



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR COUNTERING TERRORISM



Child and Youth Safeguarding Policy

International Organization for Counter-Terrorism (IOCT)

Article (1): Purpose

This Policy aims to ensure the protection of children and youth from all forms of violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect, and harm—particularly the risks of violent extremism and terrorism—and to establish a preventive, human rights-based approach that prioritizes the best interests of the child across all programs and activities of the Organization.

Article (2): Scope of Application

This Policy applies to:

- The Board of Trustees
- The Secretariat
- Committee members
- Employees and contractors
- Experts and trainers
- Volunteers
- Partners and collaborators when implementing activities involving or targeting children or youth

Article (3): Definitions

For the purposes of this Policy:

- **Child:** Any person under the age of eighteen (18).
- **Youth:** Individuals aged 18 to 29, unless otherwise specified by context.
- **Safeguarding:** Preventive and responsive measures that ensure the safety, dignity, and rights of children and youth.

Article (4): Guiding Principles

The Organization commits to the following principles:

1. Best interests of the child.
2. Non-discrimination and respect for human dignity.
3. Prevention and the “Do No Harm” principle.
4. Safe, informed, and meaningful participation.





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5. Accountability and transparency.
6. Confidentiality and data protection.

Article (5): General Commitments

The Organization shall:

1. Provide a safe environment for children and youth in all programs and activities.
2. Prevent all forms of exploitation, abuse, harassment, or violence.
3. Implement preventive measures to protect children and youth from recruitment, radicalization, or incitement.
4. Ensure qualified professional supervision in all relevant activities.

Article (6): Prevention of Extremism and Exploitation

The Organization shall:

1. Integrate preventive awareness and resilience-building into programs targeting children and youth.
2. Promote critical thinking, tolerance, and citizenship values.
3. Identify and address early indicators of recruitment or exploitation in a professional manner.
4. Cooperate with families, educational institutions, and community actors where appropriate.

Article (7): Professional Conduct and Safe Interaction

All staff and collaborators shall:

1. Adhere to strict codes of conduct when engaging with children and youth.
2. Refrain from any inappropriate or unprofessional communication or behavior.
3. Avoid one-on-one situations without legitimate professional justification and appropriate safeguarding measures.
4. Respect privacy and personal boundaries.





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Article (8): Consent and Participation

1. Prior informed consent from parents, guardians, or competent authorities shall be required for children's participation.
2. Participation shall consider the child's or youth's capacity to understand and provide age-appropriate assent.
3. Participation shall be voluntary, with the right to withdraw at any time without consequences.

Article (9): Reporting Concerns and Violations

The Organization shall:

1. Establish safe and confidential channels for reporting safeguarding concerns or violations.
2. Protect whistleblowers from retaliation.
3. Take immediate action to investigate and respond in accordance with legal frameworks.
4. Refer cases to competent authorities when required.

Article (10): Partnerships and Joint Activities

When implementing joint activities, the Organization shall:

1. Ensure partners comply with child and youth safeguarding standards.
2. Include safeguarding clauses in agreements and memoranda of understanding.
3. Suspend or terminate partnerships upon substantiated violations.

Article (11): Training and Awareness

The Organization shall:

1. Train its personnel on child and youth safeguarding standards.
2. Raise awareness of risks related to extremism and exploitation.
3. Update procedures in line with international best practices.





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Article (12): Institutional Responsibilities

- The **Board of Trustees** shall exercise overall oversight of this Policy.
- The **Secretariat** shall be responsible for implementation and compliance monitoring.
- The **Safeguarding/Training Committee** shall provide technical oversight.

Article (13): Breach of Policy

Any breach of this Policy shall be considered a serious violation and shall be subject to disciplinary and accountability measures, and may be reported to competent authorities in accordance with the law.

Article (14): Entry into Force and Review

1. This Policy shall enter into force upon approval by the Board of Trustees.
2. It shall be reviewed periodically every three (3) years or as necessary.

