

# Oxford Armenia Foundation

## Safeguarding Policy Statement

February 2021



### The Purpose and Scope of This Policy Statement

The Oxford Armenia Foundation (OAF) was established to provide support for vulnerable and disadvantaged children (ages 6 to 18) and young adults in Armenia, with a special focus on the country's rural areas. As of 2018, 23.5% of the population of Armenia lives below the national poverty line. Our long-term goal is to contribute towards poverty relief through advancement of education and training. Our aim is to promote equal access to opportunities in education for children and young adults living in hardship and poverty, primarily (but not limited to) in rural areas and remote communities of Armenia. Finally, it is our priority to provide immediate support and help, along the lines mentioned above, to children and young adults who have been forcefully displaced during or as a result of the recent war in Artsakh/Nagorno-Karabakh.

Vulnerable adults (adults at risk) are defined as any person who is aged 18 years or over and at risk of abuse or neglect because of their needs for care and or support. They may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of themselves, or unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation.

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- To protect children, young people and vulnerable adults who participate in projects, programs and/or activities organised by OAF from harm.
- To provide tutors, as well as children, young people, vulnerable adults and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to anyone who works with the beneficiaries of projects, programs and/or activities organised by OAF.

## Legal Framework

As OAF works with children, young people and vulnerable adults from across the United Kingdom, this policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidelines that seeks to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. A summary of the key legislation is available from [nspcc.org.uk/learning](https://nspcc.org.uk/learning).

## Supporting Documents

This policy statement should be read alongside our organizational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents, including;

- Behaviour Code for Beneficiaries
- Dealing with Disclosures and Concerns about a Child, Young Person or Vulnerable Adult
- Managing Allegations Against Activity Leads/Local Experts
- Parent / Guardian / Carer Responsibilities
- Role Description of the Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Code of Conduct for Activity Leads/Local Experts
- Zero Tolerance Policy
- Safer Recruitment Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Child Protection / Vulnerable Adult Records Retention and Storage Policy
- Code of Conduct for Team Members
- Induction, Training, Supervision and Support
- Health and Safety Policy
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

## We believe that:

- Children, young people and vulnerable adults should never experience abuse of any kind.
- We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults, to keep them safe and to practice in a way that protects them.

## We recognise that:

- The welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take.
- All children, young people and vulnerable adults, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, gender, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Some children, young people and adults are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.

- Working in partnership with children, young people, vulnerable adults, their parents, guardians, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting children's, young people's and vulnerable adult's welfare.

## We will seek to keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe by:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them.
- Appointing a Designated Safeguarding Lead for children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and codes of conduct.
- Providing effective management for Activity Leads and partners through support and training so that all Activity Leads and partners know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently.
- 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, young people, vulnerable adults and their parents / guardians / carers via our website.
- Making sure that children, young people, vulnerable adults and their parents / guardians / carers know where to go for help if they have a concern.
- Using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, vulnerable adults, parents, guardians and carers appropriately.
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against Activity Leads, partners and team members appropriately.
- Building a safeguarding culture where Activity Leads, children, young people, vulnerable adults and their parents / guardians / carers, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

# Contact Details

## **OAF Designated Safeguarding Lead**

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## **OAF Board of Trustee responsible for Safeguarding**

Name: Marianna Asatryan

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## **NSPCC Helpline**

0808 800 5000

This policy came into force on 1st February 2021.

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy statement and accompanying procedures were last reviewed on 1st March 2021.

Signed:

MARIANNA ASATRYAN

OAF TRUSTEE