly working with children as a space for open and free discussion about Child protection concerns coming from any Vvo directly implemented or supported Action- Promote a safe, free and open environment where children are encouraged to discuss their concerns and rights and to express their point of view- Put in place a system of partnership with families and communities that are appropriate to support the CPP- Never expose children to, or place them at risk of, harm. This while carrying out activities directly with children as well as when taking images/pictures or generating stories of children	Prevention
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reccomande to all staff, associates and representatives clear procedures for reporting any child abuse and child protection concerns- Ensure child-friendly enviroment, so that children can report in confidence and safety about experienced maltreatment, abuse and violence- Guarantee that any child abuse/child protection concern is treated and investigated keeping the highest degree of confidence- Guarantee that the denouncer, potential offender and victim, all are kept safe and are provided with needed psycho-social support	Reporting

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Investigate any concern about the conduct of Vvo staff, associates and representatives – as well as partner organizations’ staff, associates and representatives – according to applicable local office procedures and Vvo Child Protection Policy; investigation may result in disciplinary action for Vvo staff, associates and representatives and in the immediate termination of Partnership Agreement in case of partner organizations’ staff, associates and representatives– Foresee all needed measures for ensuring child protection and security in case of proven child abuse and neglect and report to concerned Authorities– Periodically review the Policy, according to the feedback and experience | Responding |
|---|-------------------|

STAKEHOLDERS

- Children involved in any Vvo directly implemented as well as supported Action.
- Vvo Managers, Employees, Associates and Representatives in Vvo facilities, programmes, Italian and Country offices;
- Partner organizations’ staff, associates and representatives;
- Sponsors, Donors, and visitors;
- Biological families and Foster families of children attending Vvo directly implemented as well as supported Actions;
- Teachers involved in Vvo programmes;
- External contractors and consultants who provide services;

Appendix 1 Adult Code of Behaviour

Adult Code of Behaviour

As a person in a position of programme responsibility you are in a position of trust at all times in relation to the children for whom you are responsible. All managers, representatives, employees and operators have to respect the rules of their own professional register and respect the Ethical code of Vvo.

Good Practice

- DO** treat everyone with dignity and respect
- DO** set an example you would wish others to follow
- DO** treat all children equally – show no favouritism

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DO respect a child's right to personal privacy

DO avoid unnecessary physical contact with a child — your actions, no matter how wellintentioned, might be misinterpreted by them or someone else

DO avoid unacceptable situations within a relationship of trust; for example, a sexual relationship with a participant, even if they are over the age of consent

DO have separate sleeping accommodation for children and adults

DO plan activities that involve more than one other person being present, or at least are within sight and hearing of others – avoid spending time alone with a child in private or out of sight/hearing of others.

DO allow children to talk about any concerns they may have

DO encourage others to challenge any attitudes or behaviours they do not like

DO avoid being drawn into inappropriate attention-seeking behaviour from children, such as tantrums and crushes

DO keep other leaders informed of where you are and what you are doing

DO take any allegations or concerns of abuse seriously and refer them immediately to the person in charge, i.e. the Programme Director

DO NOT trivialise or belittle abuse or concerns

DO NOT form an intimate relationship with a child or any other relationship that would be an abuse of trust

DO NOT allow abusive activities between children such as initiation ceremonies or bullying

DO NOT engage in inappropriate behaviour or contact – physical, verbal, sexual

DO NOT make sexually suggestive remarks or threats to a child, even in fun

DO NOT use inappropriate language, whether speaking or writing – in person or by phone, email or through use of social media

DO NOT allow a child to use inappropriate language unchallenged

DO NOT let allegations, suspicions, or concerns about abuse go unreported

Appendix 2 Safety and Social Networking Sites

In addition to the Adult Code of Behaviour, here are some guidelines on how to behave appropriately toward children online or in other forms of communications.

- Remember you are in a position of trust and are a role model at all times.
- Conduct yourself appropriately, as you would face-to-face.
- Do not engage in one-to-one communication with children or via text messages, instant messaging or chat facilities unless it relates specifically to your Vvo responsibilities.

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- Before sharing your social media accounts with a child, consider the things you like to share with your peers – would they be suitable or appropriate to share with that child?
 - When using a social network account, you should always think of how any digital communication might appear to someone else. Compared with a conversation in the real world, technology increases the potential for messages to be seen out of context, misinterpreted or forwarded to others.
 - Do not provide personal details about children on your website or social networking group.
 - Always ensure you have parental permission to use any photographs of children and only use their first names on any caption.
 - Only use appropriate photographs on your site – remember that everyone can view them.
 - If you are concerned about the way a child is attempting to contact you, report it immediately to your Direct Coordinator.
 - If you need to email children, always copy the message to another adult.
- WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU NOT USE YOUR PERSONAL SOCIALNETWORKING ACCOUNT TO COMMUNICATE WITH CHILDREN.