

## **POLICY ON PROTECTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

### **ASSOCIAZIONE CARTA DI ROMA (hereinafter 'The Organization')**

#### **Background**

1. The purpose of this policy is to provide a set of guiding principles and minimum standards for creating a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults within the framework of the Organization's programmes and activities.
  2. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) recognizes special rights and protection to all persons under the age of 18. For the purposes of this policy, the term 'children' is used to refer to those under the age of 18 irrespective of his/her race, color, sex, language, religion, political or cultural beliefs, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth, or other status or those of his/her parents. For the purposes of its own programmatic work, the Organization defines 'young people' as everyone aged 10 to 24. This policy covers both age groups (children and youth), thus applying to people from 0 to 24.
  3. The Organization works in compliance with the principles enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, the Council of Europe Convention on Human Rights and all relevant international, regional and domestic instruments on human rights and the rights of the child and expects all adults involved in the Organization to fully encompass and realize the principles enshrined therein.
  4. The Organization understands that the rights and protection guaranteed to people under 18, as a matter of international and national law, sometimes differ from the rights of adults.
  5. Since the date of its foundation the Organization has identified 'Adolescents/Young people' as one of its priority areas as demonstrated in its Statute, actions and projects, particularly in relation to the fight against violation of children rights and promotion of children empowerment. The Organization has been working on the above mentioned issues in schools since 2011. Within this framework, the Organization carries out education and training programs providing face to face information and education addressed to young people.
- Carta di Roma held meetings in schools within framework of the REACT (Respect and Equality: Acting and Communicating Together) project funded by the European Commission's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Program and involving young people between 12 and 19 years of age (2017-2019).

- In collaboration with Arci, the Organization has participated in the project React (Respect and Equality: Acting and Communicating Together) to contrast the phenomenon of online hate speech, with particular reference to the youth target.
- In collaboration with Open Arms, Carta di Roma has participated in meetings in schools on the theme of SAR, setting up workshops for the knowledge of migratory flows by sea (January and February 2020 in the schools of Bologna and Parma, target group of the action: 17-19 year-old youth).
- In collaboration with Cesvi, Carta di Roma has participated in the project “Agente speciale 0011 – Mission Inclusion” with meetings in schools (2 meetings a month for three months in the schools of Milan and Bergamo, target group: children aged 6-10; youth aged 11-14)
- In collaboration with 3<sup>rd</sup> October Committee, the municipality of Lampedusa, Amref and MuMI (Museum of Migration), Carta di Roma has participated in the project “Snapshots from Borders”, meeting the students of Lampedusa on the occasion of the day of remembrance, on 3 October.

## Definitions

- a. Children: According to the definition of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, "children" (the English term "children" should actually be translated into "children and teenager") are individuals under the age of 18 (art. 1) ), whose interests must be taken into primary consideration in all situations (Article 3).
- b. Young: According to the United Nations, the "young" are people aged between 15 and 24 (Secretary-General's Report to the General Assembly, A/36/215, 1981).
- c. Child Empowerment: the personal, social, educational and economic empowerment of boys and girls.
- d. Children's rights are human rights specifically adapted to the child because they take into account his fragility, specificities and age-appropriate needs. It means to grant a particular assistance to them and to give protection appropriate to their age and their degree of maturity and to avoid discrimination.
- e. Abuse: In 1999, the WHO Consultation on Child Abuse Prevention drafted the following definition (8): “Child abuse or maltreatment constitutes all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power means increasing the child's personal, social, educational and economic strengths.

### **Scope**

7. CARTA DI ROMA child protection policy applies to all the Institute staff, whatever their status is, including volunteers, and consultants. Furthermore, CARTA DI ROMA only collaborate with other organizations that come into contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults, if they

agree with the standards and principles of CARTA DI ROMA on the protection of children, young people .

### **Guiding principles**

8.The Organization is committed to the following values and principles, which should be fully promoted, protected and respected by all persons involved in the Organization:

- a. The Organization values children and their protection.
- b. The Organization protects the personal data of children.
- c. The Organization is committed to the protection of children also during the delivering of training courses/presentation/workshops and other activities with minors implemented by the Organization.
- d. The Organization is committed to fulfilling its duty of care and will provide a safe environment for training, work and/or volunteering within the organization, with full respect of human rights and with full endorsement of the principle of non-discrimination.
- e. The Organization gives clear direction to staff/volunteers in situations that may be distressing to all people, including children, involved in the Organization.
- f. The Organization addresses and reduces to the fullest possible extent any harm to which a child is being or may be subjected to.
- g. The Organization does not tolerate any type of abuse or exploitation towards any child and/or young person and commits itself to ensure that all staff and associates (see Scope) are made aware of, and supported in, their responsibilities to prevent abuse and protect children and young people.
- h. The Organization recognizes that the denial of children's and young people's rights, is in part responsible for their vulnerability.
- i. The Organization believes that creating a safe environment for all children, young people and vulnerable adults requires the cooperation of all staff members and volunteers.

### **Situations of risk for intentional or unintentional harm**

#### Direct contact with children and young people

8. Staff/volunteers can be in the physical presence of a child, young person or children, young people in the context of the organization's work exclusively in presence of the person exercising the power of guardianship, whether contact is occasional or regular, short or long term;

9. This could involve capacity building, information and (peer) education in and outside the school setting.

10. This also could involve study visits and attending conferences at local, national, regional and international levels

NB: This is not an exhaustive or exclusive list.

## **Policy**

The Organization is ensuring that:

11. The wellbeing of the child is paramount and our utmost concern.

12. All children whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/ or sexual orientation enjoy the right to be protected from harm and all adults involved in the Organization fully respect, protect and promote this right.

13. All staff, including volunteers and any other person involved in the Organization (paid/unpaid) or working in the Organization have a responsibility to report concerns to (their supervisor/Director of the Organization) as soon as those concerns are being raised or as soon as possible after those concerns have being raised.

14. Wherever staff/associates are required to have direct contact with children, the Organization will only recruit or appoint staff who are deemed suitable to work with children, including having a clean criminal record.

15. Staff and volunteers shall behave appropriately in the presence of children and always on line with the Organization's policies.

16. Staff and volunteers working with children are issued with a copy of this policy which also is anyway on line available for full reference in an electronic format on the Carta di Roma website.

17. Any member of staff found in breach of this guidance will be subject to immediate removal from their position/contract, as this policy forms an integral part of such a contract.

## **Implementation and compliance**

18. This Child Protection Policy is constantly monitored and periodically evaluated to be eventually revised by the Board of Carta di Roma. It is responsibility of the President of the Organization to ensure that the present policy is implemented accordingly.

Rome, 2021 January, 3

In witness

Valerio Cataldi  
President and Legal Representative of Associazione Carta di Roma

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