



CHILD PROTECTION

OUR COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN

Right To Play considers the welfare, best interest and participation of children to be paramount. As a global implementer of Sport for Development and Peace programs for children and youth in 23 countries worldwide, we have a unique responsibility to recognize the rights of children and to ensure their safety and well-being.

The **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child** is the most prominent legally-binding document in support of child rights. When it was introduced to the General Assembly in 1989, it was unanimously adopted and has since been ratified by nearly every country in the world – including all of the countries where Right To Play programs are delivered.

The **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child** guides our work. We believe that children of all backgrounds and abilities have the right to engage in constructive and healthy play and recreation. That is why we work to deliver age-appropriate games and activities for children in safe, accessible, and joyful environments. We also believe that children have the right to be free from abuse, exploitation and neglect. That is why all of our coaches and leaders are trained to act as positive adult role models to children and ensure that children are kept from harm while participating in our programs.

At Right To Play we oppose all forms of discrimination against children. We provide equal rights and opportunities to all children without discrimination on the grounds of identity (e.g., culture, caste, ethnicity, disability, HIV status, gender, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, etc.).



The **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child** asserts that all children, regardless of identity, have the right to:

- Be protected from all forms of violence, abuse, maltreatment and exploitation (*Article 19*)
- Engage in play, leisure and age-appropriate recreation (*Article 31*)
- Enjoy a standard of living which provides adequate physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development (*Article 27*)
- Obtain an education that contributes to the development of his or her personality, talents, and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential (*Article 29*)
- Express their views on matters that affect them (*Article 12*)
- Enjoy a full and decent life in conditions that ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate active life in the community (*Article 23*)

Right To Play's vision is to create a healthier and safer world through the power of sport and play

RIGHT TO PLAY'S APPROACH

Right To Play trains local community members in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and South America to deliver safe and joyful sport and play programs to disadvantaged children in regions affected by war, poverty and disease. We also advocate for the use of sport and play to attain development objectives, in particular those that pertain to improving the lives of children.

Right To Play believes that respect for children's rights and protection must be integrated into all aspects of our work. We believe that everyone involved in our work has a unique responsibility to ensure children are kept from harm. To put our belief into action, Right To Play developed an extensive **Child Protection Policy** which outlines our commitment to the well-being of children, while respecting the legislative sovereignty of the countries where we work. Our policy:

- highlights our organizational commitment to children's rights and protection;
- articulates the standards and guiding principles that shape our work;
- presents the organizational methods developed to promote children's rights – including those pertaining to recruitment and orientation, education and training, communications, advice and support, as well as implementation and monitoring; and
- defines child abuse and provides staff and volunteers with information on how to identify it, as well as information on how to report suspected incidents.

To uphold our commitment to children's rights and protection, all staff, volunteers, board members and partners must:

- ✓ Adopt and abide by our *Child Protection Policy*
- ✓ Recognize their duty of care to the children with whom we work
- ✓ Report concerns of abuse
- ✓ Respond swiftly to all suspicions and allegations of abuse while maintaining confidentiality

Upon recruitment, all of Right To Play's volunteers, coaches, and staff receive orientation on our organizational approach to child protection. Our goal is to ensure that all of our coaches, trainers, leaders and anyone in direct regular contact with the children we serve, are sensitized to important child protection issues, and that they receive regular refresher trainings to ensure that our child protection guidelines are upheld over time. In some regions, we also work with partner organizations to sensitize



children about child protection issues. Many of the games and activities we deliver aim to teach children about human rights, and in time, we hope to make child rights training a greater component of our work.

We believe that child protection is everyone's responsibility. To ensure children's rights are upheld, we are proud to work in partnership with governments, partner agencies, community-based organizations, child experts, children and parents to promote the welfare, health and development of children.

At Right To Play, we believe that when children play the world wins! That is why we provide children with constructive opportunities to learn by participating in sport and play activities that are joyful, structured and safe.

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