



Child Protection Policy

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1. Introduction and Purpose

The Youth Board of Cyprus (YBC), recognising its particular responsibility towards children and young people participating in its actions, programmes, courses, and events, hereby adopts this Child Protection Policy. The purpose of this Policy is to safeguard the physical and mental health, safety, dignity, and rights of all children, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child¹, as well as the applicable Cypriot² and European Union³ legislation.

This Policy applies to all individuals cooperating with the Youth Board of Cyprus, including staff members, external partners, trainers, facilitators, volunteers, and any other persons involved in the implementation of activities in which children participate.

2. Scope and Definitions

For the purposes of this Policy:

- A “child” is defined as any person under the age of 18.
- “Activities” include, indicatively, educational programmes, workshops, seminars, events, camps, visits, online activities, and any other activity organised of the Youth Board of Cyprus.

This Policy applies to both in-person and online activities.

3. Fundamental Principles

The Youth Board of Cyprus is committed to:

- Placing the best interests of the child as a primary consideration in all actions.
- Ensuring equal treatment and non-discrimination of any kind.
- Promoting a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment.
- Encouraging participation and freedom of expression of children, taking into account their age and level of maturity.
- Adopting a zero-tolerance approach to any form of abuse, exploitation, or neglect.

4. Protection of Physical and Mental Health

The Youth Board of Cyprus takes all necessary measures to safeguard the physical and mental health of children participating in its activities. In particular:

- Activities are designed and implemented in a manner that minimises risks and takes into account the age and needs of children.
- Safe premises and appropriate conditions for implementation are ensured.
- An environment of respect, trust, and psychological safety is actively promoted.
- Any form of corporal punishment, verbal abuse, psychological pressure, or humiliating behaviour is strictly prohibited.
- Particular care is taken for children who may belong to vulnerable groups.

5. Code of Conduct

All persons cooperating with the Youth Board of Cyprus are required to:

- Act with professionalism, respect, and sensitivity towards children.
- Maintain clear and appropriate boundaries in their relationships with children.
- Avoid any behaviour that could be misinterpreted or compromise the safety, dignity, or well-being of a child.
- Refrain from being alone with a child without a legitimate reason and unless the established procedures of the Youth Board of Cyprus are followed.
- Immediately report any incident or reasonable suspicion of a breach of this Policy, in accordance with the reporting procedure set out in Article 8 below.

6. Protection of Personal Data

The Youth Board of Cyprus processes children's personal data lawfully, fairly, transparently, and with the utmost respect for privacy. In particular, the YBC:

- Collects only the personal data that are necessary, relevant, and proportionate to the purposes of participation in its activities and the provision of its services, in accordance with the principle of data minimisation.
- Processes personal data solely for specified, explicit, and legitimate purposes related to the implementation of programmes, the safeguarding of children, communication with parents/legal guardians, and compliance with applicable legal obligations.
- Ensures that the consent of a parent or legal guardian is obtained whenever required under applicable legislation.
- Implements appropriate technical and organisational measures to protect personal data against unauthorised access, accidental loss, alteration, destruction, or unlawful disclosure.
- Restricts access to personal data exclusively to authorised personnel and partners who are bound by confidentiality obligations.
- Retains personal data only for as long as necessary to fulfil the purposes for which they were collected or to comply with legal, regulatory, and audit requirements.
- Respects and safeguards the rights of data subjects, including the rights of access, rectification, erasure, restriction of processing, and objection, in accordance with applicable data protection legislation.

All processing of personal data is carried out in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR) and the applicable national data protection legislation of the Republic of Cyprus.⁴

7. Parental/Legal Guardian Consent and Audiovisual Material

The Youth Board of Cyprus recognises children's right to privacy and the protection of their personal data. Accordingly, the YBC:

- Obtains the prior written consent of parents or legal guardians before capturing and using photographs, videos, or any other audiovisual material for the purposes of communication, information, publicity, or the promotion of the YBC's activities.
- Ensures that parents/legal guardians are provided with clear information regarding the purpose, manner, and channels through which the audiovisual material may be used or published.
- Uses audiovisual material in a manner that respects the dignity, privacy, and best interests of children and does not expose them to any risk, harm, or negative publicity.
- Provides parents/legal guardians with the right to withdraw their consent at any time, in accordance with the applicable personal data protection legislation.

8. Reporting and Management of Incidents

The Youth Board of Cyprus has established clear, accessible, and transparent procedures for the reporting and management of incidents or suspected incidents involving verbal, physical, or psychological violence, harassment, bullying, or any other form of abuse, whether perpetrated by an adult or by another child.

Every member of staff, partner, or volunteer is required to:

- Immediately report any incident or reasonable suspicion of abuse or a breach of this Policy to the designated responsible officer of the Youth Board of Cyprus.
- Record all relevant information accurately, objectively, and without undue delay.
- Maintain confidentiality and ensure the protection of all persons involved throughout the reporting and management process.

The Youth Board of Cyprus:

- Treats every report with seriousness, transparency, impartiality, and respect.
- Takes all appropriate measures to ensure the immediate safety and protection of the child concerned.
- Cooperates with the competent authorities whenever required by applicable legislation.

In particular, the Youth Board of Cyprus shall follow the Procedure for Reporting a Person Who May Be a Victim of Violence, in accordance with the Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (Prevention and Combating) Law of 2021 (Law 115(I)/2021) and the corresponding Reporting Form of the Social Welfare Services, which has been communicated to all employees and contractors of the Youth Board of Cyprus.

9. Training and Awareness

The Youth Board of Cyprus (YBC) is committed to ensuring that its personnel receive appropriate information, training, and ongoing awareness-raising on matters relating to child protection, including the identification of signs and indicators of abuse, the prevention of harm, and the appropriate reporting and management of safeguarding concerns and incidents.

10. Monitoring and Review

This Child Protection Policy shall be reviewed whenever deemed necessary to ensure that it remains up to date, effective, and fully aligned with the applicable legal and regulatory framework.

The Youth Board of Cyprus (YBC) is committed to implementing this Policy consistently and responsibly, thereby contributing to the creation and maintenance of a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment in which all children are protected, respected, and able to participate with confidence.

11. References

¹ United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC, 1989), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 20 November 1989 and ratified by the Republic of Cyprus. Indicative key articles include: Article 3 (best interests of the child), Article 12 (right of the child to be heard), Article 19 (protection from all forms of violence), and Article 24 (right to the highest attainable standard of health).

² Republic of Cyprus – National Legal Framework for Child Protection, including inter alia:

- Law No. 91(I)/2014 on the Prevention and Combating of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Child Pornography.
- Law No. 119(I)/2000, as amended, ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Relevant provisions of the Violence in the Family (Prevention and Protection of Victims) Laws, as in force.

³ European Union and Council of Europe Child Protection Framework, including:

- EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child (2021) and the European Child Guarantee (Council Recommendation (EU) 2021/1004).
- Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR), in particular Articles 6 and 8 regarding the lawful processing of children’s personal data and parental consent.
- Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention, 2007).

⁴ Republic of Cyprus. (2018). The Protection of Natural Persons with Regard to the Processing of Personal Data and the Free Movement of Such Data Law of 2018 (Law 125(I)/2018).