

Child Protection Policy - Greek Forum of Refugees (GFR)

Version I, October 2022

Commitment

The Greek Forum of Refugees (GFR) is committed to ensuring the safety, dignity and well-being of all children involved in or affected by its activities. GFR recognises its responsibility to protect children from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation.

GFR adopts a zero-tolerance approach to any form of violence or misconduct against children and places the best interests of the child at the centre of all its actions.

Scope of this policy

This policy applies to all GFR staff, board members, volunteers, partners and any individuals acting on behalf of the organisation. It covers all activities, programmes and interactions where children may be directly or indirectly involved.

Definition of a Child

For the purposes of this policy, a child is defined as any person under the age of 18.

Principles

GFR's child protection approach is guided by the following principles:

- The best interests of the child are a primary consideration
- All children have equal rights to protection, regardless of background
- Children must be treated with respect, dignity and care
- Participation of children should be safe, meaningful and age-appropriate
- Safeguarding is the responsibility of all

Prohibited Conduct

The following behaviours are strictly prohibited:

- Any form of physical, emotional or sexual abuse
- Exploitation or neglect of a child
- Inappropriate or harmful contact with children
- Use of language or behaviour that is abusive, discriminatory or degrading
- Taking photos or sharing information about children without consent
- Any misuse of power or position in relation to children

Prevention Measures

GFR takes proactive steps to prevent harm to children, including:

- Creating safe and inclusive spaces in all activities
- Ensuring appropriate supervision and presence of responsible adults
- Promoting awareness and understanding of child protection among staff and volunteers
- Applying a Code of Conduct in all interactions
- Assessing risks in activities involving children

Reporting and Response

Any concern, suspicion or incident related to child protection must be reported immediately through GFR's safeguarding mechanisms.

GFR ensures that:

- Reports are treated confidentially and seriously
- Appropriate actions are taken without delay
- The safety of the child is prioritised at all times
- Support is provided where needed

A designated Safeguarding Focal Point is responsible for receiving and managing reports.

Responsibility

All individuals working with or representing GFR share responsibility for safeguarding children and must comply with this policy at all times.

Failure to adhere to this policy may result in disciplinary action.

This policy is implemented in conjunction with GFR's Safeguarding & SHEA Policy.