



Child Protection Policy

Introduction

HIMILO Foundation in Netherlands is a non-profit organization which was established in 2006, and is member of FSAN (Federation of Somali Association in Netherlands). HIMILO is highly committed to the fight against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) & strongly believes that FGM is a severe violation of the human rights and has zero tolerance for any kind of violence against children. Respect and protection of the human rights are a major concern for Himilo and are high on the agenda. Not only are the respect and protection of human rights main goals of Himilo, but they are also Himilo work principles. In line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (OHCHR), all our activities are implemented in the respect of the child, providing a safe environment and ensuring protection anytime Himilo is involved with minors.

Purpose

This policy aims to protect the children against any abuse in the delivery of our programs and to provide the definitions and the principles of our organization. This policy also affirms Himilo commitment to the respect and protection of the child rights, stressing the responsibilities of our organization and ensuring the safety and reliability of our programs.

Scope

This policy applies to all project staff and to any person who works together with Himilo, both as an external contractor and as a member of the organization. It also applies to partners, community-based organizations and volunteers, such as Change makers, FGM key-figures/cultural mediators and other NGO's engaged.

Commitment

Himilo is highly committed to the protection of the children against all kind of abuse and violence. When children cannot come up for their rights, Himilo will; and will provide the measures to prevent any harm or damage to the children. When children are even more vulnerable because of dysfunctional families or social/cultural discrimination, Himilo will provide higher standard of protection.

Principles

The Himilo Child Protection Policy is based on four main principles:

1. Child Rights: Himilo programs are driven by our commitment to the child rights. We strongly believe that all children have the right to live free from any fear or threat for abuse as outlined in the United Nations Convention Rights of the Child (OHCHR). Himilo is determined to apply this principle to all programs and activities which are implemented, at any time.
2. Gender equalities: Himilo believes in the equal value and rights of boys and girls. Himilo does not tolerate any kind of gender discrimination or gender violence and it is committed to the protection of the girl rights. Himilo will be vigilant against any sexist treatment and against any practice which damages or disadvantages girls.
3. Information and education on the child rights: Himilo will be responsible for the information and education of Himilo staff /volunteers and whoever works together with us. This information and education entails respect and protection of all human rights, with special attention for women and children. Staff, volunteers, partners, contractors and any other representative of Himilo will be informed and educated in the respect and protection of the child rights within the organization.
4. Risk management and privacy: Himilo will ensure that any potential risk for children is identified and taken on time. Himilo will also take care of the privacy of the children, forbidding the publication of any picture and any other private information without a recognized consensus of all parts involved.



Implementation

Information on child protection policy:

All people working with Himilo, both internal as external actors, are well informed about our child protection policy and educated in the respect and protection of the child rights. This by means of interviews, publications, information meetings and networking.

Safe recruiting:

Himilo recruits carefully its employees and selects safely any volunteer or partner who works directly with children. Himilo requires that any person directly involved in work with children owns a certificate of good conduct from the government (*Verklaring Van Goed Gedrag*).

Photos and data protection:

Himilo will not allow any person working with Himilo to publish photos and images about the children. Himilo will also strictly control that no personal and sensitive information about the children is published or passed to other people.

Risk management:

Himilo carefully oversees all the programs and activities involving minors in order to control any potential risk of abuse. Strict measures of control are taken and ensure the safety of the children. Any real and possible risk are monitored and reported.

This Policy has been developed board members of Himilo.