

# Children's Rights International

## Board Policy No.5: Child Protection

*CRI's activities are principally directed to promoting the laws, policies and practices of the justice system as it relates to protecting the human rights of children; direct contact with children will not routinely be part of a CRI project or programme. Never the less, staff and volunteers may operate in an environment where there is indirect contact with children or direct contact when not actually engaged in CRI activities.*

*Accordingly, in all circumstances CRI directors, staff, volunteers and contractors are required to abide by the principles and provisions of this Child Protection Policy (CPP)*

### **1. The protection of children is the foundation purpose of CRI and is written into CRI's Constitution. Article 4 reads:**

“ The objects for which the Company is established are:-

- (a) to promote, protect and advance across the world through education and training and legal and other representation, the human rights of children and without limiting that aim, to promote the meaningful implementation of the Convention;

### **2. Commitment to Child Protection**

2.1 CRI is committed to the absolute and fundamental principle that all children, wherever they may live and whatever their circumstances, have the right to be protected, nurtured and be free from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect, maltreatment and exploitation.

2.2 CRI unreservedly condemns any breach of these rights in any form and will endeavour to provide a child-safe environment wherever it operates.

2.3 All directors, staff, volunteers and contractors engaged in CRI activities must share in this commitment, and behave respectfully and sensitively in any dealings with children.

### **3. Guiding Principles**

3.1 The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is the universal foundation for child protection. The fundamental principle of the Convention is that children have their own indivisible rights

3.2 Any form of child abuse and exploitation is unacceptable and will not be tolerated

3.3 Children should be equally protected and assisted regardless of their gender, nationality, religious or political beliefs, family background, economic status, physical or mental health or criminal background.

3.4 CRI has a duty of care to take all reasonable steps to require and ensure that its activities are child-safe and conform to the principles and provisions of this Policy.

3.5 Adherence to the principles and provisions of this Policy is mandatory for all CRI Members, Board Members, employees, volunteers and contractors. All are required to confirm their understanding of, and commitment to, this Policy by signing the Child Protection Code of Conduct (Appended).

3.6 This Policy will be published on the CRI Website.

#### **4. Use of Child Images**

CRI will at all times portray children in a respectful, appropriate and consensual way.

Guidelines on the use of children's images are:

4.1 A child must always be portrayed 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.

4.2 A child and its family must always be asked for consent when using their images. When asking for consent to use the image, details should be given as to how and where this image will be used.

4.3 Where the child is in the care of another then the responsible person must give permission for the image to be used.

4.4 No identifying information of the child may be used in the publication of images. When sending images electronically, file labels should not reveal identifying information.

4.4 Local cultural traditions should be assessed regarding restrictions for reproducing personal images.

4.6 Images should be an honest representation of the context and the facts.

#### **5. Risk Management**

All CRI projects and programmes are subject to risk assessment by the Board's Risk Management Committee (RMC), including any risks that might arise in relation to child protection. The responsibility of the RMC to address such risks, take ameliorating actions and respond should there be any breach of Policy is set out in Board Policy No.4.

## **6. Child Protection Reporting Requirements**

6.1 Reporting of concerns or allegations of child abuse is mandatory for all persons covered by this Policy.

6.2 Matters to be reported:

- Any disclosure or allegation from a child or community member or staff regarding the safety or abuse of a child.
- Any suspicious or concerning behaviour exhibited by any person, whether or not related to CRI activities, that is in breach of the principles and provisions of the CPP
- Inappropriate use of CRI's photographic equipment or computers including evidence of child exploitation or abuse.

6.3 Breaches of this CPP should in all cases be reported to the Chair of CRI who in turn will refer the matter to the relevant Australian and/or in-country police or child protection authority.

Reviewed and Agreed by the Board

4<sup>th</sup> July, 2012

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## Children's Rights International Child Protection Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct should be read in conjunction with CRI's Child Protection Policy to which it is appended

I, \_\_\_\_\_ [insert name],

while employed by or otherwise engaged with Children's Rights International will:

- a. treat children with respect regardless of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status;
- b. not use language or behaviour towards children that is inappropriate, harassing, abusive, sexually provocative, demeaning or culturally inappropriate;
- c. not engage children in any form of sexual activity or acts, including paying for sexual services or acts;
- d. wherever possible, ensure that another adult is present when working in the proximity of children;
- e. not invite unaccompanied children into my place of residence, unless they are at immediate risk of injury or in physical danger
- f. not sleep close to unsupervised children unless absolutely necessary, and ensure if possible that another adult is present;
- g. not use any computers, mobile phones, or video and digital cameras to exploit or harass children or to access child pornography;
- h. refrain from hiring children for domestic or other labour which is inappropriate given their age or developmental stage;
- i. comply with all relevant Australian and local legislation, including labour laws, in relation to child safety and protection;
- j. immediately report concerns or allegations of child abuse to the Chair of CRI.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_