

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

2025-2030

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1. Introduction

Re-Imagine Europa (RIE) is a Brussels-based Non-Profit Organization founded by President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing to work for a stronger, more competitive and fairer Europe in a future of peace, freedom and social justice for all its citizens. Working with leading scientists and an extended network of knowledge and strategic partners, we conduct **research on narratives, public discourse, disinformation, and polarization**. RIE has a strong non-partisan policy and works with a wide range of public and private entities, with the support of a Board composed of eminent personalities from academia, business, labor unions, and political leaders from a wide political spectrum. Our mission is to **develop evidence-based strategies that bridge divides and foster societal resilience**.

Re-Imagine Europa's **Child Protection Policy** applies to all its national and international employees, interns, and volunteers; as well as all those acting on behalf of RIE; adults accompanying children to RIE's activities and all individuals participating in RIE's events and meetings involving direct contact with children.

Re-Imagine Europa's Child Protection Policy will be shared with all staff, volunteers and interns of the organization, and made publicly available through the institutional website. All new staff, volunteers or interns of Re-Imagine Europa will receive an introduction to the organization's Child Protection Policy and procedure for reporting within the first month of taking up the position.

2. Principles

Our commitment to safeguarding children is grounded in a comprehensive set of principles that guide all our projects, decisions and activities. We strive to create a safe, inclusive, supportive and nurturing environment where every child can thrive, free from harm or discrimination, by adhering to the following principles:

- Children abuse is never acceptable
- All children have the right to protection, regardless of their race, gender, and socio-demographic status
- Protecting children fundamental rights, established by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, is everyone's responsibility
- Best interest of the child should guide the design of all activities involving children
- Children have the right to be heard in processes that impact their lives
- All children have the right to a safe and secure digital environment, protected from cyberbullying, manipulation, exposure to harmful content, and any type of online exploitation
- We recognize that ensuring the well-being and safety of children is an evolving challenge that requires constant learning, adaptability and collaboration with all stakeholders

3. Child Protection Guidelines

- 1) All employees, interns or volunteers participating in projects that imply direct work with children will be asked to sign Re-Imagine Europa's *Children Protection Code of Conduct*.
- 2) For staff, interns and volunteers who may have direct, unsupervised access to children, all work interviews will include a discussion on RIE's Child Protection Policy, led by the Human Resources Director or the designated Child Protection Focal Person (CPFP).
- 3) The organization will introduce specific Child Protection Procedures in any project or initiative with direct participation of children to make sure that its operations do not harm children nor expose them to the risk of any harm or abuse.
- 4) As an organization working mostly in research projects, RIE will promote research to protect children's rights and welfare, including digital protection rights, and to work towards the inclusion of children as a specific sociodemographic group of study when relevant and feasible within the scope of the project.
- 5) RIE will protect the privacy of children's personal data. Written consent from a parent or guardian will be required whenever a child's face is visible in any graphic material disseminated by RIE, to ensure that children's identities are protected and that they are not exposed to any potential harm due to our actions.
- 6) If any concerns about child abuse arise within the organization, it must be immediately raised in writing to the Manager and/or head of Human Resources, that will act as RIE's Child Protection Focal Person (CPFP), and to the CEO. The CPFP will address the concerns arisen and adopt the necessary measures with due diligence and in a confidential manner that does not harm the victim or the person reporting the children's harm or abuse.
- 7) Re-Imagine Europa's Child Protection Policy will be reviewed and updated if necessary by the Steering Committee. Any review will be communicated to all the organization's staff, interns and volunteers, as well as the Advisory Board.

DEFINITIONS

Child - In line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), and for the purposes of this Policy, a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years. (UNCRC Article 1).

Child abuse – Any forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power, following the definition of the World Health Organization (WHO).

Child protection – Guidelines and measures to protect children from any abuse or neglect.

Direct contact with children – Physical presence of children in activities or events organized by Re-Imagine Europa, including workshops or conferences.

Indirect contact with children – Having access to children's private information in the context of Re-Imagine Europa's work, such as children's names, ages, addresses, location or images.

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