

Child protection training for the staff of Hungarian Interchurch Aid

Course of the training: the training takes the form of a video training. New employees are required to complete the video training during their first three months (probationary period) after starting work, which ends with completing a test.

If, after the training, the staff member has any questions about the policy, he or she can contact the Child Safeguarding Focal Point, whose contact details must be given to all staff members.

The aim of the training: to familiarise the employee with the concepts and forms of child rights and child abuse, so that the employee is able to recognise the signs of abuse, to learn about the Child Safeguarding policy, its steps, the rules of the Code of Conduct and how to accept them

Objectives to be achieved by the end of the training:

- ✓ All staff members will be able to recognise the signs of child abuse and act according to the protocol of the Child Safeguarding Policy.
- ✓ The staff member will be fully aware of the standards of behaviour set out in the code of conduct which apply to him/her.
- ✓ Staff should know exactly what to do if they suspect that a member of staff has breached the code of conduct or has abused a child in the course of their work.

Training topics:

1. Children's rights – based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

As part of the training, participants learn about the main rights of the child and the concept of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989, is the core set of children's rights. The Convention is a set of minimum rights that signatory states must ensure for children, such as the rights to life, development, protection and participation in society. Signatory States have an obligation to ensure that the Convention is implemented. The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the most widely accepted and supported human rights convention in the world. Hungary signed it and ratified it in 1991 and proclaimed it by Act LXIV of 1991. Hungary's Fundamental Law also contains a provision on the protection of children: Hungary takes special measures to protect families, children, women, the

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elderly and the disabled. The narrower scope of children's rights is covered by Act XXXI of 1997 on the Protection of Children and Guardianship Administration. In addition, a number of sectoral laws contain provisions relating to children's rights.

Children's rights can be grouped as follows i.e. by the "3P model":

Protection

Protection means the protection of the safety of children, including protection against all forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation. This includes, for example, special protection for refugee children, prohibition of participation in war conflicts, sexual exploitation and child labour.

Provision of care (Provision)

The provision of basic necessities of life required for children's healthy physical and mental development, such as adequate nutrition and health care, or the right to a basic education.

Participation

As children develop their abilities, they become increasingly capable of making decisions and actively participating in the life of a community. The Convention aims to guarantee them freedom of information, freedom of thought, religion, conscience, and freedom of expression, as well as the right to freedom of association.

The Convention imposes obligations on the States that have signed it. In addition to accepting its content as binding on them, signatory states - including Hungary - must regularly report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on compliance with the Convention. The Committee also hears NGOs and children, in addition to governments.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child sets out provisions primarily for the state, but we all have a responsibility to promote and protect children's rights - the family, civil society, the media, educators and the private sector. The Convention specifically recognises the primary role, rights and duties of parents and guardians in the education of children and in the promotion and protection of their rights.

Full text of the Convention in Hungarian: <https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=99100064.tv>

2. Introduction to the concept of endangerment

Endangerment is a condition resulting from an act, omission or circumstance by a child or another person which hinders or prevents the child's physical, mental, emotional or moral development.

Endangered child:

- A child who is subjected to repeated or persistent physical or psychological abuse, sexual abuse, violence, neglect in his or her family or environment and/or whose development is adversely affected by his or her family or immediate environment.

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- His or her physical or psychological development is hindered or impaired by harmful environmental influences or poor personal relationships.

Acute emergency:

- A condition arising from conduct, omission or circumstance by a child or other person in which the situation of the child/pregnant mother requires immediate action

3. Introduction to the concept and forms of child abuse

One of the aims of the training is to enable employees to identify and recognise the different types of abuse.

Child abuse and neglect (maltreatment) includes all forms of physical and/or emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, commercial or other forms of exploitation that result in actual or potential harm to the health, survival, development or dignity of the child in the context of a relationship based on responsibility, trust or power. Maltreatment may be physical, emotional, sexual or other and may take the form of active (acting) or passive (neglect) behaviour, and may occur within or outside the family.

Forms of child abuse:

- **emotional abuse:** persistent or systematic misuse of a child's emotions, making children feel unworthy, unloved, bullying, mocking, criticising, shaming, making children feel guilty, rejecting, intimidating, isolating, ignoring
- **physical abuse:** corporal punishment, hitting with hands or any other instrument, causing physical injury, hitting, kicking, tying up, locking up, pulling, shaking, throwing, dropping, careless dropping, poisoning, burning, scalding, strangling, etc. Types of physical injuries: bruises to face and body, burns and scalds, fractures, joint injuries, brain and eye injuries, internal injuries, poisoning.

Signs of physical abuse can be:

- Bruising, scarred injury marks,
 - Caressing and touching can cause the child to become frightened, shaken, and defensive.
 - Confused when asked about the origin of the wound, tells contradictory stories.
 - Parents take him to the doctor late or not at all
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- **sexual abuse:** forcing a child or young person to engage in sexual activities, involving the child in the viewing or making of pornographic material or in watching the sexual activities of an adult
 - **neglect:** any omission or act (whether intentional or resulting from ignorance, carelessness, or indifference) that significantly harms a child's health or slows or impedes

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their development. Neglect can be emotional (e.g., lack of emotional security, stability, loving relationships, emotionally unavailable parents), physical (e.g., lack of meeting basic physical needs, unproviding hygienic conditions, lack of supervision: not feeding the child according to their needs, leaving them alone at home, not providing adequate clean clothing, not dressing them appropriately for the weather, etc.), educational and upbringing neglect (e.g., neglecting compulsory school attendance, ignoring schoolwork and performance problems). This may include not taking the child to the doctor when they are ill, not providing mandatory vaccinations, not taking them for mandatory health checks, not giving them the necessary medication or vitamins.

- **online bullying:** the intentional infliction of repeated and prolonged harm on the internet, which may be intended to humiliate, threaten, ridicule, ostracise, discredit or portray in a negative light. Possible signs may include anxiety, deletion of profile, change in internet use habits, truancy, running away, etc. Examples: posting hurtful, abusive messages on message boards or in personal messages; hacking into an account, creating a fake profile; uploading an offensive photo/video
- **systemic abuse:** Occurs when an activity or system to protect children is non-existent or dysfunctional, contributing to failure to prevent, delay in preventing or ongoing/further harm from child abuse and neglect. Example: Systemic child abuse occurs when the detection or suspicion of abuse is not followed by intervention, i.e. reporting and taking action to assist, protect and investigate the child victim of abuse.
- **Exploitation:** Example: child labour; having the child do work that involves a high risk of harm to the child's education, health or development; sexual exploitation
- **Commercial exploitation:** the use of a child for commercial or sexual activity for the purpose of obtaining money. The exploiter typically recruits the child through deception, false promises (love, relationship security), intimidation, physical and psychological terror or threats of physical and psychological terror. Examples: child prostitution, child pornography, forced pickpocketing, forced begging.

4. How the child protection detection and signalling system works

The training will give a brief overview of the functioning of the Hungarian child protection system, in particular the functioning of the detection and signalling system and the signalling process, in order to give staff a picture of what happens when a child protection emergency comes to our attention.

Child protection has a detection and signalling system in place to identify and deal quickly and effectively with threats and crisis situations affecting children. The detection and signalling system is a cooperation between sectors, institutions, professionals and individuals, aiming at

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detecting and signalling problems, risk factors and crisis situations, ensuring continuous cooperation and information flow in order to solve the problems of individuals and families as soon as possible.

Members of the detection and signalling system:

- health care providers (public health nurse, paediatrician, general practitioner, etc.)
- personal care providers
- public education institutions
- police
- public prosecutor's office
- court
- probation services
- victim support organisations
- refugee reception centres
- associations, foundations, ecclesiastical legal persons
- employment authorities
- correctional institutions
- children's rights representative
- metropolitan, county government offices
- citizens

Their duties and responsibilities:

- they are obliged to report the child's endangerment to the child welfare service,
- they are obliged to initiate official proceedings in the event of serious neglect, abuse, other serious endangering or self-inflicted serious endangering of the child by contacting the child welfare services or the police,
- participate, on request, in case meetings, case conferences, consultations, providing expertise to support the resolution of the case,
- to cooperate and inform each other in order to promote the child's upbringing in the family and to prevent and eliminate the risk of harm.

The members of the signalling system have no discretionary power as to the seriousness of the risk of danger or abuse and are obliged to report suspected cases.

To whom is the signal made?

Family and child welfare services:

The Child Welfare Service is responsible for promoting the upbringing of the child in the family, preventing and eliminating endangerment, organising, operating and coordinating the child protection signalling system. Such services operate in all municipalities.

It monitors the social and family situation of the children living in the municipalities under its authority, their possible needs for social services, sets up and operates a signalling system which makes it possible to identify children at risk, receives signals from members of the signalling

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system, identifies the problems reported and, if there is reason to suspect that the child is at risk, takes measures adapted to the needs of the child and the family.

Using the methods and tools of social work, it promotes the child's physical and mental health and upbringing in the family, prevents the child from becoming vulnerable, eliminates the risk of becoming vulnerable and enhances the return of the child who has been removed from his or her family.

In the event of a report of child abuse, the identity of the person or institution making the report is kept private, so that the family concerned does not know who made the report. The report is made in writing and the person making the report must give the child's exact details, describe the risk factors and circumstances that they have observed, when they occurred and how often. The report should include the actions taken by the person making the report and the steps he or she proposes to take.

5. Purpose, scope and role of the child safeguarding policy within the organisation

Staff should be introduced to the process of developing the child safeguarding policy, its purpose and scope, and the role it plays in their work, how it affects them, why it is important for the organisation to have such a policy.

6. Description of the child protection procedures within the organisation

The Child Safeguarding Policy sets out in detail the steps to be taken within the Organisation if there is a suspicion that a member of staff is in breach of the Code of Conduct.

During the training, this procedure will be explained in detail to employees and volunteers on the basis of the Child Safeguarding Policy.

7. Introduction of the Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct must be read and signed by all employees and volunteers, all are bound by the standards of behaviour it contains and any breach of the Code will result in consequences under employment law.

The Code lists in detail the behaviours expected of employees and those prohibited.

During training, we will explain each rule in detail and provide brief explanations where necessary.

8. Follow-up test:

Employees who have completed the video training are asked to complete a 10-question follow-up test to check that they have familiarised themselves with the content of the

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Hungarian Interchurch Aid is a member of the
actalliance

Policy and have viewed the related training material and mastered the child protection information.

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