



COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFEGUARDING

The Xavier Network is an international mission and development partnership between Jesuit organisations working in faith to promote justice. We are set up with the simple principle that by joining together we can achieve more. We share the same fundamental understanding of solidarity and justice, rooted in the principles of the Society of Jesus. We share the common commitment to promoting a “consistent culture of protection and safety for minors” in line with General Congregation 36.

All projects funded by members of the Xavier Network have a responsibility to safeguard children through promoting their welfare, health and development in a safe and caring environment that supports their best interests and prevents abuse. Each member of the Xavier Network commits to projects meeting minimum requirements in child safeguarding, in order to qualify for funding.

I am conscious of the effort and work being carried out in various parts of the world to come up with the necessary means to ensure the safety and protection of the integrity of children and of vulnerable adults, as well as implementing zero tolerance and ways of making all those who perpetrate or cover up these crimes accountable. We have delayed in applying these actions and sanctions that are so necessary, yet I am confident that they will help to guarantee a greater culture of care in the present and future. - Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis to the People of God, Aug 2018

In addition, we recognise the need to:

go beyond what has already been learned in these years, beyond policies of zero tolerance, protocols for responding to cases, efforts for reparation and programmes of prevention. - Arturo Sosa SJ Superior General, To Share the Suffering of Victims of Abuse and Foster a Culture of Protection, Aug 2018

We commit as a network to journeying with local projects to go beyond child protection protocols, to build a local culture of child safeguarding and protection. We will provide funding support for child safeguarding programmes, advocacy, awareness raising and training.

3/4 of the world's children have experienced inter-personal violence in a previous year

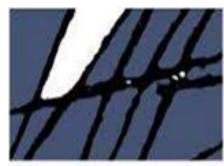
1.3 billion children experience corporal punishment at home

261 million schoolchildren experience peer violence globally

18 million adolescent girls aged 15–19 experience sexual abuse globally

60% of people trafficked are children
(Global Report 2017: Ending Violence in Childhood)

As a network, we are committed to the protection of all children under 18 years, in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The projects we fund are in some of the most disadvantaged communities in the world, in over 87 countries. We support these projects in their challenges at local and national levels, advocating for adherence to global standards in child safeguarding; encouraging projects to challenge social norms and advocate for change at national level to bring their country of operation in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols.



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MEMBERS COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFEGUARDING

WITHIN THE MEMBERSHIP |

As a Xavier Network we commit to meeting the **3 requirements** below:

1. That each XN member is operating under a child safeguarding policy. This will either be a province policy or a policy designed specifically for the XN member.
2. That each XN member has a Designated Person for Child Safeguarding. This is a person at province level, or a person within the member's team.
3. That each XN member is conducting robust vetting processes, including clearance from police or relevant statutory authority where these are available for any personnel working with children and for personnel involved in monitoring visits to projects overseas where there is potential contact with children.

| WITH PARTNERS

In working with partners, we commit to:

- Adhering to the **XN Minimum Requirements in Child Safeguarding of Partners**. No partner should receive further funding from a XN member if they do not meet all requirements, with the exception of supports specifically for bringing the project up to minimum standards around child safeguarding.
- Providing the **Child Safeguarding Pack** to partners with a duty of care to children or to projects where duty of care is not yet established. This pack includes:
 - The **XN Validation Questions for Child Safeguarding Minimum Requirements of Partners**
 - The **XN Sample Child Safeguarding Policy for Partners**
 - The **XN Sample Child Safeguarding Procedures Manual for Partners**
 - The **XN Funding Available for Child Safeguarding for Partners**

Asking **XN Validation Questions for Child Safeguarding Minimum Requirements of Partners**

- ⇒ at assessment stage before any funding is given
- ⇒ during any monitoring visits
- ⇒ during any final reporting

- Providing the **XN Risk Reflection** to partners with no duty of care responsibilities to children, to assist in identifying if there are any child safeguarding risks that the project could or should be addressing. If it is agreed there are no such risks we will engage with the project as per our programme procedures.

Date of Approval: 7th March 2019

To Come into Effect by: 1st January 2020