

INSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION FRAMEWORK OF ATELIER SA NOU VIZE

MOUVEMENT FORCES VIVES, QUARTIER E.D.C., ROSE BELLE

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Institutional Safeguarding and Child Protection Framework

***of* Atelier Sa Nou Vize**

Mouvement Forces Vives, Quartier EDC, Rose Belle

1. Preamble

Mouvement Forces Vives, Quartier EDC, Rose Belle is the registered association under the laws of the Republic of Mauritius. For operational, programmatic and communication purposes, the association conducts its activities under the name Atelier Sa Nou Vize. Any reference in this policy to Atelier Sa Nou Vize shall be understood as a reference to the association Mouvement Forces Vives, Quartier EDC, Rose Belle, its centres, its personnel and its authorised programmes. The organisation affirms that the safety, dignity and wellbeing of every child under its care are of paramount importance. Children have an inherent right to protection from harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation. This policy establishes the principles, responsibilities and procedures that guide the organisation in safeguarding every child entrusted to its care.

2. Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to establish a clear institutional framework that prevents harm, mitigates risk and ensures that concerns are addressed with determination and professionalism. The policy requires all staff, volunteers, partners and visitors to place the safety of the child first. It is aligned with international instruments on child rights, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and relevant Mauritian legislation.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all individuals associated with Atelier Sa Nou Vize. This includes staff, volunteers, consultants, governing board members, project partners, service providers and visitors. Compliance is mandatory.

4. Guiding Principles

Atelier Sa Nou Vize operates according to the following principles.

4.1. Best Interests of the Child

All decisions must prioritise the best interests of the child.

4.2. Zero Tolerance for Abuse

The organisation maintains an uncompromising stance regarding all forms of abuse, including physical, emotional and psychological harm, sexual misconduct, neglect and improper conduct.

4.3. Accountability

Every individual engaged with the organisation is responsible for their behaviour and for reporting any concern immediately.

4.4. Participation of the Child

Children are encouraged to express their views respectfully and their opinions must be taken seriously in decisions that affect them.

4.5. Confidentiality with Duty to Report

Confidentiality must never obstruct the duty to protect a child. All concerns must be reported without delay.

5. Definitions

Child means any person under the age of eighteen. Child abuse refers to any act or omission that causes or threatens to cause harm to a child.

Child protection refers to measures taken to prevent abuse, respond to concerns and maintain a safe environment.

6. Responsibilities

6.1. Executive Director

The Executive Director is the highest authority in safeguarding matters and ensures the full implementation and periodic review of this policy.

6.2. Management of Atelier Sa Nou Vize

Management ensures that all staff and volunteers receive mandatory training, respect the code of conduct and report concerns immediately.

6.3. Staff and Volunteers

Staff and volunteers must uphold the policy, maintain professional boundaries and avoid behaviour that may place a child at risk.

6.4. Partners and Service Providers

External partners must comply with this policy and demonstrate a clear commitment to child protection.

7. Code of Conduct

ll individuals working with children must adhere to the following commitments:

i. Respect every child's dignity.
ii. Maintain appropriate professional boundaries.
iii. Never engage in conduct that may be interpreted as abusive, exploitative or degrading.
iv. Avoid private and unsupervised interactions with a child unless required by duty and authorised by management.
v. Never use physical punishment or humiliating language.
vi. Seek advice when uncertain about the appropriateness of an action.

Breaches of the code of conduct will lead to disciplinary action.

8. Recruitment and Selection

The organisation applies strict recruitment safeguards. These include identity verification, reference checks, and criminal record checks where permitted. No individual may begin working with children without formal approval.

9. Training

All staff and volunteers must undergo child protection training before engaging directly with children. Refresher training will be provided periodically.

10. Reporting and Procedures

Suspicion, disclosure or allegation of abuse must be reported immediately to the designated Manager or to the Executive Director when required. All reports must be documented in writing. Retaliation against individuals who raise concerns will not be tolerated.

11. Response and Case Management

Upon receiving a report, the organisation will assess immediate risks and determine the necessary protective measures. Where a matter involves suspected criminal conduct it will be referred to the relevant authorities. The child's safety, privacy and emotional wellbeing will be prioritised throughout. Support may include psychosocial or medical assistance where necessary.

12. Partnerships and External Engagement

The organisation will collaborate only with partners who demonstrate strong safeguarding commitments. Partnership agreements will contain safeguarding obligations. Failure to respect these standards may result in the suspension or termination of the partnership.

13. Data Protection and Use of Images

The use of photographs, recordings or any representation of a child requires written consent from parents or legal guardians. Child information must be stored securely and disclosed only with approval and a legitimate purpose.

14. Safe Environment

The organisation will ensure that its physical and psychological environment promotes safety. This includes adequate supervision, safe facilities and a culture where concerns may be raised freely.

15. Monitoring and Review

The policy will be reviewed every two years or sooner if legal or contextual changes require it. Feedback from staff, children and partners will inform revisions.

16. Enforcement

Non compliance with this policy may lead to disciplinary measures, termination of engagement or referral to national authorities.

17. Commitment

Atelier Sa Nou Vize affirms its unwavering commitment to the protection of every child. The organisation recognises that safeguarding is a continuous responsibility grounded in vigilance, professionalism and respect for human dignity.

