



CHILD PROTECTION SELF DECLARATION AND AGREEMENT

A Chance In Life considers child abuse (see definitions below) unacceptable in all circumstances and is committed to ensuring that all possible and necessary steps are taken to protect the rights and the well-being of all children and youth.

Terms and Definitions

Child abuse: An act committed by a parent, caregiver, or person in a position of trust (even though he or she may not care for the child daily) which is not accidental and which harms or threatens harm to a child or youth's physical or mental health or welfare. Types of abuse may include physical abuse, including physical injury or threat of injury; physical neglect, such as failure to provide necessary care to a child or youth; sexual abuse; mental abuse or neglect; emotional abuse; and spiritual abuse. Child or youth abuse includes, but is not limited to:

Neglect of Basic Needs - Denial of food, water, cleanliness, clothing, and sleep are not appropriate means of discipline.

Physical Abuse - Any physical force applied by an adult or older youth in a position of care or authority to a child or youth. Physical force (hitting, spanking, shaking, shoving, etc.) is not to be used by leaders in our programs.

Sexual Abuse - Any sexual contact or sexual interaction between a child or youth and an adult; any use of a child for the sexual stimulation of an adult, a third person, or the child or youth; any jokes, innuendo, unacceptable visual contact, unwelcome casual touch, unwelcome and inappropriate hugs and kisses, and sexually suggestive pictures between an adult and a child or youth, as deemed inappropriate by any reasonable adult. Even if a child or youth, out of ignorance, innocence, or fear does not resist, it is still abuse.

Emotional Abuse - Inappropriately belittling, hateful, or angry words and/or actions directed toward a child or youth. Discipline by humiliation is also emotional abuse.

Spiritual Abuse - Using religious references to shame or guilt a child or youth into a particular action or behavior.

The legal representative of the Partner Organization **DECLARES** that he/she and any employee, volunteer and staff member of the Partner Organization and Program:

- is committed to the prevention of abuse and to the well-being of members, children, young people and their families.
- is committed to acting at all times in the best interest of the children and young people to whom it provides a service.
- is committed to dealing with abuse, suspected abuse or disclosure of abuse in a timely fashion to the local authorities and to A Chance In Life's Vice President of Programs.



- recognizes that the family’s primary role in caring for and protecting the child or youth should be valued and maintained; however, the child and youth’s safety and wellbeing should have priority.
- acknowledges that in cases of suspected child or youth abuse, support for families and for the child or youth is important.
- is committed to follow all procedures and guidelines as outlined in the **ACIL International Child Protection Policy**.
- agrees that working in accordance with this child protection policy requires staff to be trained and supported.
- will ensure any disclosures about alleged abuse are acknowledged and appropriate action taken to ensure the safety of children or youth who make disclosures.
- demonstrate that the employees, volunteers and staff members of the Partner Organization and Program do not have a criminal record nor have undergone disciplinary action relating to forms of child or youth abuse, neglect or violence of any type.
- is committed to complying with all relevant legislation of the country where the Partner Organization operates.
- is committed to follow all procedures and guidelines as outlines in the Child Protection Policy of the Partner Organization.

The undersigned hereby agrees to the conditions and guidelines set out by A Chance In Life with regards to any contact with children or youth. The undersigned understands that A Chance In Life reserves the right to take legal action against any leader, employee, staff member or volunteer if they breach local or international child protection laws.

Full name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Signature

Date