

Child Safeguarding Statement

December 2023

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 Global Citizenship Education activities and programmes, the purpose of which is to raise awareness of the root causes of poverty in the countries in which the 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 including:

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

Principles to Safeguard Children and Young People from Harm:

Concern is committed to:

- the protection of the children and young people with whom we work;
- promoting the rights and participation of children and young people in activities;
- promoting good practice in adherence to the Children First National Guidance 2017 and to the Children First Act 2015
- a zero-tolerance approach to abuse

Risk Assessment:

Concern has carried out an assessment¹ of any potential risk of harm to children and young people while engaging with Concern's Global Citizenship Education activities and programmes within the Republic of Ireland. The areas of risk and the procedures identified to address these have been identified, as follows:

1. Engagement with children and young people;
2. Reporting procedures;
3. Recruitment and selection of staff and volunteers;
4. Information, communication and training;
5. Allegations in relation to harm.

Procedures:

Procedures have been developed in line with the Children First National Guidance 2017, the Children First Act 2015², and with Concern's Code of Conduct and associated policies to mitigate against the risk of harm. These procedures include:

¹ See: *Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment – Development Education Activities, Concern Worldwide, November 2023*

² See: <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/children-first-guidance-and-legislation/>

- the provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information³, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- the 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 Tulsa;
- the maintenance of a list of Designated Liaison Person⁴ and Mandated Person(s)⁵;
- the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers who interact with the children and young people who engage with our activities and programmes;
- procedures for appointing a relevant person⁶.

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 2025, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: 

Date: 6/2/2024

David Regan, Chief Executive Officer
 Concern Worldwide
 Tel: 01 417 7700



Mandated Person	Email	Telephone Number:
David Jones Director of Protection and Safeguarding	david.jones@concern.net safeguarding@concern.net	Main switch: 01 417 7700 Mobile: 0044 7900 766642
Designated Liaison Person	Email	Telephone Number:
Lauren Wright Head of Global Citizenship	lauren.wright@concern.net	Main switch: 01 417 7700 Direct line: 01 417 7748

³ This would primarily target our staff, but could potentially also be aimed at parents, teachers, other stakeholders, etc. who wish to see it. This child safeguarding statement should be posted in the reception area in Camden Street and on our website [here](#)

⁴ The **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).

⁵ **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).

⁶ **Relevant person** as defined in the Children First Act 2015, as '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.'