

Child Protection Policy

Every child matters. The Public Education and Rural Development Program Association has zero tolerance policy against all forms of child abuse, namely any misconduct, malpractice, or harm generated as the cause of poor protocol design. We aim to achieve child protection through compliance with The Fundamental Law¹ and child protection laws of Hungary and by adhering to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) 1989² and the General Data Protection Regulation³. If any concern arises the Association informs the relevant agencies and authorities.

The Association creates its child protection policy in accordance with the guidelines of the *Child Safeguarding Standards and how to implement them*⁴. The general principles and good practices regarding the use of media apply to the Association's conduct:

General principles

- All children have equal rights to protection from harm.
- Everybody has a responsibility to support the protection of children.
- Organisations have a duty of care to children with whom they work, are in contact with, or who are affected by their work and operations.
- If organisations work with partners they have a responsibility to help partners meet the minimum requirements on protection.
- All actions on child safeguarding are taken in the best interests of the child, which are paramount.

Good practice when using media:

Images of children must not show them in states of undress or in inappropriate poses.

- Details attached to images and included in stories must not allow that child to be traced to his or her home or community.
- Distinctive buildings, street signs or landmarks should not be included in an image if they identify where a child lives.
- Geotagging of images should be disabled when taking photographs.
- Ensure the photographer/journalist/translator you have employed has been properly vetted and reference checked.
- Make sure you have been given permission by children and their parents/carers to take their image and use their information.

¹ The Fundamental Law of Hungary

https://www.kormany.hu/download/a/68/11000/The_Fundamental_Law_of_Hungary_01072016.pdf

² UNCRC <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>

³ GDPR <https://gdpr.eu/tag/gdpr/>

⁴ European Commission's Child Safeguarding Standards and how to implement them

https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/standards_child_protection_kcsc_en_1.pdf

The Public Education and Rural Development Program Association is committed to:

- ethical research
- ensuring necessary checks of all prospective employees
- training its employees and providing a common understanding of child protection issues
- providing supervision and support for employees
- informing the relevant agencies and authorities if any concern arises
- will provide adequate and appropriate resources to implement this policy and will ensure it is communicated and understood.⁵

The Public Education and Rural Development Program Association will review this global policy statement annually to reflect new legal and regulatory developments and ensure good practice.

This global policy statement was approved by the president Melinda Rézműves in June 2019 and is due for review in May 2020.

⁵ British Council Child Protection Policy <https://www.britishcouncil.org/about-us/how-we-work/policies/child-protection>