



Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedures .

Who are we?

Child Rights International Network (CRIN) is an organisation that works to make sure that children can enjoy all of their rights and be treated the same, and with respect. CRIN wants everyone to value the role children play in our world.

What is child safeguarding and what is this document for?

Safeguarding is what an organisation does to:

- Protect you from harm
- Make sure you feel safe and looked after

This document explains how CRIN makes sure that everyone who works for us or speaks for us keeps you safe from harm when participating in our activities.

Why is it important?

CRIN is committed to ensuring that all children who participate in our activities feel safe. Safeguarding is important because when adults behave in a way that makes you feel unsafe or disrespected, it may prevent you from learning, being healthy, playing, developing your full potential and many other rights.

We will also listen to what you have to say. CRIN will sometimes need your help in adapting our activities to suit your needs, or to avoid putting you at risk of any harm.

Who does this document apply to?

Anyone who works for or represents CRIN must respect our Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedures. This includes:

- Staff
- External experts working with CRIN
- Board members
- Volunteers

This policy is for any child who takes part in CRIN activities. We encourage you and your parent(s) or guardian(s) to read it and ask us any questions you may have.



Your rights

All children have rights, just like adults. Children have a special set of rights which are set out in the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#).

All children have these rights, no matter who they are or who their parents or families are; where they live; what language they speak; what their religion is; what they think or do, or what their families think or do; what they

look like; what their gender is; if they have a disability or if they are rich or poor. No child should be treated unfairly for any reason.

A few of those rights are that:

- No one is allowed to do anything that harms your health, survival, development or dignity.
- No one should hurt you by neglecting you or by physically or emotionally hurting you.
- Your opinion should be listened to and taken seriously.
- Adults should do what is in your best interest.

Your rights online

If you are participating in a CRIN activity, it will usually happen online, and your online safety is very important too! We will ensure that we:

- Ask for your consent, as well as the consent of your parent(s) or guardian(s), to:
 - > Communicate with you online.
 - > Use an image of yours.
- Agree with you about how you prefer that we communicate with you (for example email, Whatsapp, Signal).
- Have more than one CRIN staff member or representative in an online channel with you.
- Never use your last name in any public materials, and make sure that we have your consent if we'd like to use your first name and/or image.
- Store all of your personal information in a safe and confidential place.

Some things we do to keep you safe

- Look into all members of staff and board to check if they have ever harmed a child before.
- Have two Safeguarding Officers on staff, with one of them always in an activity with you.
- Ensure that all staff who interact with you receive special training to understand how to keep you safe.
- Ask all CRIN staff and representatives to read and sign the Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.
- Before an activity with you, think of any potential risks and what we can do so they don't happen.
- Make sure that CRIN staff, everyone who works for us or speaks for us, you and your parent(s) or guardian(s) are clear on what to do if there is a risk of harm.

We promise to:

- Treat you with respect and help you understand your rights when taking part in CRIN activities, including your right to be free from all forms of violence.
- Provide a safe and respectful environment for you when you participate in CRIN activities - whether they are in-person or online.
- Make sure that if there is a concern about your safety that we discuss this with you and agree on the right actions to stop it from happening again.
- Make sure you know when and where to get help if you are worried about your safety.

What can you do if you feel unsafe?

You can talk to anyone at CRIN if you need help. Lianne and Isabelle are CRIN's Safeguarding Officers. That means that they are responsible for making sure that your experience with CRIN and its staff is a safe one and that all the rules explained in this document are respected. You can tell them if anything is worrying you.

Contact Information for CRIN's Safeguarding Focal Points

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:

Lianne Minasian
Co-Director
✉ lianne[at]crin.org

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:

Isabelle Kolebinov
Policy and Advocacy Coordinator
✉ isabelle[at]crin.org

CRIN'S OTHER CO-DIRECTOR:

Leo Ratledge
✉ leo[at]crin.org

CRIN COUNCIL CHAIR:

Margaret Tuite
✉ chair[at]crin.org

You or your parent(s) or guardian(s) have the right to file a complaint if you didn't feel safe or respected by anyone at CRIN. You can reach out to the Safeguarding Officers by speaking to them directly, by email or by filling in [this form](#).

- ▶ Please remember that it is never too late to raise any concern!

What will we do?

When you come to us with something that is worrying you, we will:

- Make your safety our priority.
- Take whatever action is needed to keep you safe.
- Act quickly so any further harm is prevented.

Raising an issue with us will not affect your relationship with CRIN. Your safety and well-being is our top concern.

You can also contact us if you're worried about something that happened with people outside of CRIN - if you feel safer with the action we will take.

International Helplines

Check this link to see if your country has a helpline you can contact whenever you feel worried or unsafe:
<https://childhelplineinternational.org/helplines/>



Your safety is very important to us!

CRIN wants our relationship with you to be based on respect, trust and honesty. We know that sometimes you will not want us to share the information you tell us. But you should know that:

- In some cases when we are worried about your safety, we will have to share some information with people outside of CRIN who might be able to help you better than we can. But we will always discuss this with you before we share anything with anyone. For example, if you are in immediate danger, we may have to call the police, but only after we inform you of that decision.
- We will consider speaking with your parent(s) or guardian(s), and again, only after we inform you.
- If your concerns are caused by someone who works with CRIN, we will act right away and that person will not be in contact with children as long as we are looking into your concerns.
- Dealing with situations that make you feel unsafe can be difficult. If you need additional help, CRIN will help you find it.

Some ways that adults could harm children

- **Physical abuse:** This is when someone deliberately hurts a child's body. This may leave marks on their body such as cuts or bruises.
- **Sexual abuse:** Sexual abuse is when a child's private parts of the body are touched in a way that could hurt,

frighten or worry them. It could also be someone making a child watch things to do with sex or encouraging them to act in an inappropriate way. Sexual abuse is also when a child is made to do something with their private parts that hurts, frightens or worries them.

- **Child sexual exploitation:** If an adult is sexually abusing a child to make money, this is called sexual exploitation.
- **Neglect and negligent treatment:** Neglect is when a child's basic needs (such as shelter, food, clothing, medical care and protection from harm) are not met and a parent or carer does not look after them properly.
- **Emotional/Psychological abuse:** Emotional abuse is when someone hurts a child's feelings. This hurts the child on the inside.
- **Commercial exploitation:** Commercial exploitation of children happens when a child is used for work by an adult in exchange for money, gifts or favours.

For more information

See CRIN's full [Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedures](#).

Some of this document talks about abuse against children which might make you feel sad or upset. If there's anything that you need to discuss after reading this document, don't hesitate to reach out to CRIN's Safeguarding Officers.