



Y- GLOBAL YOUTH PEACEMAKERS – TANZANIA

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YPM Child Protection Policy

1. Introduction

YPM is committed to promoting and protecting human rights, with a particular focus on the vulnerable. As such YPM stands against all forms of abuse against children, defined as those under 18 years old. This abuse can include:

Physical abuse

Physical abuse occurs when a person purposefully injures or threatens to injure a child/young person. This may take the form of extreme slapping, punching, shaking, kicking, burning, shoving or grabbing. The injury may take the form of bruises, cuts, burns or fractures.

Emotional abuse

Emotional abuse is a chronic attack on a child/young person's self-esteem. It can take the form of name calling, threatening, ridiculing, intimidating or isolating the child/young person.

Neglect is the failure to provide the child/young person with the basic necessities of life, such as food, clothing, shelter and supervision to the extent that the child/young person's health and development are at risk.

Child sexual abuse

Sexual abuse is when a child/young person is used by an older or bigger child, adolescent or adult for his or her own or another's sexual stimulation or gratification, or economic gain.

Exploitation

Exploitation refers to the use of children for someone else's advantage, gratification or profit often resulting in unjust, cruel, and harmful treatment of the child.

2. Action statement

YPM will meet its commitment to safeguard children/young people through the following means:

Recruitment. References will be taken up for all potential staff members. All staff must have police checks. All staff must sign a Code of Conduct which includes a specific reference to protecting children.

Awareness:

Ensure that all staff, exchange participants, Board members and volunteers are aware of the problem of child abuse and the risks to children/young people.

Prevention:

Ensure, through awareness and personal and professional conduct, that staff and others minimise the risk to children/young people.

Reporting:

Ensure that staff and others have clear steps to follow where concerns arise regarding the safety of children/young people.

Responding:

Ensure that action is taken, without denying procedural fairness principles to the accused, to support and protect children/young people where concerns arise regarding possible abuse. In order that the above standards of reporting and responding are met, YPM will ensure that it:

- takes seriously any concerns raised;
- takes positive steps to ensure the protection of children/young people who are the subject of any concerns;
- supports children/young people, staff, or other adults who raise concerns or who are the subject of concerns;
- acts appropriately and effectively in instigating or co-operating with any subsequent process of investigation;
- demonstrates responsibility to and respect for children/young people by being sensitive in our communications that involve them. Images of children/young people require informed consent from the child and parent or guardian before photographing or filming a child/young person and published and should not be accompanied by detailed information relating to their place of residence.

Partners. YPM will ensure that all partners' funded activities are assessed for their risks to children/young people. All partners must have a child protection policy.

3. Reporting

Any concerns regarding the safety of children / young people should be reported to Godfrey Tahona Walalaze, Director of YPM. If the concern relates to the Director, it should be taken to the Chair of the Board, Rev John Sembuyagi.

Internal investigations will undertake a confidential, thorough, impartial and prompt process. The investigation may consist of interviews with witnesses and others as appropriate, collection of information about the alleged conduct, gathering of documentation, or other procedures as appropriate. The individual alleged to have violated this policy would have the opportunity to present his or her view of the events in question. YPM will not make a decision on the response until the investigation is completed.

Physical and/or sexual abuse and exploitation of a child/young person is a criminal offence. YPM would be required to notify relevant national authorities when there are reasonable grounds for reporting abuse.