

MADE IN THE STREETS – CHILD PROTECTION POLICY (v1.1)

JOIN US IN PROTECTING CHILDREN

As the mission travel and tourism industry expands, the opportunities for child sex offenders to exploit boys and girls has increased. No country or child is immune to this ever-growing risk.

The nonprofit, missions, and mission travel industries are in a unique position to work with very vulnerable children - and to prevent the sexual exploitation of children. Along with intergovernmental bodies, national governments, non-government organizations and civil society organizations, we have both a legal obligation and moral imperative to take an active role in eradicating this crime and protecting children from harm.

Child Protection Policies at MADE IN THE STREETS

- Trip participants¹ will not be alone with one or more child(ren) who are not part of their immediate or extended family, nor will they take one or more child(ren) into a private place out of view of other adults.
- Trip participants will follow the “two-adult” rule, wherein at least two adults are present and seen at all activities where children are involved.
- Trip participants will not encourage or force a child to sit in their lap.
- Trip participants need to be cognizant of the fact that they may interact with children who, because of circumstances and traumas they may have experienced, may seek to obtain special attention from a visiting trip participant. In this situation, the adult is responsible for ensuring all interactions are appropriate even when faced with the inappropriate actions of a child.
- Trip participants will avoid placing themselves in compromising or vulnerable positions.
- Trip participants will treat all children with dignity and respect.
- MADE IN THE STREETS is committed to protecting children in its care and recognizes that appropriate touch is part of a positive, nurturing environment. The following guidelines are to be carefully followed by MADE IN THE STREETS staff and volunteers. Using good judgment, the following are appropriate ways to touch:
 - An arm around the shoulder
 - Walking hand in hand
 - Carrying small children piggy-back
 - Holding babies and toddlers
 - Short congratulatory or greeting hugs
 - A brief, assuring pat on the back or shoulder
 - Handshakes, high-fives, and knuckles

The following are actions that should NEVER be taken:

- Never touch a child in anger or disgust
- Never touch a child in any manner that may be construed as sexually suggestive
- Never touch a child between the navel and the knee
- Never touch a child's private parts
- Physical contact in any form should be above reproach. The personal behavior of staff members and volunteers must foster trust at all times.
- Do not force physical contact, touch, or affection on any child. A child's preference not to be touched must be respected.
- Reasonable Behavior is expected at all times. These rules are not exhaustive. They should be understood to also include the prohibition of any behavior that a reasonable person would consider inappropriate in the presence of a child. MADE IN THE STREETS reserves the right to judge any and all behaviors that come into question, and to take appropriate action.
- Inappropriate behavior toward children, including failure to adhere to MADE IN THE STREETS' policies and procedures, is grounds for discipline, up to and including removal of trip participant from any and all ministry activities and return back home at the trip participant's expense.

¹ Trip Participants includes all types of visitors to MITS, including but not limited to interns, mission trips participants, and other volunteers.

Child Abuse Prevention

MADE IN THE STREETS supports and maintains a zero-tolerance policy against child abuse and neglect. Child abuse and neglect include physical or mental injury, sexual abuse, negligent treatment, or maltreatment. Sexual abuse is defined as the use, persuasion, or coercion of any child to engage in any sexually explicit conduct (or any simulation of such conduct) for the purpose of producing any visual depiction of such conduct or rape, molestation, prostitution, or incest with children.

- It is against the law² and against MADE IN THE STREETS policy for any staff or volunteer, male or female, to physically, sexually, or mentally abuse or neglect any child.
- MADE IN THE STREETS reserves the right to refuse participation on a mission trip or to dismiss any trip leader or trip participant who is or has been convicted of child abuse or neglect of any child.
- MADE IN THE STREETS will neither condone nor tolerate:
 - Infliction of bodily injury upon any child, or any physically or sexually abusive behavior towards a child.

- Physical neglect of children, including failure to provide adequate safety measures, care, and supervision.
- Emotional mistreatment of children, including verbal abuse and/or verbal attacks.

2Children Act (2012) revised 2018 / www.kenyalaw.org

Reporting Child Abuse

- With the knowledge that the welfare of the children we serve must come first, the trip leader and trip participants are responsible for reporting suspected or known abuse when it has either been observed or brought to your attention.
- All such suspected abuse will be reported immediately to the in-country staff and trip leader. They will then inform MADE IN THE STREETS staff who will be responsible for taking the appropriate action in reporting the matter to the local authorities and decide on other appropriate steps. MADE IN THE STREETS staff will report all allegations of abuse to the Executive Director.
- If there is an allegation of abuse by a trip leader, the in-country staff will immediately report to the Executive Director by phone, who will then take the same action as listed above. The trip leader will be removed from the trip and sent back home at his or her expense.
- An alleged perpetrator of child abuse will be suspended from his/her normal relationship with MADE IN THE STREETS during investigation of allegations – including monthly sponsorship and other ongoing donations and volunteer service.
- An allegation of child abuse is a serious issue. In following MADE IN THE STREETS' Child Protection Policies, it is essential that all parties maintain confidentiality. Sharing of information, which could identify a child or an alleged perpetrator, should be purely on a “need to know” basis. Unless abuse has actually been proven to have occurred, one must always refer to “alleged abuse.”

Additional US-Based Child Protection Policies (re: monthly sponsorships)

- All sponsors are reviewed and screened by MITS staff. MITS staff has final determination regarding sponsorship, including but not limited to assignment of specific students.
- Background checks are required for all volunteers 18 and over who visit MITS in Kenya – including, but not limited to interns, mission trip participants, mission specialists, and visitors.
- Sponsors may visit with a specific sponsored student(s) no more than once per calendar year. Visits can only occur on MITS property, or in the case of a MITS graduate, with the accompaniment of a MITS staff member.
- Sponsors may not send or personally deliver gifts to specific students but are encouraged to support programs benefiting all MITS students.
- The relationship between the sponsor and the sponsored student is monitored to ensure the protection of each student.

- MITS staff reviews letters/emails written from/to sponsored students to/from sponsors to help ensure the appropriateness of the correspondence and that no contact information is shared.
- Unsupervised communication between the sponsored student (and any of their family members) and the sponsor is strictly prohibited. This includes contact via telephone or any social networking application, including but not limited to, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Skype and email.