

The Earth Society's Child Safeguarding Policy

1. Our vision:

- We recognize that the child's well-being is paramount.
- All children have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation, or identity.
- Collaboration with children, young people, their parents, caregivers, and protection agencies is critical in promoting young people's welfare.
- to provide a common understanding of child protection issues and to inform staff planning and practice; and to provide step-by-step guidance to staff on what action to take if there is an allegation of or concern about actual or suspected cases of abuse.

2. Objectives

- Working to create a comprehensive national child protection system to prevent and respond to child violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- This is accomplished through the generation of credible evidence to inform advocacy, as well as the reformation of legislation and the updating of policies in accordance with international human rights standards.
- Child-friendly legal system: We aim to ensure a child-friendly justice system for children who come into contact with the law, including child survivors and witnesses of crime, as well as child offenders of all ages.
- Social service system: We want to build the capacity of the social service workforce so that they can do a better job of identifying, preventing, and managing risks, as well as responding to harmful situations.
- We intend to work to increase knowledge and understanding of violence against children and women in order to prevent violence and other harmful practices. This includes empowering adolescents to be change agents through various programs that promote life skills.

3. Constitution of The People's Republic of Bangladesh–

- Article-18(2) of supreme law of state stated that all forms of prostitution shall be prevented included child prostitution. Article-35(5) says that no person shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment or treatment. Here by the word “No person” included every person as well as child and specially mentioning about corporal punishment which should be prohibited.

4. Some of the laws that govern this area are as follows:

a) The Children Act 2013:

- According to sections 7, 8, and 9 of this act, for the welfare of children, a board shall be established at the national, district, and upazila levels, with the board's duties being to supervise, monitor, and evaluate the activities of child development centers or certified institutions.
- Section 63(1) also states that the government shall issue office orders and directives to determine the minimum standards of proper care to be maintained by the Children Welfare Centre and certified institutions.
- The Children's court may issue an order to ensure the child's protection and confidentiality under section-54(3)(a). Any information about the child involved in the judicial proceedings that should not be made public in order to protect the child concerned.

b) Bangladesh Labour Act of 2006.

- The minimum working age in Bangladesh is 14 years old, according to the Labour Act of 2006. There is also a full chapter on Adolescent Worker Employment. (Chapter-III).
- Section 39 of the Act states that no adolescent is permitted in any such establishment or work that the government has designated as hazardous work.
- Section 34 of the act states that no child shall be employed in any occupation or establishment. If any adolescent wants to work, he need a fitness certificate from registered medical practitioner which should be carried always when he is in work.
- Also, in section 41, mention the adolescent worker's time limit. No adolescent shall be permitted to work in the factory or mine for more than 5 (five) hours per day and 30 (hours) per week. And for the any other establishment 7(seven) hours in a day and 42(forty-two) in week.

c) The Child Marriage Restraint Act,2017

- Section 7 of the act states that any person who engages in child marriage commits an offense. Subsection (1) states that if a major marries a minor, he or she will be punished with a term of not less than 2 (two) years or not less than 1 (one) lac Tk, or both.
- Section (8) states that if any parents are involved in child marriage, it will be considered an offense under this provision.

- Section 19 of this act states that for the welfare of the child, if the guardians want to marry their child with the consent of the court, the child marriage will be valid.

d) The Pornography Control Act, 2012

- Section 8(1) states that any person who captures video or still images of sexual intercourse of any person, whether a woman or a child, either forcefully or with consent, commits an offense. For this offense, the offender may be punished with up to 7 (seven) years in prison and a fine of 2 (two) lac Tk.
- Section 8(6) states that making pornographic videos with children is a crime. The offender may be punished with up to 10 (ten) years in prison and a fine of 5 (five) lac Tk for this crime.

Our duties:

- We will strive to protect children by valuing, listening to, and respecting them.
- Adopting child protection systems and procedures for staff.
- Safely recruiting staff while ensuring all necessary checks are performed.
- Staff, children, and parents/caregivers are all given information about child protection and best practices.
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies that need to know, and appropriately involving parents and children.
- Supervising, supporting, and training employees to ensure effective management.

This policy is mandatory for all our members in the organisation. This includes anyone who works for our organisation, in either a paid or unpaid, full or part-time capacity. This includes directly employed, consultants, volunteers, interns and anyone working on behalf of the organisation.