



# Rianna's Fund

Changing lives through care and education

## Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

The protection and welfare of all children and young adults is fundamental to the objectives of Rianna's Fund, and we will work closely with project partners, volunteers and other relevant parties to ensure that children's rights and safety are safeguarded and protected.

### POLICY STATEMENT

It is never acceptable for children or vulnerable young adults to be subjected to any form of abuse, violence or exploitation. We will take the following steps in this regard with Trustees, Project Partners and Volunteers who have direct unsupervised contact with children:

They will be made aware:

- That vulnerable children and young adults are to be free from abuse, violence or exploitation.
- The risks that exist to children and young adults in their care.
- The steps to take where there is concern about abuse or potential abuse
- They must ensure that these steps are taken.
- They must support anyone who raises a concern and make clear that Safeguarding and Protecting children and young adults is fundamental to Rianna's Fund's work.
- That Rianna's Fund will do all it can to support them.

### CODE OF CONDUCT

All Trustees, Project Partners, and Volunteers must adhere to the following:

- Respect the rights of children and young adults to be protected and free from abuse and exploitation.
- Be aware of situations which may present the risk of abuse and manage these risks appropriately.
- Be visible and accountable when working with children and young adults.
- Empower children and young adults – discuss with them their rights to protection, what is acceptable and unacceptable, and what to do if they suspect someone is being abused or if they have a problem.

Trustees, Project Partners and Volunteers must never:

- Physically or mentally abuse a child or young adult.
- Develop a physical/sexual relationship with a child or young adult.
- Develop a relationship in any form which could be perceived as exploitive or abusive.
- Act in any way that sexualises the relationship.
- Use any form of physical punishment.
- Use inappropriate, offensive or abusive language.
- Behave physically in a manner which is inappropriate or sexually provocative.
- Do things for a child or young adult which they can do for themselves.

Rianna's Fund (UK) 62 Copthorne Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 7EE  
Telephone: +44 (0) 7870 840723 | [www.riannasfund.org](http://www.riannasfund.org) | [info@riannasfund.org](mailto:info@riannasfund.org)

Registered in England Rianna's Fund Charity No 1075940



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- Participate in or condone the behaviour of a child or young adult which is illegal, puts the child at risk of harm or is abusive.
- Act in ways to shame, humiliate, belittle or degrade a child or young adult, or engage in any form of emotional abuse.
- Discriminate against, show differential treatment towards or show favouritism to the exclusion of others.

### RAISING AND REPORTING CONCERNS

Children and young adult abuse is distressing for all concerned. Witnessing abuse and reporting concerns is essential and the responsibility of everyone to safeguard against abuse.

In some cases there may be concern about raising suspicions about abuse. This reluctance may be for a number of reasons:

- The person is worried about being mistaken or believed.
- There is no specific evidence of abuse.
- Raising a concern will have serious consequences.
- The impact on the child or young adult may be negative and damaging.
- Not being in your own country and knowing what culturally is acceptable
- Reluctance to get involved in a matter beyond your control.
- A sense of loyalty and not wanting there to be reprisals and possible victimisation.

Concern about not getting involved or getting it wrong is a large factor in the non-reporting of suspected abuse. However it is essential that where there are concerns they are voiced and shared to ensure the welfare and protection of the child or young adult is adhered to.

It is of utmost importance that concerns relating to child protection are raised with Rianna's Fund so that necessary action can be taken to ensure children and young adults are protected.

### CONFIDENTIALITY

It is essential to respect the need for confidentiality as a lack of confidentiality could have serious consequences for all parties. Therefore in responding to issues and concerns regarding possible abuse, information must be passed using the proper reporting process described in this policy.

### HOW TO RAISE A CONCERN

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- 1) If you have a concern regarding the safety of a child or young adult, discuss your concern with the person(s) in charge. If the person(s) in charge is suspected of abuse, discuss your concerns with the next appropriate person or representative.
- 2) Inform a Rianna's Fund Trustee.
- 3) Express the nature of your concern including the risks posed to the child or young adult.
- 4) Provide evidence of abuse where possible
- 5) Any concerns should be reported as soon as you are aware of any possible issues.
- 6) Provide detailed written account of events.

It can be hard to determine whether a child or young adult is being treated in an abusive or neglected way. If there are reasons to believe a child is at risk then act immediately consulting with the person(s) in charge and giving reasons for your concern. Where possible seek guidance from charity representatives and keep a detailed written report of your concerns. Consider if the child is significantly at risk or harm resulting from physical, sexual or psychological abuse.

It is essential to avoid delay when reporting that a child or young adult is at risk of abuse. Staff and charity representatives should be informed as soon as possible. Any delay could have serious consequences on the child/young adult.

### **VOLUNTEERS**

Rianna's Fund welcomes volunteers helping with fundraising events and from to time volunteering at overseas projects. To ensure our commitment to protecting children and young adults we require all those with direct unsupervised access to children:

- To complete an advanced DBS clearance in compliance with Child Protection and Safe Guarding Policy.
- To be given a copy of Rianna's Fund Child/Young Adult Child Protection Policy and asked to sign the Policy Agreement.

### **INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS**

Rianna's Fund works with international partners both directly and as intermediaries. To ensure consistency with Rianna's Fund's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, we ensure these partners have appropriate policies that ensure the safety of children and young people.



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### UNDERTAKING

I HERE BY AGREE TO FOLLOW THE CHILD PROTECTION POLICY OF RIANNA'S FUND TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS.

VOLUNTEER NAME	TRUSTEE NAME
SIGNED	SIGNED
DATE	DATE