

**Concern Worldwide
Child Safeguarding Statement
April 2019**

Nature of Service:

Concern Worldwide is Ireland's largest humanitarian and development agency, delivering life-saving and life-changing interventions to some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people in over fifty countries since its foundation in 1968.

Within the Republic of Ireland, Concern implements Development Education activities and programmes, the purpose of which is to raise awareness of the root causes of poverty in the countries in which our organisation works. These activities and programmes engage with children and young people (aged 18 years and under) throughout the Republic of Ireland in a number of ways:

- School Talks and Workshops in schools;
- School Workshops held in external venues or Concern premises;
- Transition Year Programme (Work Experience and Academy);
- Concern Debates Programme;
- Trips overseas accompanied by members of Concern staff;
- Communications via email (information requests).

Principles to Safeguard Children and Young People from Harm:

Concern is committed to:

- the protection of children and young people with whom we work;
- promoting the rights and participation of children and young people in activities;
- promoting best practice in adherence to the Children First National Guidance 2017 and to the Children First Act 2015.

Risk Assessment:

Concern has carried out an assessment of any potential of risk of harm to children and young people while engaging with Concern's Development Education activities and programmes within the Republic of Ireland. The areas of risk and the procedures identified to address these areas have been identified, as follows: (*Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment – Development Education Activities – Concern Worldwide, April 2019*)

- 1 Engagement with children and young people;
- 2 Reporting procedures;
- 3 Recruitment and selection of staff and volunteers;
- 4 Information, communication and training.

Procedures:

Procedures have been developed in line with the Children First National Guidance 2017 and the Children First Act 2015 and also with Concern's Code of Conduct and Associated Policies to mitigate against risk of harm. These procedures include:

- provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- management of allegations of misconduct, abuse and neglect of children and young people by our staff and volunteers involved in the activities and programmes;
- reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;
- list of Designated Liaison Person and Mandated Person(s)¹;
- safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers who interact with the children and young people that engage with our activities and programmes;
- procedure for appointing a relevant person.

Implementation:

Concern is committed to the full implementation of the Child Safeguarding Statement and procedures that support our intention to keep children and young people safe from harm.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in December 2020, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: _____



Date: _____

10 July 2019

Dominic MacSorley, Chief Executive Officer
Concern Worldwide
Tel: 01 417 7700

Mandated Person	Email:	Telephone Number:
Bernadette Casey Head of Safeguarding	bernadette.casey@concern.net safeguarding@concern.net	01 417 8044
Designated Liaison Person	Email:	Telephone Number:
Michael Doorly Head of Active Citizenship	michael.doorly@concern.net	01 417 7785
Sara Barnes Safeguarding Adviser	sara.barnes@concern.net safeguarding@concern.net	01 4178075

¹ **Designated Liaison Person (DLP)** is responsible for ensuring that reporting procedures are followed correctly and promptly and act as a liaison person with other agencies (see Children First: National Guidance).

Mandated persons are people who by virtue of their qualifications, training and experience, are in a key position to help protect children from harm (see Children First Act 2015, Schedule 2)

Relevant person as defined in the Children First Act 2015, 'means a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the provider's Child Safeguarding Statement.'