



občina **LENDAVA**
LENDAVA község

SINAGOGA

CENTER JUDOVSKE KULTURNE
DEDIŠČINE SINAGOGA MARIBOR

Child protection policy

This document is the Child protection policy of the project consortium for the *Never Forget - Remembering the Holocaust and building tolerance and solidarity in the EU* project (acronym: *Never Forget*), which will be followed by all members of the consortium and implemented by those in position of leadership within the organisations.

The consortium consists of the following members: Židovska općina Čakovec, Center judovske kulturne dediščine Sinagoga Maribor and Občina Lendava.

The Child protection policy ensures legal and professional guidelines for all employees, volunteers and others who come in the contact with children due to their association to the members of the project consortium with the purpose of protecting children (any person under the age of 18) and youth from any form of physical or emotional violence, harm or abuse, neglect, maltreatment or exploitation, always taking their best interest into consideration.

The purpose and scope of this policy statement:

In actions concerning children and youth, the project consortium will always adhere to the fundamental international standards guaranteed by the Convention of the Right of Children whereby the best interests of the child will be of paramount consideration, especially when implementing the project.

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect children and young people who receive our services from harm;
- to provide staff and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of the members of the project consortium, including senior managers, board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers or students.



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Legal framework:

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seek to protect children in Croatia, Slovenia and the European Union. It reflects upon the *Keeping Children Safe Child Safeguarding Standards*.

The values and principles protected by Child protection policy are as follows:

- Ensuring that all activities involving children and youth are guided by their best interest;
- Ensuring that children and youth are treated with respect and dignity without discrimination on any grounds such as gender, race, color or ethnic origin, age, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, socioeconomic status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or other grounds;
- Ensuring that employees, volunteers and others who come in the contact with children are accountable for the safety, health and well-being of children and youth;
- Ensuring respect of children and youth privacy and the confidentiality of all information;
- Ensuring that all actions and activities concerning children and youth are respected with the principles of the Convention of the Rights of Children, including other international and national standards which promote respect for the rights of children;
- Ensuring the right of children and youth to be heard and to have their views taken into account;
- Ensuring that employees, volunteers and others who come in the contact with children report any form of child abuse.

Code of conduct:

The Child protection policy prescribes the obligations and responsibilities of employees, volunteers and others who come in contact with children due to their association to the *Never Forget* project.

Employees, volunteers and others who come in contact with children due to their association to the project consortium must always:

- Report and record any form of child abuse or concerns relating to the safety of child or youth;
- Plan and organize the work and the workplace so as to eliminate risks to children and youth and to always be aware of situation that may present a risk for children and youth;



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- Be involved and transparent whilst working with children;
- Ensure that personal data of children and their families are confidential and fully respected;
- Encourage and empower children and youth to feedback on their experiences, to share their opinions and concerns, including raising awareness about their rights and acceptable and unacceptable behavior.

Employees, volunteers and external associates of the members of the project consortium shall never:

- In any form abuse (physically, emotionally, sexually) a child and young persons, that is exploit and neglect the needs of children and youth, more precisely:
 - A. To hit or otherwise physically injure children and young persons, including the potential risk of physical injury, the consequences of which may or may not be apparent;
 - B. Humiliate, belittle or degrade children, or otherwise apply any form of emotional abuse;
 - C. Physically behave in an inappropriate or sexually provocative manner;
 - D. Have unnecessary physical contact with children and treat children too personally;
 - E. Develop such a relationship with children that could in any way be considered exploitative or abusive.
- Use language expressions, make suggestions, or offer advice to children which are inappropriate, offensive or in any way degrading;
- Not to report or participate in the unlawful, dangerous or abusive behavior of children;
- To discriminate, treat differently or favor certain children, excluding other;
- Participate in the behavior of children and youth which are considered illegal, unsafe or considered as abuse.

We will seek to keep children and youth safe by:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them;
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers;
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, continual training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behavior codes confidently and competently;
- Recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary background checks are made (vetting);
- Recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance;
- Sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families;



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- Using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, youth, parents, families and carers appropriately;
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately;
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise;
- Building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, youth and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

The project consortium will take all necessary measures to protect the rights of the children and youth from all forms of physical or emotional violence, harm or abuse, neglect, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse by superiors, business associates and persons with whom children and young people regularly come in contact.

Members of the consortium are not law enforcement agencies or organizations and do not have the expertise to investigate or deal with allegations of child abuse. Their responsibility is to take action to ensure the safety of the child by passing relevant information to the appropriate authorities.

On behalf of the consortium, Židovska općina Čakovec will assess and review the security measures so that the implementation of child and youth protection policies and procedures is monitored on a regular basis. It shall carry out an internal audit once a year using an audit tool to check progress in achieving child and youth safety.



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