



ECPAT INTERNATIONAL

SAFEGUARDING IN ECPAT

ECPAT International is deeply committed to safeguarding children and preventing sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment of adults associated with our organisation. Our **zero-tolerance** and dedication to these goals are outlined in two key policies: the Child Safeguarding Policy and the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Sexual Harassment (PSEAH) Policy.

These policies and commitments are crucial to ensuring that ECPAT International remains a safe and responsible organisation in all our endeavours.

Why do we need these policies?

ECPAT International recognises that power dynamics exist within our organisation and the communities we work with. These dynamics can heighten the risk of abuse and exploitation.

What is the difference between child safeguarding and PSEAH?

Safeguarding is all about protecting children from violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation linked to our work. We focus on ensuring that children are safe when they're connected with our organisation. **PSEAH** on the other hand, is about preventing sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment of staff and adults associated with our organisation.

What about child safeguarding and child protection: are they the same thing?

No. Child safeguarding involves ensuring that an organisation's staff, operations, and programmes do not harm children or expose them to risks of harm or abuse. Child protection, on the other hand, involves programmes and projects aimed at protecting children and enhancing their rights.

- For instance, when developing a project to combat the sexual abuse of children (this project would be considered child protection), you still need to ensure child safeguarding in that project, i.e., that children are not harmed by our staff or associated personnel.

Who do ECPAT International's Safeguarding Policies and Procedures apply to?

These policies apply to anyone directly engaged with or employed by the ECPAT International Secretariat, including staff, consultants, volunteers, board members, visitors, implementing partners, and suppliers.

Is compliance with the Safeguarding Policies and accompanying Codes of Conduct mandatory at all times for ECPAT staff and contracted individuals or suppliers?

Yes, compliance with these policies and the two Codes of Conduct on child safeguarding and PSEAH is mandatory at all times, including during both working and non-working hours.

What principles guide our safeguarding efforts?

Our guiding principles include 'Do no harm', a survivor-centred approach, transparency, monitoring progress and compliance, and working in partnership and collaboration. For child safeguarding, we prioritise the best interests of the child and a child-centred approach.

How does ECPAT International support a survivor-centred approach in addressing concerns?

We prioritise the rights, needs, and empowerment of survivors in both preventing and responding to sexual exploitation, abuse, and sexual harassment. Complaints are handled sensitively and confidentially.

Is reporting safeguarding concerns mandatory, and what are the consequences of not reporting concerns?

Yes, it is mandatory for all ECPAT staff and contracted individuals or suppliers to report safeguarding concerns. Failure to report concerns can result in disciplinary measures.

Is there protection for whistleblowers who report concerns in good faith?

Yes, ECPAT International ensures that no punitive action is taken against those who report concerns in good faith, as per our Whistleblowing Policy.

What if you simply find yourself in an unexpected situation and don't know how to act, or if you are unsure of how to implement these policies?

In such cases, individuals should seek guidance from their supervisor or the Safeguarding Focal Point. Not knowing is not an excuse for not following these policies.

What is the role of the Safeguarding Focal Point?

The Safeguarding Focal Point plays a key role in safeguarding and can be contacted for advice and support on safeguarding issues.

What is the role of ECPAT managers in safeguarding children and adults?

Managers are responsible for promoting a child-safe culture, reporting concerns, conducting risk assessments, and ensuring compliance with child safeguarding and PSEAH policies.

Who holds ultimate accountability for child safeguarding and PSEAH within ECPAT International?

The Executive Director holds ultimate accountability, with responsibilities including communication with the Board and sharing information with donors.

What is safe programming?

Safe programming involves identifying, assessing, mitigating, and managing the risks of harm and abuse to children and adults that may be caused by ECPAT's programme design and delivery.

What guidance do we have for various activities mentioned in the policy, such as research, communications, and events?

Our policies and procedures include specific measures for conducting research, handling communications and social media, using information and communications technology (ICT), and organising events to ensure child safeguarding is upheld in these activities.

How should staff report concerns about child safeguarding or PSEAH?

Staff who witness or hear about concerns regarding children or adults should make a formal report, even if they are unsure whether it constitutes a child safeguarding or PSEAH concern. Reports can be made verbally (in person or by phone) or through a simple written message within 24 hours to the Safeguarding Focal Point.

What types of Child Safeguarding Concerns should be raised?

Child safeguarding concerns that must be raised include observations or disclosures of harm to a child, indications of potential harm, credible evidence of child abuse or exploitation, breaches of the Child Safeguarding Code of Conduct or Policy, and inadvertent access to child sexual abuse material.

What happens when safeguarding concerns are reported?

Safeguarding concerns are initially assessed and responded to by the Safeguarding Focal Point. Depending on the nature of the concern, appropriate actions, including referrals, external investigations, and reporting to authorities, will be taken. All reports are treated with utmost confidentiality.

A FEW KEY DEFINITIONS

ECPAT International adheres to the **Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse** (Luxembourg Guidelines). For a full list of the definitions, kindly consult the two policies.

Child	Any person under the age of 18, regardless of national legislation.
Child safeguarding	Actions taken or procedures and policies put in place to ensure that all children who come into contact with the non-governmental organisation's activities or its staff (and volunteers, contractors, etc.) are kept safe from any type of abuse or exploitation as a result of the activities or at the hands of staff, etc.
Child sexual exploitation	A form of sexual abuse that involves children being engaged in any sexual activity in exchange for money, gifts, food, accommodation, affection, status, or anything else that they or their family needs.
PSEAH	Preventative and proactive policies, actions, procedures and guidelines designed to prevent, address and respond to incidents of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment committed by staff and contracted individuals or suppliers.
Child sexual abuse	All sexual activity with a child is considered as sexual abuse.
Sexual abuse	Actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions.
Sexual exploitation	Any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially, or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.
Sexual harassment	Refers to prohibited conduct in the work context and can be committed against staff and related personnel. It can include any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favour, verbal or physical conduct or gesture of a sexual nature, or any other behaviour of a sexual nature.