

# Self-Commitment to Child Protection

Childaid Network takes child protection very seriously. The aim is to protect all children, young people, and other persons to be protected<sup>1</sup> in our environment from any kind of danger, especially all forms of violence, including sexualised violence. This applies to all Childaid Network projects, events, and other activities in Germany and abroad. This commitment to child protection applies to all employees, contributors, and teams, including in our partner countries, as well as all persons who have access to children in our projects or at events through Childaid Network.

## Dealing with children and vulnerable persons

### 1. Supporting an empowering environment

I will actively contribute to a safe, positive, and encouraging environment for all children. I respect them as individuals in their cultural contexts and values.

### 2. Treating children with respect

I treat all children as equals, interact with them as equals and reflect on my behaviour in this regard. I will treat them with respect and take their privacy, sense of shame and individual boundaries into account. I only ask for experiences, thoughts, and feelings that the children offer voluntarily.

### 3. Acting as a role model

I commit myself to behave appropriately according to my position. I see myself as a representative of Childaid Network and act as a positive role model. I have no educational mandate and will not abuse my influence.

### 4. No harassment and no violence

I refrain from any form of harassment, humiliation, discrimination, physical, verbal or psychological violence, intimidation or favouritism.

### 5. No touching or sexualised acts, ban on pornography

I will never hold, stroke, kiss, caress or - initiated by me - touch a child or expose them to any form of sexualised violence or pornography. Nor will I ask them to perform such acts or respond to them.

### 6. No inappropriate speech and no offensive gestures

I will never speak or act in an inappropriate, offensive or insulting way to or about children - not even in a language that my counterpart (supposedly) does not understand.

### 7. Not accepting services or favours

I will never accept or demand services, benefits or favours from children that could be construed as obligation, abuse or exploitation.

### 8. No relationship with children - not even in virtual channels

I will never get involved in a relationship with children. This also applies to virtual contacts via social media, email, (mobile) phone, messenger services, etc. I will end existing contacts immediately.

### 9. Preventing one-to-one situations

I commit myself never to be alone in a room with a child or a small group of children, but to have a second adult present: "*two-adult rule*".

### 10. No staying overnight in the vicinity of children

I will not stay in accommodation where there is access to one or more children.

<sup>1</sup> According to the UN definition, children and young people are people up to the age of 18. "Persons to be protected" are persons with disabilities, traumatised persons, persons affected by racism, violence or power imbalances. In the following, all of these groups are summarised under the term "children" for the sake of linguistic simplicity. This refers to children in all Childaid Network projects and events.

11. **No smoking, alcohol or other drug use**  
I will never drink alcohol, smoke, or consume other drugs in the presence of children.
12. **Preventing child labour and exploitation**  
I commit to avoiding situations and not using services where I have the impression that child labour or any other type of exploitation is involved. I will report any such case or suspicion.
13. **Project visits are coordinated and accompanied**  
I will never visit projects without being accompanied by a representative of Childaid Network. I commit to arranging any meeting with a child or children with Childaid Network in advance.

## Posting, sharing, and publishing photos and videos

14. **Taking respectful photos and videos**  
All representations are based on the values of respect and equality. They preserve the dignity of the children. They are portrayed as personalities with many facets and potentials, as well as in their strength and authentic life context. Reduction to a victim or other stereotypical role is avoided. The children must be dressed appropriately (in the manner of their country of origin). All recordings respect the privacy and intimacy of the subjects.
15. **Obtaining consent for recordings**  
I commit to obtaining at least verbal consent for photographs of children in projects, at events and other activities of Childaid Network. I inform their responsible parties that photos and films may be published and where and that they can object to the recording without having to fear negative consequences from our side. An objection is also possible at a later date. Consent to the recording will be documented in writing and made available to Childaid Network.
16. **Persons must not be recognisable or findable, even in private media**  
I commit myself not to share or post any images, videos or information on private social networks, messenger services, blogs, private websites or similar that could identify children: no recognisable faces or locations, no mention of names or places, no geo-tagging. If private media are used as public networks, point 17 is obligatory.
17. **Obtaining permission for public relations and communication from organisations, companies and public figures**  
The use of photos and films from Childaid Network projects, events and other activities by third parties is only permitted in consultation with and with the authorisation of Childaid Network. The Childaid Network public relations department is responsible for this (info@childaid.net).

## Suspected cases, police clearance certificate and consequences of rule violations

18. **Non-acceptance of child endangerment, reporting of suspicions**  
I will not accept or participate in violent, exploitative or abusive behaviour towards persons to be protected, but will pass on the information or suspicion. The first point of contact for this is the accompanying project staff member or the person responsible for an event. In case of doubt or in serious cases, the child protection officer of the project partner or Childaid Network should be consulted.
19. **Police clearance certificate, self-disclosure of convictions or investigations**  
Prior to my assignment, I will provide a police clearance certificate upon request. I confirm that I have not been convicted of a criminal offence in connection with sexualised violence and that no preliminary proceedings have been initiated against me. If such proceedings are initiated during my work or assignment, I commit to informing the Child Protection Officer immediately.

**20. There are consequences for rule violations**

I acknowledge that (legal) consequences may be taken by Childaid Network in the event of a breach of the rules. Depending on the type and severity of the rule violation, Childaid Network reserves the right to terminate the cooperation and/or take legal action.

**Exceptions**

**21. Justified exceptions are possible**

If one of the voluntary commitments is not feasible or cannot be honoured for good reason, exceptions can be made. The first point of contact for this is the Childaid Network accompanying person. In case of doubt, the child protection officer or a board member should be consulted.

**I commit myself to follow these Child Protection Guidelines of Childaid Network.**

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Place and date

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Signature