



Albanian National Orphans Association

Child Protection Policy

Albanian National Orphans Association (ANOVA)

20th of May 2023



Albanian National Orphans Association

1. Preamble

Albanian National Orphans Association (ANOA) is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for all children under its care. This Child Protection Policy is established to ensure the rights and protection of children are upheld in accordance with the laws and principles outlined in the Albanian legal framework. The purpose of this policy is to prevent and respond to any form of violence, abuse, exploitation, neglect, or discrimination that may affect children within ANOA.

2. Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, the following terms have the meanings ascribed to them in the relevant Albanian laws:

Violence against the child: Encompasses any intentional act causing physical or mental violence, injury, abuse, neglect, negligent treatment, maltreatment, or exploitation, including sexual abuse.

Child: Any person under 18 years of age.

Unaccompanied child: A child separated from both parents or other relatives, not being cared for by an adult person.

Child in need of protection: A person under 18 years of age who may be a victim of abuse, neglect, exploitation, discrimination, violence, or any criminal activity.

Council: Refers to the National Council for the Rights and Protection of the Child.

Child protection: The prevention of and response to violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect of the child, including kidnapping, sexual abuse, trafficking, and child labor.



Corporal punishment: Any form of punishment using physical force to cause pain or discomfort to the child.

Child neglect: The omission, whether intentional or not, by a person responsible for the upbringing, care, or education of the child, jeopardizing the life, physical and mental well-being, and development of the child.

Harmful content for children: Any material published on the internet threatening the dignity and rights of the child.

Council: The National Council for the Rights and Protection of the Child.

Child protection system: A framework where various institutions cooperate, divide responsibilities, and coordinate to ensure child protection.

School psycho-social service: A service providing support to pupils and employees of educational institutions for the identification and handling of various problems, based on the psycho-social needs of the school community.

Procedural representative: The person assigned by the proceeding authority from the list provided by the Child Protection Unit.

3. Principles

ANOA adheres to the following principles in its commitment to child protection:

a. Best Interests of the Child: All decisions and actions will be guided by the best interests of the child, ensuring their well-being and development.



Albanian National Orphans Association

b. **Non-Discrimination:** ANOA will not discriminate against any child based on race, color, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic, or social origin, property, disability, birth, or other status.

c. **Child Participation:** ANOA recognizes the right of children to express their views on all matters affecting them and will provide opportunities for their voices to be heard in decisions that concern them.

d. **Confidentiality and Privacy:** ANOA is committed to maintaining the confidentiality and privacy of children, ensuring that sensitive information is only shared on a need-to-know basis.

e. **Accountability and Responsibility:** ANOA takes responsibility for preventing harm to children and is accountable for its actions and decisions.

f. **Safe Recruitment and Training:** ANOA will implement rigorous recruitment procedures to ensure the suitability of staff and volunteers working with children. Training on child protection will be provided regularly to all personnel.

4. Prevention and Reporting

a. ANOA will establish and communicate clear guidelines on acceptable behavior and conduct for all staff, volunteers, and visitors.

b. Any suspicion or evidence of violence, abuse, exploitation, neglect, or discrimination against a child must be reported immediately to the designated Child Protection Focal Point within ANOA.

c. ANOA will cooperate with the relevant authorities and agencies, including the State Agency for the Rights and Protection of the Child, in investigating and responding to any allegations or incidents.

5. Response and Support



Albanian National Orphans Association

- a. ANOA will provide appropriate support and counseling to children who have experienced violence, abuse, or neglect, in collaboration with relevant professionals and authorities.
- b. ANOA will ensure that children have access to medical care, legal assistance, and psychosocial support as needed.

6. Advocacy and Awareness

- a. ANOA will actively engage in advocacy for child protection issues at the local, regional, and national levels.
- b. ANOA will raise awareness within the organization and the community about child protection rights, policies, and procedures.

7. Review and Monitoring

- a. The Child Protection Policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure its effectiveness and compliance with relevant laws and regulations.
- b. ANOA will monitor the implementation of the policy and take corrective action as necessary.

8. Communication

- a. ANOA will communicate the Child Protection Policy to all staff, volunteers, beneficiaries, and other relevant stakeholders.
- b. ANOA will encourage an open and transparent culture where concerns about child protection can be raised without fear of reprisal.

9. Reporting Mechanism



- a. ANOA will establish a clear and accessible reporting mechanism for concerns or incidents related to child protection.
- b. ANOA will ensure that all staff and volunteers are aware of the reporting mechanism and how to use it.

10. Collaboration with External Entities

- a. ANOA will collaborate with governmental agencies, local government bodies, public and non-public service providers, community groups, and the National Council for the Rights and Protection of the Child to strengthen the overall child protection system.
- b. ANOA will participate in the case referral system to ensure effective cooperation and coordination in child protection efforts.

11. Training and Capacity Building

- a. ANOA will provide regular training on child protection to all staff and volunteers, equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills to fulfill their roles responsibly.
- b. ANOA will invest in ongoing capacity building to stay informed about best practices in child protection.

12. Implementation

This Child Protection Policy shall come into effect upon approval by the governing body of ANOA. All staff, volunteers, and stakeholders are expected to comply with the provisions of this policy. ANOA commits to taking appropriate action against any individual found to have violated the Child Protection Policy.



Albanian National Orphans Association

13. Review and Amendments

This Child Protection Policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure its relevance and effectiveness. Amendments may be made as needed, and the updated policy will be communicated to all relevant parties.

14. Conclusion

ANOA is committed to creating a protective environment for children, and this policy reflects our dedication to their well-being. Through adherence to the principles outlined in this policy, ANOA aims to contribute to the broader efforts of promoting and safeguarding the rights and protection of children in Albania.

20th of May 2023

LULZIM Resuli

President of Albanian National Orphans Association

