



UKRAINIAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION

Спілька Української Молоді

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Child Protection Policy

The Ukrainian Youth Association in Great Britain recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people by a commitment to practice which protects them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.

The Association is committed to:

- taking into account in all its considerations and activities the interests and well-being of children and young people;
- respecting the rights, wishes and feelings of the children and young people with whom it is working;
- taking all reasonable practicable steps to protect them from physical, sexual and emotional harm;
- promoting the welfare of children and young people and their protection within a relationship of trust.

All adults in the Association have a responsibility to ensure that children and young people are protected from harm and must accept and understand this policy and put it into practice. It is essential that all adults ensure that:

- the welfare of children and young people for whom they have a duty of care is safeguarded
- they avoid compromising situations or opportunities for misunderstandings or allegations

by ensuring that:

- their behaviour is appropriate at all times
- they observe the rules established for the safety and security of children and young people
- they follow the procedures following suspicion, disclosure or allegation of child abuse
- they recognise the position of trust in which they have been placed; and
- in every respect, the relationships they form with children and young people in their care are appropriate

Code of good practice for Adults in the Ukrainian Youth Association

Do put this code into practice at all times

Do treat everyone with dignity and respect

Do set an example you would wish others to follow

Do treat all children and young people equally, show no favouritism

Do plan activities that involve more than one other person being present, or at least are within sight and hearing of others

Do follow recommended adult/child ratios for meetings and activities

Do avoid unacceptable situations within a relationship of trust e.g. a sexual relationship with a youth member over the age of consent

Do allow children and young people to talk about any concerns they may have

Do encourage others to challenge any attitudes or behaviours they do not like

- Do** avoid being drawn into inappropriate attention seeking behaviour e.g. tantrums and crushes
- Do** follow the Association's 'no alcohol' guidance and 'no use of illegal substances' when children and young people are in your care
- Do** make everyone aware of this policy and procedures – children, young people, parents, leaders and volunteers
- Do** remember this code even at sensitive moments e.g. when responding to bullying, bereavement or abuse
- Do** keep other leaders informed of where you are and what you are doing
- Do** remember someone else might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well- intentioned
- Do** take any allegations or concerns of abuse seriously and refer immediately

Do not trivialise abuse

- Do not** form a relationship with a child or young person that is an abuse of trust
- Do not** permit abusive peer activities e.g. initiation ceremonies, bullying
- Do not** engage in inappropriate behaviour or contact – physical, verbal, sexual
- Do not** play physical contact games with children and young people
- Do not** make suggestive remarks or threats to a child or young person, even in fun
- Do not** use inappropriate language – writing, phoning, text, email or internet
- Do not** let allegations, suspicions or concerns about abuse go unreported
- Do not** rely on your good name to protect you

What to do if.....?

If you suspect abuse, a child or young person confides in you, or a complaint is made about any adult or about yourself, **it is your duty to report the concern.**

If a child or young person tells you about abuse by someone else:

1. Allow the young person to speak without interruption, accepting what is said.
2. Offer immediate understanding and reassurance, while passing no judgment.
3. Advise that you will try to offer support but that you must pass the information on.
4. Immediately tell your group leader or Komandant if at tabir.
5. Write careful notes of what was said: use actual words wherever possible
6. Sign, date and pass your notes to your Komandant or Holova Oseredok.
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7. Ensure that no Association situation arises which could cause any further concern.
8. If at Tabir Komandant must inform Head of National Committee/delegated Representative.

In an emergency – child or young person at imminent risk of significant harm – contact police or social services department direct. Inform your Komandant or Holova of the action you have taken.

If you have a concern about a child or young person's safety and well being:

1. Immediately tell your group leader
2. Write careful notes of what you witnessed, heard or was told
3. Sign, date and pass your notes to your Komandant or Holova
4. Ensure that no situation arises which could cause any further concern

If you receive a complaint or allegation about any adult or about yourself:

1. Immediately tell your group leader or Komandant or Holova
2. Write careful notes of what you witnessed, heard or was told
3. Sign, date and pass your notes to your Komandant or Holova
4. Try to ensure no-one is placed in a position which could cause further Compromise

Note: Any adult or young person in a position of responsibility has the right to report any concerns, or suspicions about another member in confidence and free from harassment

You must refer; you must not investigate!!!

Additional Guidance

Throughout this document the term 'leader' is used and refers to anyone in a position of responsibility or 'in charge' of an activity. The term 'group leader' refers to the next in command for e.g. during tabir, or may mean the Holova of the oseredok.

The key message in this policy and code of good practice is to think safely and act safely.

- Use common sense
- Reduce opportunities for those who may wish to harm children and young people
- Safeguard yourself and other adults from situations where your actions, no matter how well intentioned, might be misinterpreted.
- If you have concerns it is your responsibility to act upon them. Follow the procedures at all times.
- You must always report your concerns immediately. Never wait to see what happens, you might be causing further irreparable harm.
- Share and discuss this policy widely with all members – it will help to develop an atmosphere of mutual support and care, enabling discussion of inappropriate attitudes and behaviour.
- Always ensure your own behaviour is beyond reproach. Never assume it will 'never happen to me'.
- Always be honest, open and frank. Parents will feel more confident and trusting.
- When recruiting helpers/volunteers record if the person has been checked by the Disclosure and Barring Service.
- When organising activities always make sure that you have enough adults for the number of children and young people. Arranging proper supervision is an effective way of keeping safe.
- Be aware of other relevant procedures and information of the Association contained in the Tabir Handbook. (visit www.cym.org)

Taborova Komisia on behalf of the National Committee of the Ukrainian Youth Association in Great Britain February 2010

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(Contents of this policy and code of good practice largely based on the The Child Protection Policy of the Scout Association – January 2010)