

Child Protection Policy

I declare that I have read the below information in relation to Be A HERO's child protection policy and agree to uphold this policy as a participant in Break the Cycle. I have no criminal record of indecently dealing with children.

1. Statement of Commitment:

1.1 Be A HERO is committed to the welfare and rights of children. They will be treated with respect regardless of race, colour, sex, language, religion or belief, political or other opinion, ethnic or social origin, disability, birth or other status. This includes all children under 18 years of age.

1.2 Be A HERO is committed to encourage its partners to develop their own child protection policy to protect and provide a safe environment for children and staff.

1.3 Be A HERO is committed to comply with all relevant local legislation on child rights and welfare in order to provide what is in 'best interest of the child' including labour laws that applies to children.

1.4 Be A HERO encourages giving respect and dignity to all children.

1.5 Different forms of child abuse are:

1.5.1 Physical: Any punishments and physical abuse like beating, or forcing the child to work in an unsafe way/ environment.

1.5.2 Mental Abuse: Any actions (gestures, words and behaviour) that deliberately affect a child's mental/emotional wellbeing for example by making them afraid, anxious, annoyed or discouraged.

1.5.3 Neglect: Any actions that deliberately neglect to provide the four essential rights of children (to live, to learn, to participate and to speak).

1.5.4 Sexual Abuse: Any actions with sexual intent towards children such as touching children's genitals, forcing child to watch or take part in pornography or coercing the child to have sex .

2. Communicating the issue:

2.1 Be A HERO is committed to informing children, decision makers, and the public through the media that child abuse is wrong. Keeping silent is also wrong.

2.2. Child protection policies provide a safe and positive environment for children and are foundational in the education, research and advocacy initiatives that the Be A HERO is involved in.

2.3 Be A HERO is committed to educating its partners about the importance of child protection so that children are protected from abuse by staff and others.

2.4 Be A HERO actively encourages the development of child protection policies and active implementation of these policies to all NGO's, groups and networks through its meetings with them.

2.5 Where possible children are also included as key stakeholders because the Be A HERO believes that children have the right to speak and be heard, involving them in the process also enables them to know their right to protection.

3. Behavioural Protocols:

3.1 All Staff, volunteers, interns, consultants, visitors, donors or sponsors of Be A HERO are expected to treat all children and other staff with respect and dignity. Inappropriate, harassing, abusive, sexually provocative or demeaning language or behaviour towards children will not be tolerated.

3.2 Whenever possible, it should be ensured that another adult is present when working in the proximity of children. Sleeping close to unsupervised children will not be allowed unless absolutely necessary.

3.3 A child will not be engaged in any form of sexual activities or acts. Adults will always be responsible for their behavior and cannot blame the child even if the child 'provokes' or acts in a 'seductive' way.

3.4 Computers, mobile phones, video and digital cameras will be used appropriately, and never to exploit or harass children or to access child pornography through any medium.

3.5 If protocols are broken the person involved will be disciplined.

4. Responses to Allegations

4.1 Immediately report concerns or allegation of child abuse in accordance with appropriate procedures.

4.2 Be A HERO encourages all staff to adhere to the country's Labor Code if available.

4.3 Where an allegation has been made that a staff member/visitor to the organization has abused a child then

Be A HERO will investigate and take the appropriate action to deal with the situation.

5. Use of children's images and personal information for promotion, fundraising and development education

When photographing or filming a child for work related purposes, Be A HERO must:

5.1 Before photographing or filming a child, assess and endeavour to comply with local traditions or restrictions for reproducing personal images.

5.2 Before photographing or filming a child, where possible, obtain consent from the child or a parent or guardian of the child. This must be explained to the child how the photograph or film will be used.

5.3 Ensure photographs, films, videos and DVDs present children in a dignified and respectful manner and not in a vulnerable or submissive manner. Children should be adequately clothed and not in poses that could be seen as sexually suggestive.

5.4 Ensure images are honest representations of the context and the facts.

5.5 Ensure all labels (multimedia and hard copy) do not reveal identifying information about a child when using images in all areas.

Participant's Signature:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Witness' Signature:

Name: _____

Date: _____