01 Safeguarding and Child Protection

Version 1.0

Scope: WCA directors, personnel, associates and subcontractors, as applicable to their work.

Purpose

Protect children and adults at risk in consultancy, training, research and online activities.

Policy commitment

The welfare of children takes priority. Abuse, exploitation, grooming and inappropriate contact are prohibited.

Implementation

Assess safeguarding risks before each engagement; agree reporting routes with host organisations; undertake legally appropriate vetting and training before assigning relevant work. Avoid unsupervised contact unless authorised and risk assessed.

Reporting and accountability

Report concerns immediately to the designated safeguarding lead or local statutory authority where appropriate. In immediate danger contact emergency services. Record facts securely; do not investigate allegations independently. The director must appoint a safeguarding lead and alternative reporting route before relevant work begins.