

## Statement of Commitment to Safeguarding

### Introduction

All Survivors Project (ASP) supports global efforts to eradicate conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) and strengthen national and international responses through research and action on CRSV against men and boys, including those with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and/or sex characteristics (SOGIESC), as well as other people with diverse SOGIESC.

### Purpose

This document provides a public statement of our commitment to safeguard those involved in and impacted by the work of ASP, especially its research and advocacy activities.

ASP is committed to protecting people, particularly children and at-risk adults with whom it works, from any harm that may be caused as a result of their coming into contact with ASP. This includes harm arising from:

- The conduct of staff and associates<sup>1</sup> of ASP
- The design and implementation of ASP's programmes and activities

In April 2021, ASP adopted a safeguarding policy which locates our safeguarding commitments within our core values, providing detail on how these commitments will be met in practice in all aspects of our work, and is designed to provide a framework of standards and guidelines on which to base individual and organisational good practice.

The policy lays out the commitments made by ASP and informs staff, associates and those who work with ASP of their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding.

### What is safeguarding?

In the context of ASP, safeguarding covers our responsibility to ensure that staff and associates, operations, and programmes do no harm to children or adults, and do not expose them to the risk of harm, including sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment.

ASP recognises that due to a range of factors, individuals with whom we work and others in the wider communities may be more at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse. ASP subscribes to the UN principles on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse<sup>2</sup>.

The protection of children from all forms of harm is of prime importance to ASP and is considered both an organisational and individual responsibility. The work of ASP upholds the rights-based

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<sup>1</sup> The Safeguarding Framework and associated Code of Conduct applies to all members of staff and associates, including but not exclusively, consultants, contractors, volunteers (including senior volunteers involved in governance roles, e.g. Board members) and any other representatives of All Survivors Project.

<sup>2</sup> IASC Six Core Principles Relating to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee, 23 September 2019, <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/inter-agency-standing-committee/iasc-six-core-principles-relating-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse>

framework provided under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The participation of children in All Survivor Project's activities must be undertaken with respect for the rights and needs of children, providing protections against any potential exploitation that could occur.

### **ASP's Safeguarding Framework**

ASP believes that everyone we come into contact with has the right to be protected from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation. ASP will not tolerate abuse, exploitation or harassment by its staff, associates or those who work with ASP.

The provisions of our Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct apply to all work-related activities and extend beyond the professional sphere. Any breach of the policy or the Code of Conduct is a form of misconduct and if substantiated, may lead to disciplinary measures including possible termination of employment or legal action if required.

The Code of Conduct provides clear guidance on what we expect of our staff and volunteers and other representatives, as well as providing examples of conduct that will always be unacceptable. It is the responsibility of each individual involved in ASP's work to ensure their behaviour is consistent with ASP's values and principles. Maintaining high standards of conduct is fundamental to ensuring the safety, security, wellbeing and dignity of survivors and populations with whom we work, and to ASP's integrity and credibility.

ASP operates under a framework of standards, guidelines and detailed procedures for staff, associates and those who work with ASP that builds on our core values and ensures we deliver on our safeguarding commitments through individual and organisational good practice.

ASP commits to addressing safeguarding through the application of procedures, guidelines and practices, under the following framework:

- **Prevention:** ensuring, through awareness and good practice, that staff, associates and those who work with ASP do all that is reasonably possible to keep children and adults with whom we work safe from harm;
- **Reporting:** ensuring that all staff are aware of what steps to take when concerns arise regarding actual or possible harm to children and adults; and
- **Responding:** ensuring that action is taken to support and protect children and adults where concerns arise regarding actual or possible harm.

ASP deploys a range of prevention and response measures to ensure we meet our safeguarding commitments and put our policy into practice. These include, for example, safe recruitment practices, training, risk management, safe and ethical research practices, and reporting and responding procedures and guidelines. We also commit to regularly monitoring and reviewing our safeguarding arrangements.

### **Accountability**

ASP is keen to be accountable for the work we do, including and especially to the populations we serve. This means inviting feedback and encouraging anyone with concerns about the work of ASP or the conduct of staff and associates to tell us about their concerns.

ASP will ensure anyone external to the organisation can raise concerns, in a confidential way, about the conduct of staff, associates and those who work with ASP or about research, advocacy or other activities, including possible breaches of the Safeguarding Policy or Code of Conduct.

