**Child Protection Policy**

Budapest-Józsefvárosi Evangélikus Egyházközség- Dévai Fogadó is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children in its care. It recognises the responsibility to promote safe practice and to protect children from harm, abuse and exploitation. For the purposes of this policy and associated procedures a child is recognised as someone under the age of 18 years.

Child protection policies are designed to prevent child abuse, neglect, exploitation, and other forms of harm to children. To achieve this goal, policies should be informed by evidence-based practices, child rights, and cultural considerations

Children have the right to feel safe, and to be safe and well at all times.

All children are vulnerable. In addition, we often work in contexts where children experience heightened vulnerability or whose own circumstances give rise to additional vulnerability.

We are committed to support child wellbeing and safety and to protect children in our work.

We do not tolerate any form of child abuse, child neglect or child exploitation.

**To support children to be well and safe in our work**

* we place the best interests of the child at the centre of our decision making;
* we value and respect children;
* we provide opportunities for children to engage in activities that are inclusive, meaningful, safe, and educational;
* we implement strategies that minimise the risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation of children;
* we facilitate opportunities for children to build on their strengths and enhance their resilience.
* we contribute to their communities to prevent and reduce their vulnerability.

**Principles**

Our child protection policy is guided by the following principles:

a. The best interests of the child shall be the primary consideration in all actions and decisions.

b. Every child has the right to be protected from harm, exploitation, and abuse.

c. All employees, volunteers, and associates are responsible for the protection of children.

d. Open communication, awareness, and training are essential for preventing child abuse.

**Responsibilities**

a. **Child Protection Officer**: Marianna Csepeli ( e-mail: marianna.csepeli@devaifogado.hu) will be designated as the Child Protection Officer and will be responsible for implementing and monitoring this policy.

b. **Employees and Volunteers**: All employees and volunteers are responsible for adhering to this policy, reporting any concerns of child abuse or neglect, and participating in child protection training.

c. **Mandatory Reporting**: Any individual who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is at risk of harm or is being abused must report it to the appropriate authorities as mandated by law.

**Prevention and Education**

a. We implemented prevention strategies to minimize the risk of child abuse within our organization.

b. Regular child protection training and awareness programs will be conducted for employees and volunteers

**Reporting Procedure**

a. Anyone with concerns about child abuse or neglect must report it immediately to the Child Protection Officer

b. The Child Protection Officer will follow established reporting procedures and, if required, report the concern to the appropriate authorities

**Responding to Allegations**

1. All allegations of child abuse will be taken seriously and investigated promptly and impartially
2. b. Appropriate actions will be taken to protect the child and ensure their well-being.

**Confidentiality** : All information related to child protection concerns will be handled confidentially, on a need-to-know basis, and in compliance with relevant laws

**Review and Revision** :This Child Protection Policy will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis or as needed to ensure its effectiveness and compliance with evolving laws and best practices

**Compliance** : Failure to adhere to this Child Protection Policy may result in disciplinary action, including termination of employment or volunteer services, and legal consequences if applicable

**Contact Information**: Budapest-Józsefvárosi Evangélikus Egyházközség- Dévai Fogadó

This Child Protection Policy will be communicated to all employees, volunteers, and associates of the organization, and they will be required to acknowledge their understanding and commitment to following this policy. Additionally, it should be easily accessible to the public through the organization's website or other means