

**POLICY FOR SAFEGUARDING
THE PROMOTION OF THE
RIGHTS
AND PROTECTION OF
CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE**

Introduction

The Association of Urban Artists and Social Transformation (AAUTS) is committed to promoting and protecting the rights of children and youth, ensuring their best interests in all institutional actions and activities, both internal and external.

The purpose of this document is to provide a set of guiding principles and standards of conduct to promote a safe environment for children and youth.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child upholds the rights and special protections of all persons under the age of eighteen. The term "children" is used to refer to those under eighteen in this document.

This child and youth protection policy also applies to any adult in a vulnerable situation. The Association of Urban Artists and Social Transformation (AAUTS) recognizes the vulnerability and need for protection of children and youth, and that it is important to ensure that the necessary measures and actions are taken at various levels to safeguard the well-being, health, and dignity of children and youth participating in the association's projects, activities, and programs.

In this sense, this Policy outlines the commitment of the Association of Urban Artists and Social Transformation (AAUTS), its members, and its collaborators to protect children and young people from harm, as well as the responsibilities and procedures common to those who have direct contact with children and young people in the context of the actions implemented. This Protection Policy applies to all individuals associated with the Association of Urban Artists and Social Transformation (AAUTS), whether directly or indirectly, such as employees, volunteers, consultants, members, and others. The Association of Urban Artists and Social Transformation (AAUTS) only collaborates with other organizations that come into contact with children and young people if those organizations agree to its standards and principles, which is achieved through the signing of partnership agreements with a specific clause.

Objective of the Child and Youth Protection Policy (PPCJ)

This Policy is intended to serve as a practical guide to protect children and young people from abuse in the activities carried out by the Association of Urban Artists and Social Transformation (AAUTS). It describes a series of general risk management principles and standards of conduct that will be implemented and aimed at reducing the exposure of children and young people to risk and danger. The aim is to:

Protect children and youth from mistreatment and abuse in all types of activities developed by the Association of Urban Artists and Social Transformation (AAUTS). Protect all individuals who contribute to the activities developed by the Association of Urban Artists and Social Transformation (AAUTS), establishing a commitment to explicit guidelines on how they are expected to behave with children and youth and how to act in case of concerns about their safety . Protect the reputation and credibility of the Association of Urban Artists and Social Transformation (AAUTS), its members, and its collaborators, by clarifying the commitment, practices, and rights that guarantee the safety and well-being of children and youth.

Guiding Principles

- The Association of Urban Artists and Social Transformation - AAUTS believes that creating a safe environment for all children and young people requires the cooperation of everyone ;
- The Association of Urban Artists and Social Transformation - AAUTS does not tolerate any type of physical or emotional abuse towards any child or young person and is committed to ensuring that all collaborating staff (paid or unpaid) are made aware of and supported in the development and implementation of this policy;
- The Association of Urban Artists and Social Transformation - AAUTS considers that all adults who come into contact with children and young people have a responsibility to ensure that their rights are respected;
- The Association of Urban Artists and Social Transformation (AAUTS) recognizes that children and young people are individuals with their own rights. This includes the right to access information and services on sexual and reproductive health in a safe and age-appropriate manner.

We believe that when children and young people are denied the right to participate and express themselves, they become more vulnerable.

Contact with Children and Young People

It is important to define what is meant by contact with children and young people: Direct contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults Adults who collaborate with the Association of Urban Artists and Social Transformation - AAUTS may be in the physical presence of a child, young person, or vulnerable person, in the context of the organization's work, whether the contact is occasional or regular, whether short, medium or long term;

- This contact may involve clinical services/care, training, information and education (including peer education) within and outside our facilities or in community settings.
- Direct contact may also involve visits to projects/sites and participation in conferences at local, national, regional and international levels.

Indirect contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults

- Indirect contact includes adults who have access to information about children, young people and vulnerable adults in the context of the organization's work, such as names, locations (addresses of individuals or projects), photographs and case studies and who consult this information without express permission and/or informed consent from legal representatives.
- Provide support/training/funding/hiring to organizations that work "directly" with children, young people and vulnerable adults

Although indirectly, it therefore gives the association responsibility for issues of protection regarding children, young people and vulnerable people.

Risk Protection and Management Rules of Conduct

All individuals who come into contact with children and young people as part of the initiatives developed by the Association of Urban Artists and Social Transformation (AAUTS) must follow the guidelines set out in the Rules of Conduct. Therefore, behaviors such as those defined in the following paragraphs will not be tolerated.

Inappropriate power

Behaviors that reveal a lack of respect or failure to establish appropriate limits:

- Criticize, depreciate or make fun of in a targeted, punctual or continuous manner;
- Making excessive or unreasonable demands;
- Being hostile, verbally abusive, or adopting rejecting or blaming behaviors;

- Act in a coercive or threatening manner;
 - Using discriminatory language based on individual characteristics, such as ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender, culture, and others;
 - Applying any physical or psychological punishment, including social isolation.
- Inappropriate Familiarity Behaviors that reveal inappropriately familiar treatment:
- Giving gifts to a child and/or young person (when this is not the practice with others);
 - Manifest special favors;
 - Allow them to break the rules;
 - Home visits without specific technical objectives or without a caring adult present;
 - Invite children and/or young people to visit your own home;
 - Establish personal contacts (provide personal telephone numbers, exchange telephone contacts, send/receive SMS , emails or others);
 - Establish personal communication using social networking sites

Inappropriate familiarity

Behaviors that reveal treatment with inappropriate familiarity:

- Giving gifts to a child and/or young person (when this is not the practice with others);
- Manifest special favors;
- Allow them to break the rules;
- Home visits without specific technical objectives or without a caring adult present;
- Invite children and/or young people to visit your own home;
- Establish personal contacts (provide personal telephone numbers, exchange telephone contacts, send/receive SMS , emails or others);
- Establish personal communication using websites or social networks.

Appropriate logistics

Situations that require special care, due to their specificity:

- The transportation of a child and/or young person in a private car should not take place unless there is specific permission from the person/institution providing care or in an emergency situation;
- The transportation of children and/or young people must be carried out in safe conditions in accordance with current legislation (appropriate seats, boosters, seat belts, etc.);
- The exposure of the image of the child and/or young person may only occur within a properly framed context and with the authorization of the guardians or legal representatives of the child and/or young person. Appropriate conduct

- Individual moments with children/young people must always take place in an appropriate context, that is, with the knowledge and consent of the caring person/institution, with the knowledge of at least one other member of the Association of Urban Artists and Social Transformation - AAUTS, promoting a safe environment, protecting the privacy and confidentiality of the child or young person.
- In situations of physical contact; these may occur in the case of :
 - Protection from imminent danger to oneself or others;
 - Assessment of illness or injury ;
 - Demand of the activity itself ;
 - Need for comfort and emotional containment

Other considerations

Behavior management practices for children and young people should promote their self-discipline, well-being, and safety. Therefore, the practices adopted cannot involve any form of physical and/or emotional punishment, nor contain hostile, discriminatory, humiliating, or intimidating language. Any interaction with children and/or young people should be cautious, with special attention paid to personal aspects of their lives.

Any practices involving the exposure of children and/or young people to material containing concepts or themes inappropriate for their age group and biopsychosocial development are unacceptable. All individuals who have contact with children and young people within the scope of activities developed by the Association of Urban Artists and Social Transformation (AAUTS) must not, under any circumstances, establish intimate and/or sexual contact or relationships with them. Therefore, any inappropriate or inappropriate touching and/or touching, gestures, out-of-context exposure, verbalization, and/or other forms of communication of a sexual nature are considered sexual misconduct.

All individuals who have contact with children and young people within the scope of the activities developed by the Association of Urban Artists and Social Transformation (AAUTS) are responsible for their actions and for the manner in which they carry them out. It is always important to remember that certain interventions must be documented to safeguard everyone . Such circumstances may result in criminal charges, and the consent of the parties, caregivers , facilitators, and animators is irrelevant .

Access to hygiene

Access to water and hygiene are considered Fundamental Rights by the United Nations. Lack of access can lead to situations of profound embarrassment and inhibition that can constitute forms of psychological abuse, and can also lead to exposure in the eyes of the group that is difficult to repair. An open and respectful attitude is extremely important when discussing matters related to the body, always building calm and organized communication on these topics. Adults must ensure access to necessary consumables (such

as toilet paper, sanitary pads, wipes, etc.) to protect against potential embarrassment due to limited access to hygienic conditions.

Action in Case of Suspicion

Internal procedures

It is everyone's responsibility to report any situation of abuse or mistreatment involving any child or young person. Building a relationship of trust with children and young people that allows them to report any situation of mistreatment or abuse is of utmost importance. This understanding should include the notion that "secrets" should not be kept.

Procedure in case of suspected abuse:

1. Listen without interruptions and do not question the veracity of what is said;
2. Be understanding, but do not give an opinion;
3. Explain the steps to be taken, avoiding making false promises, such as "Don't tell anyone";
4. Share immediately with the local Coordinator and/or Executive Director ;
5. Take notes using the exact words that were conveyed;
6. Pass these notes to the CL and/or DE, signing and dating them;
7. Ensure that the child or young person feels safe during future activities. Children and young people should be advised to keep any threatening messages or compromising images to themselves and report them immediately to a trusted adult (e.g., a parent, teacher, guardian, or coworker).

Any of these procedures must also respect the right to privacy and ensure that the action is taken with the informed consent of legal representatives.

External procedures

- The sanctioning measure for non-compliance with the Policy will be assessed by a Monitoring Committee composed of three independent, impartial and diverse individuals, to be defined by the General Management, who will hear the parties and prepare a report with recommendations to the Executive Management on the incident found;
- The Monitoring Committee will ensure that a complaint is filed with the competent authorities according to the severity of the situation;
- This Commission will directly or indirectly monitor the case, in conjunction with the child or young person's family, ensuring that the process is conducted in a way that guarantees the protection of the child or young person and promotes appropriate conditions for their development;
- The National Directorate will deliberate on the sanctioning measure to be applied to the person(s) targeted by the suspicion, in

accordance with the Human Resources Policy document of the Association of Urban Artists and Social Transformation – AAUTS

Implementation and compliance

- It is the responsibility of the Executive Director (DE) and Local Coordinators (CL) to ensure that the standards mentioned in this document are in force and implemented in accordance with the Child and Youth Protection Policy of the Association of Urban Artists and Social Transformation – AAUTS.
- All adults who collaborate with the Association of Urban Artists and Social Transformation - AAUTS and have contact with children and young people, will have to present at the admission stage and annually, preferably in January, their criminal record (as referred to in Law 113/2009), which will be filed in a specific file at each headquarters of the Association of Urban Artists and Social Transformation - AAUTS;
- or service provision contracts will have a mandatory addendum committing to the Child and Youth Protection Policy, a copy of which is attached to this document;
- It will be mandatory, during the recruitment phase, for collaborators or volunteers, to clarify the Child and Youth Protection Policy in force at the Association of Urban Artists and Social Transformation - AAUTS;
- All people who collaborate with the Association of Urban Artists and Social Transformation - AAUTS, must regularly take part in training and/or awareness-raising activities on the Child and Youth Protection Policy and Children's Rights, including initial training for new professional or volunteer integrations;
- Where sexual and reproductive health services are provided to children, young people and vulnerable adults, it must be ensured that this document is accessible for consultation at the place where the service is provided;
- The Association of Urban Artists and Social Transformation - AAUTS may turn to the regional IPDJ Teams for advice on protocols and, in general, support decisions around the Child and Youth Protection Policy;
- This document should also be translated into English, for consultation by more people and especially for sharing in international partnerships;
- The Child and Youth Protection Policy must be reviewed at least every three years, with reference to the update mentioned in the footnote of the document, and proposed changes must be approved by the National Directorate.

Definitions Child or young person

The Association of Urban Artists and Social Transformation - AAUTS adopts the definition of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, according to which "a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years, unless, in accordance with the law applicable to the child, majority is attributed earlier" (1).

The Association of Urban Artists and Social Transformation (AAUTS) defines "young people" as the age group 10 to 18. Vulnerable adult person - An adult in a vulnerable situation, a citizen whose exercise of citizenship is weakened by deficient physical, mental, or social

conditions. A person whose particular fragility results, in particular, from their age, health status, or disability, as well as from the fact that the type, degree, and duration of the victimization has resulted in injuries with serious consequences for their psychological well-being or their social integration.

Child protection – Child protection is part of child safeguarding and refers to activities undertaken to prevent or stop abuse or maltreatment of children.

Child maltreatment – Defined as all forms of physical and/or emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, commercial or other exploitation that result in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, proper development, or dignity within the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust, or power. Within the broad definition of child maltreatment, five subtypes can be distinguished: physical abuse; sexual abuse; neglect and negligent treatment; and emotional abuse and exploitation (2).

Best interests of the child – This is one of the four general principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which derives from Article 3, which states that "in all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration." Assessing the best interests of a child means evaluating and balancing "all the elements necessary to reach a decision in a specific situation for an individual child or group of children" (3).

Child Safeguarding - Child safeguarding is the responsibility of organizations that work with or are in contact with children to ensure that their activities, programs, and staff do not harm them. This implies that organizations have implemented institutional/internal policies and procedures designed to prevent children from being exposed to the risk of harm and abuse, as well as informing the appropriate authorities of any concerns regarding the safety of children in the communities in which they work. Situations that pose a risk of intentional or unintentional harm.

DECLARATION OF KNOWLEDGE

(Name) Ermelindo Teixeira Vaz Quaresma, NIF 211158909, as an employee of the "Association of Urban Artists and Social Transformation - AAUTS NIPC: 515234869, with registered office at Rua Almeida e Sousa nº 33 CV Dto . 1350 - 008 Lisbon, performing the functions of President/coordinator, declares, in good faith:

- i) Be aware of the Child and Youth Protection Policy
- ii) Be aware of the aforementioned Policy, attached to this declaration;
- iii) Be aware that the Association of Urban Artists and Social Transformation - AAUTS, follows the guidelines of that Policy, which is intended to provide a set of guiding principles and standards of conduct to promote a safe environment for children and young people;

Furthermore, the worker declares that, in the exercise of his/her duties, he/she will fully and scrupulously comply with the determinations resulting from the aforementioned Child and Youth Protection Policy.

Lisbon, September 29, 2025

The President,


