



Safeguarding Adults Policy

2018

Applicable to	Trustees and Volunteers
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Approved by	Board of Trustees 11.9.18

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to protect people, particularly vulnerable adults and beneficiaries of Luna Children’s Charity (Luna) assistance, from any harm that may be caused due to their coming into contact with Luna. This includes harm arising from:

- The conduct of volunteers and people working as partners alongside Luna
- The design and implementation of Luna projects and activities

The policy sets out the commitments made by Luna and informs volunteers¹ and partners of their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding. It is an extension of Luna’s Safeguarding Policy regarding children and young people and follows the same procedures for reporting and taking action.

¹ the term ‘volunteer’ means any individual working on behalf of Luna, including its Trustees

Safeguarding applies consistently and without exception across our projects, fundraising, partners and volunteers. We aim to proactively identify, prevent and guard against risks of harm, exploitation and abuse and have accountable and transparent systems for response, reporting and learning when concerns about harm arise.

We exchange our safeguarding policies with partner organizations and will not proceed without reaching a mutual understanding of our approaches and expectations.

Expectations of conduct

Luna volunteers and associates working with us must not:

- Sexually abuse or exploit vulnerable adults
- Subject a vulnerable adult to physical, emotional or psychological abuse, or neglect
- Exchange money, employment, goods or services for sexual activity. This includes any exchange of assistance that is due to beneficiaries of Luna assistance
- Engage in any sexual relationships with beneficiaries of Luna assistance, since they are based on inherently unequal power dynamics

The Luna Code of Conduct sets out the behavior we expect in any Luna activity. Volunteers must understand and agree to this and sign a volunteer/Trustee agreement which confirms this understanding.

Projects and activities

Luna's training programmes and fundraising activity focus on trauma experienced by children, and involve describing or discussing illustrative cases. We design these activities to avoid or minimise emotional distress and prevent psychological harm.

Our safeguarding concerns relate to:

- Our direct beneficiaries – professionals whom we train to treat and support traumatized children in countries affected by conflict, war and displacement. They may themselves have experienced trauma and displacement.
- Vulnerable adults who we may meet on a visit - as part of a training trip for example to a refugee/IDP camp, or to our special projects in Uganda
- Vulnerable adults who may attend a fundraising event

As a mental health charity, we recognize the potentially stressful nature of the work and the responsibility to safeguard the psychological and emotional wellbeing of both our volunteers who deliver training overseas and our beneficiaries.

For volunteers:

- Identifying and mitigating risks to safety
- Pre-trip briefing that fosters a team approach
- Providing practical and emotional support through trustee leadership on the ground
- Decompression time and post-trip debriefing
- Encouraging shared and individual learning and reflective practice

For beneficiaries:

- Being aware of their potential vulnerability - as refugees and survivors of trauma
- Being aware of the impact on them of their work with traumatized children with often little professional support
- Encouraging mutual respect and support during training, and giving direct support to individuals when needed
- Encouraging an on-going relationship with Luna and each other via our on-line forum and local supervision groups

Reporting concerns

The Safeguarding Officer is responsible for receiving concerns and taking appropriate action – see Safeguarding Children policy.

If appropriate we will offer support to a survivor of harm by making a referral to an appropriate practitioner or service.