

## Self-Commitment to Child Protection

Childaid Network takes child protection very seriously. The aim is to protect all children (persons under the age of 18) in our sphere from any risk, i.e. all forms of violence including sexualized violence, exploitation, and abuse. This applies to all projects, events, and other activities of Childaid Network in Germany and abroad. This self-commitment to child protection applies to all employees and volunteers with regular responsibilities, staff in our partner countries, as well as all persons who, through Childaid Network, have access to children in our projects.

### Interaction with Children and Adolescents

**1. Support a strengthening environment**

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

**2. Treat children with respect**

I treat all children as equal human beings, interact with them on an equal footing, and reflect on my behavior in this regard. I treat them with respect and take into account their privacy, their sense of shame, and their individual perception of boundaries. I only ask about experiences, thoughts, and feelings that children share voluntarily.

**3. Act as a role model**

I am aware that, in my role as a representative of Childaid Network or as a person closely associated with the organization, I hold a special position of trust and power toward children. I approach this responsibility in a reflective and responsible manner, never misuse my influence, and always act as a positive role model.

**4. Do not engage in harassment or violence**

I refrain from any form of harassment, humiliation, discrimination, physical, verbal, or psychological violence, as well as intimidation and preferential treatment of children.

**5. No physical contact or sexualized acts, prohibition of pornography**

I will never, in connection with Childaid Network activities, hug, stroke, kiss, caress, or initiate physical contact with a child, nor expose them to any form of sexualized violence or pornography. Likewise, I will neither encourage nor respond to such actions.

**6. No inappropriate language or offensive gestures**

I will never speak or act in an inappropriate, offensive, or insulting manner with or about children – including in a language that my counterpart (supposedly) does not understand.

**7. Do not accept services or favors**

I will never accept or request services, performances, or favors from children that could be understood as obligation, abuse, or exploitation.

**8. No relationships with children – including via virtual channels**

I will never engage in a personal relationship with children in connection with Childaid Network activities. This also applies to virtual contact via social media, email, (mobile) phone, messaging services, etc. I will terminate any existing contacts immediately.

**9. Prevent one-to-one situations**

I commit to never being alone with a child or a small group of children in a room in connection with Childaid Network activities, but to involve a second adult: “two-adult rule.”

**10. Do not stay overnight near children**

In connection with Childaid Network activities, I will not stay overnight in accommodation where access to one or more children exists.

**11. Do not smoke, consume alcohol, or other drugs**

During project visits of Childaid Network, I will never drink alcohol, smoke, or consume other drugs in the presence of children.

**12. Prevent child labor and exploitation**

I commit to avoiding situations and not using services where I have the impression that child labor or another form of exploitation is present. I will immediately report such a case or suspicion to the responsible bodies within Childaid Network.

### 13. **Never visit projects uncoordinated and never without accompaniment**

I will never visit the foundation's projects without being accompanied by a representative of Childaid Network. I commit to coordinating any meeting with children from the projects in advance with Childaid Network.

## Publication of Photos and Videos

### 14. **Only create respectful photos and videos**

All representations are based on the values of respect and equality. They preserve the dignity of the children. Children are portrayed as individuals with many facets, potentials, as well as in their strength and authentic life context. Reduction to a victim or other stereotypical role is avoided. Children must be appropriately clothed (in accordance with their country of origin). All recordings respect the privacy and intimacy of the persons.

### 15. **Obtain consent for recordings**

I commit to taking recordings of children in projects, at events, and in other Childaid Network activities only if preferably written and at least verbal consent from parents, legal guardians or other persons responsible for supervising the children has been obtained. In addition, I will, where possible, ask the children themselves verbally for their consent. If there are verbal or non-verbal signs of stress, reluctance, or coercion, I will refrain from taking recordings.

### 16. **Sharing recordings via private media**

I commit not to publish or share any content in private media, including social networks, messaging services, blogs, and websites, through which children can be identified. This includes images, videos, or information containing recognizable faces, recording locations, names or place references, as well as geo-tagging. Children must neither be directly recognizable nor traceable.

### 17. **Obtain approval for use in public communications by organizations, companies, public figures, etc.**

The use of photos and videos from Childaid Network projects, events, and other activities by third parties and in private media is only permitted in consultation with and with the approval of Childaid Network. The responsible body is the Childaid Network communications department via: [consent@childaid.net](mailto:consent@childaid.net).

## Suspected Cases and Consequences of Rule Violations

### 18. **Do not accept risks to child welfare, report suspicions**

I do not accept violent, exploitative, or abusive behavior toward children. As an employee or volunteer, I will conduct a collegial feedback discussion in the case of minor violations. In the case of serious violations, I will pass on the information about the suspicion to the responsible bodies within Childaid Network.

As an external person, I will pass on information about the suspicion to the responsible bodies within Childaid Network. For external persons, the first point of contact is the accompanying Childaid Network staff member or the person responsible for the event or activity. Anonymous reporting via the Childaid Network website is also possible.

### 19. **Extended certificate of good conduct, self-disclosure regarding convictions or investigations**

Before my assignment, I will, upon request, submit an extended certificate of good conduct. I confirm that I have not been legally convicted of an offense related to sexualized violence and that no investigation proceedings have been initiated against me. In the event that such proceedings are initiated during my activity or assignment, I commit to informing the Child Protection Officer of Childaid Network immediately.

### 20. **Consequences in case of rule violations**

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

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I commit to complying with this self-commitment to child protection.

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Place and date

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Signature