



CHILD SAFEGUARDING CODE OF CONDUCT

Staff and others representing or visiting ECPAT International, and any other contracted individuals or suppliers working on projects, activities or events are responsible for maintaining a professional role with children, which means establishing and maintaining clear professional boundaries that serve to protect everyone from potential harm, misunderstandings or a violation of the professional relationship. This Child Safeguarding Code of Conduct sets out the behaviours that ECPAT International expects from all people associated with or representing it.

ECPAT International condemns all forms of harm against children, including child abuse, maltreatment, and exploitation, as well as negligence which could result in harm. Child abuse occurs when adults or other children hurt anyone under the age of 18, either physically, emotionally, sexually, through neglect, or the failure to take actions to protect from harm. ECPAT is committed to creating and maintaining an environment that promotes the protection of children and promotion of their well-being at all times.

I, _____, as an ECPAT International staff, a contracted individual or a supplier I shall comply with the following, both within and outside working hours, while engaged with ECPAT International. I acknowledge that I have read and I understand the ECPAT International Child Safeguarding Policy, and agree that during my association with ECPAT International,

I WILL:

- ▶ Behave in a manner that is consistent with the child safeguarding principles of ECPAT International such as 'do no harm', best interests of the child, survivor-centred, etc.
- ▶ Treat all children equally and with respect, regardless of ethnicity, gender, language, religion, political or other opinions, national or social origin, property, disability, birth, or other status.
- ▶ Provide a friendly, inclusive, safe and empowering environment for all children, and others associated with ECPAT International.
- ▶ Maintain behaviours and appearances that are consistent with ECPAT International's values and demonstrate respect for children and the communities they come from.
- ▶ Respect differences but challenge all practices which cause harm to children.
- ▶ Encourage open communication between all children, young people, parents, staff, and others, and facilitate processes where children and young people can safely participate in the decisions that affect them.
- ▶ Be transparent in my actions and whereabouts.
- ▶ Take responsibility for ensuring I am accountable and do not place myself in positions where there is a risk of allegations being made. Wherever possible, I will ensure that another adult is present when I am working in the proximity of children. I will discuss other measures as necessary with the ECPAT International Safeguarding Focal Point.
- ▶ Self-assess my behaviour, actions, and language, and the impact they can have on children. I will also self-assess my relationships with children and how I engage with them.
- ▶ Ensure that children are safe when accompanying them in events, including during overnight stays in accommodation. This includes staying on the same floor with them, but not staying in the same room.
- ▶ Report any concerns or suspicions I may have about the safety of a child, or the actions or behaviour of a colleague or other persons associated with ECPAT, using ECPAT International child safeguarding reporting mechanisms. I understand that it is not my role to determine whether something constitutes abuse and I should report any and all concerns. As long as reports are made in good faith, and are not malicious, I will not face negative consequences from reporting.
- ▶ Keep confidential all information that I am party to regarding child safeguarding incidents; disclosing and discussing information only with the ECPAT International Safeguarding Focal Point or other parties as designated by the Focal Point and/or according to reporting procedures.
- ▶ Comply with all relevant Thai legislation and legislation of the location where I work, including labour laws in relation to child labour¹ and other child welfare issues.
- ▶ Immediately disclose all charges, convictions and other exploitation and abuse and policy non-compliance in relation to myself, in accordance with appropriate procedures.

I WILL NOT:

- ▶ Engage in behaviour that is intended to or can shame, humiliate, belittle, or degrade children. I will not hit or physically assault children. This includes refraining from physical punishment or discipline of children.
- ▶ Use inappropriate, offensive, harassing, abusive, sexually provocative, demeaning, culturally inappropriate or discriminatory language when speaking with a child. Behave provocatively or inappropriately with a child. Hold, kiss, cuddle or touch a child in an inappropriate, unnecessary, or culturally insensitive way.
- ▶ Engage in any sexual behaviour with children or develop relationships with children that may be deemed exploitative or abusive. Not knowing the age of the person is never an excuse.
- ▶ Invite unaccompanied children into my home, unless they are at immediate risk of injury or in physical danger.
- ▶ Seek to make contact and/or spend time with any child that I come into contact with as a representative of ECPAT International outside of the designated times and activities set for performing my role.
- ▶ Act in a way that shows unfair and differential treatment of children.
- ▶ Use any computer, mobile phone, video, or digital camera or ECPAT digital spaces and tools to exploit, harass or harm children.
- ▶ Take identifiable images or recordings of children. If this is necessary for a project or an activity, I will follow ECPAT International Child Safeguarding Procedures and related processes.
- ▶ Access child sexual abuse material through any medium (see also 'Use of Children's Images' below). I will always follow the "Use of Children's Images" guidelines in this Code of Conduct.
- ▶ Participate in behaviour with children that is illegal, unsafe, or abusive.
- ▶ Hire children to perform domestic labour or any other forms of labour regardless of the local practices and legislation.
- ▶ Participate in the exploitation of children in any manner, including entering an establishment, such as a bar, where children are being sexually exploited.
- ▶ Release or discuss any personal confidential information about suspected or proven child abuse or safeguarding incidents other than with the ECPAT International Child Safeguarding Focal Point and other parties as designated by them and according to reporting procedures.

I understand that the onus is on me, as a person engaged or associated with ECPAT International, to use common sense and avoid actions or behaviours that could possibly result in the harm of a child, or even be construed by others as child abuse, when engaging in ECPAT International activities or events. It is my responsibility to adhere to the Code of Conduct at all times – if I am unsure about something, I must seek clarification from the Safeguarding Focal Point or my manager or point of contact.

I have read and understand the ECPAT International Child Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct. I am aware that ECPAT International expects me to always uphold the standards of behaviour described in the Code of Conduct above. I also understand that disciplinary measures and legal steps will be taken if I am found to be in breach of the Code of Conduct.

Signature.....

Name.....

Date ____ / ____ / ____

