



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Educate Girls has a commitment to the prevention of child abuse and the protection of children. The abuse and exploitation of children happens in all countries and societies across the world. This policy sets out common values, principles, and beliefs and describes the steps that will be taken in meeting our commitment to protect children. The policy has been adopted and integrated into Educate Girls' training, orientation and volunteer strategies.

Our values, principles and beliefs

- All child abuse involves the abuse of children's rights.
- All children have equal rights to protection from abuse and exploitation.
- The situation of all children must be improved through promotion of their rights as set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Child abuse is never acceptable
- We have a commitment to protecting children with/ for whom we work
- When we work through partners, they have a responsibility to meet minimum standards of protection for children in their programs.

What we will do

We will meet our commitment to protect children from abuse through the following means:

1. **Awareness**: we will ensure that all staff, volunteers and others are aware of the problem of child abuse and the risks to children.
2. **Prevention**: we will ensure, through awareness and good practice, that staff and others minimize the risks to children.
3. **Reporting**: we will ensure that staff and others are clear what steps to take where concerns arise regarding the safety of children.
4. **Responding**: we will ensure that action is taken to support and protect children where concerns arise regarding possible abuse.

In order that the above standards of reporting and responding are met Educate Girls staff, volunteers and partners:

- take positive steps to ensure the protection of children who are the subject of any concern
- support children, staff or other adults who raise concerns or who are the subject of concerns
- act appropriately and effectively in instigating or co-operating with any subsequent process of investigation
- are guided through the child protection process by the principle of 'best interests of 'the child'
- listen to and takes seriously the views and wishes of children
- work in partnership with parents/carers and/or other professionals to ensure the protection of children.

Our Standard :

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), Article 19 states: "Parties shall protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse."