

Trócaire

Position statement on exploitation and abuse, including zero-tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse

Introduction

Trócaire's Vision, Mission and Values state that we believe in the intrinsic dignity of every person, celebrate difference and aim to create relationships of mutual respect wherein the rights and dignity of every person are respected.

Trócaire's work is inspired and informed by Catholic Social Teaching, one of the fundamental principles of which is the dignity of each individual. The right to freedom from all forms of exploitation and abuse is implicit in this principle.

Statement

Trócaire recognises that abuse of power has led, and continues to lead, to many forms of exploitation and abuse. The nature of our work creates a power differential between those employed by or working with Trócaire and programme participants and partners. We acknowledge that the potential exists for those who work with programme participants and partners to abuse their position of power. Trócaire's commitment to safeguarding is inclusive of its staff and all those with whom it comes into contact through its work.

Sexual Exploitation and abuse

Trócaire has a zero-tolerance approach to sexual exploitation and abuse of any person, child or adult, involved with its programmes, including:

- Any sexual activity with children under the age of 18, regardless of the age of consent locally (mistaken belief of age being no defence)¹.
- Exchange of money, employment, goods, or services for sex, including sexual favours or other forms of humiliating, degrading or exploitative behaviour. This includes exchange of assistance that is due to partners and programme participants.

Any staff member or third party (volunteer, visitor, consultant and other contracted party) who becomes aware of an incident or an allegation of exploitation or abuse, of a child or an adult, has a

¹ The sole exception to this may be where a staff member is legally married to a person under the age of 18. See the Staff Guide - Policy on Child Safeguarding - International Programmes.

Version Control

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