

FOTH Child Safety Policy

Child abuse is unacceptable in all circumstances and FOTH takes its duty of care seriously and aims to provide the safest possible programs and environments for children in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) which states that children have the right to be free, “...from all forms of physical and mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse”.

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade web-site advises that,

Child sex offenders may seek employment or volunteer placements in organisations that work with children in Australia or overseas. They might be attracted to working in developing countries in order to access vulnerable children and to avoid tougher laws.

FOTH requires that all Australian based volunteers have a Working with Children Check. All volunteers, including the FOTH Committee are required to sign the FOTH Child Safety Code of Conduct. The FOTH Committee is responsible for ensuring compliance with the Child Protection Code of Conduct and for following up concerns including reporting to Australian and/or Ethiopian legal authorities. FOTH will consider any behaviour that has been reported and may withdraw a person’s volunteer status at any time.

FOTH Child Safety Code of Conduct

I, [insert name], acknowledge that I have read and understand FOTH’s Child Protection Policy, August 2017, and agree that in the course of my association with FOTH, I must:

- Never abuse and/or exploit a Child or act/ behave in any way that places a Child at risk of harm.
- Always treat children in a manner which is respectful of their rights, integrity and dignity, considers their best interests and does not expose them to, or place them at risk of, harm. For example: when taking images/pictures during visits, interacting with children or generating stories of children, ensure that this is done in a manner consistent with FOTH policies and procedures.
- wherever possible, ensure that another adult is present when in the proximity of children
- use any computers, mobile phones, video cameras, cameras or social media appropriately, and never to exploit or harass children or access child exploitation material through any medium.
- not hire children for domestic or other labour which is inappropriate given their age or developmental stage, which interferes with their time available for education and recreational activities, or which places them at significant risk of injury.
- immediately report concerns or allegations of child exploitation and abuse to the nominated FOTH team leader.