

EUROCRIME'S CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY

1. Our values and principles

This document illustrates the principles, the approach and the general methodology of the EuroCrime's Child Safeguarding Policy. This Policy will be detailed and specified case by case according to the operating protocols relating to the individual services, activities, and projects carried out by EuroCrime and its cooperating third parties and that practically involve minors.

Our child safeguarding policy is rooted in our values and principles in dealing with children, and it is fully compliant with the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child, with the Child Safeguarding Standards by Keeping Children Safe, and with other relevant standards and roadmaps in the field of child safeguarding. It is inspired by the child safeguarding policies of the main national and international CSOs and NGOs dealing with children, as Save the Children.

EuroCrime does not allow any partner, supplier, sub-contractor, agent or any individual engaged by EuroCrime to engage in any form of child abuse, maltreatment or poor safeguarding practice. On this respect, a child is anyone under the age of 18, and all children have an equal right to protection regardless of any personal characteristic, including their age, gender, ability, culture, racial origin, religious belief and sexual identity.

This policy applies to all persons working for us or on our behalf in any capacity, including employees at all levels, directors, officers, agency workers, seconded workers, volunteers, interns, agents, contractors, external consultants, third-party representatives, suppliers and business partners. It applies during or outside of working hours, every day of the year.

2. What is Child Abuse?

Child abuse consists of anything, which individuals, institutions or processes do or fail to do which directly or indirectly harms children or damages their prospect of a safe and healthy development into adulthood.

This policy covers all forms of child abuse. EuroCrime recognises five categories of child abuse, which are sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, neglect and exploitation. Other sub-categories may be adopted if necessary or appropriate. The policy also covers any poor safeguarding practice, which results in or creates a risk of child abuse or harm.

Definitions of Child Abuse:

Sexual Abuse – It is the involvement of a child in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via

the internet). Adult males do not solely perpetrate sexual abuse. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Physical Abuse – It is the non-accidental use of physical force that deliberately or inadvertently causes a risk of/or actual injury to a child. This may include hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing non-accidental physical harm to a child. Physical harm can also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness or temporary, permanent injury or disability of a child.

Emotional abuse – It involves doing harm to a child’s emotional, intellectual, mental or psychological development. This may occur as an isolated event or on an ongoing basis. Emotional abuse includes but is not limited to any humiliating or degrading treatment (e.g. bad name calling, threats, yelling/screaming/cursing, teasing, constant criticism, belittling, persistent shaming etc.), failure to meet a child’s emotional needs, and rejecting, ignoring, terrorizing, isolating or confining a child.

Neglect - Neglect includes but is not limited to failing to provide to a child adequate food, sufficient or seasonally appropriate clothing and /or shelter. Neglect is also failing to prevent harm; failing to ensure adequate supervision; failing to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment or providing inappropriate medical treatment (e.g. administering medication when not authorized); or failing to provide a safe physical environment (e.g. exposure to violence, unsafe programming location, unsafe sleeping practices, releasing a child to an unauthorized adult, access to weapons or harmful objects, failing to child-proof a space that children will occupy etc.). It can also be EuroCrime staff, partners, contractors, suppliers and sub-grantees failing to apply minimum requirements as set out in mandatory procedures.

Exploitation - Child exploitation is an umbrella term used to describe the abuse of children who are forced, tricked, coerced or trafficked into exploitative activities. In accordance with Save the Children’s principles, for EuroCrime child exploitation includes modern slavery and trafficking of children and children forced or recruited into armed conflict. Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity;

- (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or
- (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.

The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur with the use of technology. Within EuroCrime, and following Save the Children’s principles and guidelines, child sexual abuse and exploitation also includes child early and forced marriage.

Other forms of abuse are relevant when considering child safeguarding, as **Child Labour**. Child Labour is work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. It is work that:

1. is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and
2. interferes with their schooling by:
 - a. depriving them of the opportunity to attend school;
 - b. obliging them to leave school prematurely; or
 - c. requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.

If a young person, under the age of 18 is part of an apprenticeship scheme within the statutory law of the country and does not meet any of the above, this would not be considered by EuroCrime as child labour. However, any partner, supplier, contractor or sub-contractor must inform EuroCrime of the name of any apprentice who will be directly involved with our work.

Child labour may also be a form of **Child Slavery**. In a nutshell, child slavery is the transfer of a young person (under 18) to another person so that the young person can be exploited.

At EuroCrime, we have a culture of **zero tolerance** for all forms of abuse and mistreatment, including Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying. This means that every single concern is fully responded to and where necessary prompt action (including conducting an investigation and taking disciplinary action, if applicable) is taken. It means that we will hold our people to account against the same standards and subject them to the same processes, as everyone else regardless of their position or reputation within the organization.

Child abuse and exploitation is a violation of fundamental child and human rights. It may also be a criminal act. EuroCrime has a zero-tolerance approach when it comes taking action to protecting children from all forms of exploitation and abuse. We are committed to acting ethically and with integrity in all our business dealings and relationships and to implementing and enforcing effective systems and controls to ensure child exploitation and abuse is not taking place anywhere in our own business or in any of our supply chains or partnerships.

EuroCrime is also committed to ensuring there is transparency in our own business and in our approach to preventing and responding to any child safeguarding violations throughout our supply chains, and relationships with third parties, consistent with our national and international disclosure obligations, and shall comply with all applicable laws, statutes, regulations and codes from time to time in force, including, but not limited to:

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC);
- EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child;
- Child Safeguarding Standards by Keeping Children Safe,
- UN Secretary General’s Bulletin: Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse;
- UK Modern Slavery Act 2015;
- US Trafficking Victims Protection Act 2000;
- USAID ADS 303 Mandatory Standard Provision, Trafficking in Persons (July 2015); and
- International Labour Standards on Child Labour and Forced Labour.

Where the guidance in this policy conflicts with any applicable laws or regulations, the higher standard must be observed at all times.

3. Our approach to preventing the abuse and exploitation of children

EuroCrime is committed to preventing child abuse and exploitation, including through the following means:

Awareness: Ensuring that all staff, representatives and third parties connected to EuroCrime are aware of the high standards of behaviour and conduct expected of them to protect children from any form of abuse and exploitation in their private and working lives.

Prevention: Ensuring, through awareness and good practice, that staff and those who work with EuroCrime minimise the risks of any form of child abuse and exploitation, including but by no means limited to conducting relevant vetting and background checks of staff as part of their recruitment process.

Reporting: Ensuring that all staff and those who work with EuroCrime are clear on what steps to take where suspicions or concerns arise regarding allegations of child abuse or exploitation

Responding: Ensuring that immediate action is taken to identify and address reports of child abuse and exploitation, and to ensure the safety and well-being of the child/children involved.

4. The commitment we expect from you

EuroCrime expects the same high standards from all of our partners, contractors, suppliers and all third parties working with or for EuroCrime, including taking measures to prohibit their staff and representatives from engaging in any child sexual exploitation, sexual abuse or any other form of abuse or exploitation in their working and person lives.

a) You must have a zero-tolerance policy on Child abuse and exploitation and take all measures available to you to prevent and respond to actual, attempted or threatened forms of child abuse and exploitation involving EuroCrime staff or representatives, or your organisation's employees or representatives.

b) You must ensure that your staff members and those working with EuroCrime under your control are fully aware of this policy and encourage them to report incidents of suspected or actual child abuse involving EuroCrime staff or representatives, or your organisation's employees or representatives.

c) You must immediately report any suspicion of child abuse or exploitation occurring in EuroCrime, your organisation or the organisations you work with. Failure to report will be treated as serious and may result in termination of any agreement or cooperation with EuroCrime.

d) When you or any staff working for EuroCrime under your control suspect or become aware of a child safeguarding concern in relation to work for EuroCrime, you are obliged to:

- act quickly and immediately report suspicions or knowledge of a safeguarding concern or incident to a relevant contact at EuroCrime;
- keep any information confidential between you and the person you report this to.

e) You will cooperate with EuroCrime in any investigations of concerns reported, and keep EuroCrime promptly updated on any concerns reported, including but not limited to actions taken by you in response.

Please contact the EuroCrime staff at info@eurocrime.eu if you have further questions.

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