

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

ABCittà is committed to keeping children safe.

ABCittà 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.

ABCittà recognizes that all its staff have a fundamental duty of care towards them.

ABCittà condemns all forms of abuse and violence against children that can be perpetuated outside and inside the organization.

ABCittà Child protection Policy is grounded on:

- ABCittà mission, vision and values;
- 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.

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 ABCittà staff. In addition, ABCittà Child protection policy applies to all ABCittà partner organizations’ staff and representatives, so to ensure that all children involved in Actions directly implemented or supported by the ABCittà are kept safe from all forms of abuse and violence.

OBJECTIVE

To make all ABCittà staff about all aspects of child protection and all the procedure about the prevention, disclosure, reporting and responding of abuses.

To ensure that all ABCittà staff has 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 ABCittà.

To guarantee that safe environments for children are created in all aspects of ABCittà 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.

IMPLICATION FOR ABCittà NETWORK

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

By respecting ABCittà Child protection policy, ABCittà and all partner organizations working with it commit themselves to:

- 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 ABCittà Child Protection Policy.

This document has been approved by the BoD.

Milan, July 2021

