

Safeguarding Policy for Children for KKI Internationally

Author: Barbara Rüeegg

April 2020

Why such a Policy?

We believe, that every child, every person, no matter their background, nationality or gender has value because they have all been called into being by our creator and are all made in his image. We believe that: Psa 127:3 Children are a gift from the LORD, and therefore need our utmost care.

KKI recognises the need to provide a safe and caring environment for children, young people and in some cases also for vulnerable adults. We acknowledge that children, young people and vulnerable adults can be the victims of physical, sexual, spiritual and emotional abuse and neglect. With vulnerable adults we mean adults, who for one or the other reason cannot look after themselves, and are being cared for by other adults.

We accept the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant of Human Rights, which states that everyone is entitled to “all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status”. The Convention on the Rights of the Child states that: Children should be able to develop their full potential, free from hunger and want, neglect and abuse. They have a right to be protected from “all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s), or any other person who has care of the child.”

According to UNICEF, a child is anyone under the age of 18 and therefore in need of protection.

Our Commitment:

All KKI teams and its leaders, staff, students, short- and longterm volunteers are committed to:

- The welfare of children and youth worldwide. KKI/YWAM leaders, staff, students and volunteers are expected to engage in positive supportive relationships with children, young and older adults in all aspects of our mission.
- Treat all children as having value, worth and dignity because they are made in the image of God and should be treated with respect and cared for in ways that honour God.
- The Convention of the Rights of the Child as mentioned above.
- Believe that child abuse and exploitation is wrong. Keeping silent is wrong when a child is being abused or exploited.
- Protect children and take preventative measures to keep children safe from abuse by anyone involved with them and also to protect KKI and the organization's integrity.
- Listen to children and hear what they have to say and give them the right to speak and be heard. Therefore, where appropriate, children will be included as stakeholders and asked for their opinion.
- Will not expose children to the internet and possible predators neither through pictures nor videos

What is Abuse:

The definitions on the different forms here are short. In order to know more about abuse, please refer to the additional documents that have been given to you as part of this policy.

Physical Abuse

The infliction of pain or physical injury, which is either caused deliberately, or through lack of care to a child under your care.

Sexual Abuse

Forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening, with or without physical contact. This includes producing or watching sexual activities and “grooming” (preparing for abuse).

Psychological or Emotional Abuse

Persistent emotional ill treatment, including rejection, bullying and witnessing the ill-treatment of another (e.g. domestic violence), causing severe and persistent adverse effects on a child’s emotional development.

Neglect and Abandonment

The persistent failure to meet a child’s basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child’s health or development; failure to provide adequate food, clothing and shelter, supervision or medical care. Severe neglect might lead to abandonment.

Spiritual Abuse

Spiritual abuse is linked with other forms of abuse, and could be defined as an abuse of power, often done in the name of God or religion, which involves manipulating or coercing someone into thinking, saying or doing things without respecting their right to choose for themselves.

Behavioural Protocol

The best way to protect the children we come into contact with is by following good practices that promote and protect the safety of children and young people. These would include:

- A worker should not be alone with a young person where their activity cannot be seen. This may mean leaving doors open, or two groups working in one room. In a situation where privacy and confidentiality are important, another adult should know that the meeting is taking place, and the open door policy should be maintained.
- There should be another adult close by in the building and the young person must know that they are there. Also two adults should not be alone with a child.
- Have a clear strategy for summoning additional help (if needed) in situations where a worker is alone with a child (e.g. small Sunday school classes)
- Not putting yourself in a situation that may lead to allegations being made against you.
- Not maintaining contact with a child outside of agreed activities without the knowledge of the child’s parents/legal guardians - if such contact is agreed with the parents/carers, it needs to be made clear that you are no longer acting on behalf of the KKI Team.
- Being vigilant - if you witness any behaviour by someone else at an event, whether a team member or a guest that causes you to be concerned about the welfare of a child, please speak to the Safeguarding Coordinator immediately.

Response to Allegations:

What if abuse has happened, what are you supposed to do:

1. As KKI we want to be aware of the possibility and open in discussing the potential of abuse within the organization.
2. Allegation of abuse will be kept confidential, with only those directly involved having the appropriate information.
3. KKI staff, students or short-term volunteers who are found violating confidentiality of allegations will receive a written warning.
4. Each KKI team/region has to appoint a person who is to be responsible for dealing with child protection/safety issues within the organization – the Child Safeguarding Coordinator.
5. If an allegation has been made that a KKI staff, student, short-term volunteer or visitor has abused a child, the KKI team together with the appointed person will take the appropriate action to deal with the situation, as outlined in the procedural plan of action for crisis situations. Especially in case of sexual abuse or severe physical abuse, the law of the country has to be adhered and a report to the local police has to be made. Abuse that is not reported and later becomes public can bring down the whole organisation!
6. Anyone made aware of or observing abuse is required to report the suspected abuse to either the team leader or the Safeguarding Coordinator. All reports of alleged abuse will be investigated.
7. The investigation process has to be documented and a written report of findings has to be made. Everything the abused child says needs to be written down in his/her own words. Outside expertise or legal authorities may be involved.
8. Conclusion of investigation: If an investigation leads to the conclusion that abuse has occurred, then the appropriate legal authorities will be notified if they have not previously been involved. If a KKI member or short term volunteer is involved in a finding of abuse, they will be terminated immediately and subject to criminal prosecution. Where no evidence of abuse has been found, the informant, alleged victim and alleged perpetrator will be notified.
9. Where possible KKI will work in cooperation with child welfare and legal organizations in the country during the course of an investigation as appropriate.
10. Both victim and perpetrator will be treated with respect from the start of the process to the end.
11. KKI will not dismiss a child's accusation of abuse without appropriate investigation, no matter who the alleged perpetrator is. A child is believed until proven otherwise.

Implementing and communicating about the Policy

- Everyone coming to work at the base/with the KKI base, no matter how long or short, will be informed about the importance of Safeguarding Children and get to read and sign the policy.
- The base/team is committed to provide initial and ongoing training on abuse to all its members and willing to make changes as seen needed.
- The Safeguarding Coordinator(s) receives support from the KKI leaders and the team in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children and vulnerable adults.

- There will be a copy of this policy and any practice guidelines available at all times for everyone on the team
- A file of all staff and volunteers with signed policies will be kept at all times.

Please Note: The Declaration and Signature Sheet is on the next page

Appendix:

Report Form for alleged abuse

Law of each country where the KKI teams operate. - *Needs to be added by each team*

Helpful addresses of lawyers, councillors both international and local, including the ILT

Safeguarding Representative

KKI Safeguarding Representative:

Local Safeguarding Coordinator: *...to be filled by local team*.....

Lawyers:.....

Local NGO:

PLEASE SIGN THESE COPIES, RETURNING ONE COPY TO THE KKI TEAM LEADER AND KEEP THE OTHER COPY FOR YOUR REFERENCE. THANK YOU

1. I have read and understand the KKI Child Protection Policy.
2. I will work within the procedure as laid out in this Policy.
3. I have not been accused or convicted of any offence involving physical or sexual abuse of children or young people.
4. I understand that if a complaint is brought against me regarding the abuse of children while engaged in KKI activities, the allegation will be thoroughly investigated in cooperation with the appropriate authorities, which will mean to include legal bodies and the police.

SAFEGUARDING DECLARATION

I declare I have read and understood the above Safeguarding information and agree to abide by the procedures laid down.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Full Name: _____

KKI International Safeguarding Referral Form

Please use this form to help make sure all relevant information is recorded for concerns/allegations of abuse to children or vulnerable adults. A copy of this form should be given/faxed to Safeguarding Advisory Team and may be used for reporting to local authorities. This form DOES NOT REPLACE verbal reporting of suspected/alleged abuse.

Today's Date: _____

Name of person you are concerned about: _____

Person's Date of Birth: _____ or Age _____

Person's Address & Postcode: _____

Location of alleged abuse: _____

Date of suspected abuse: _____ Time of suspected abuse: _____

Brief Description of circumstances (include injuries, blood stained or torn clothing, disclosures, etc.): _____

Referred to:

KKI Leader on (date/time) _____ Spoke with: _____ (name)

Safeguarding Coordinator on (date/time) _____ Spoke with: _____ (name)

Statutory Agency (e.g. children's services, police, etc.)

Which agency: _____ Date/time: _____ Spoke with: _____ (name)

Suspected type of abuse (please tick all that apply): Physical Sexual

Psychological Neglect Financial Spiritual Risk of Abuse/neglect

Has the abuse or neglect been directly observed? Please Describe: _____

If an adult, does the person have the capacity to make specific decisions? Yes No

Name of Referrer and YWAM location/address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email address: _____

Signature of referrer: _____

Please attach photocopy/hard copy of your personal notes of the event.