**Calcutta Rescue Fund -**

**Safeguarding Policy Statement**

The Calcutta Rescue Fund (CRF) acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice.

For the purposes of this policy statement, a “**child**” is anyone under 18 years of age and a “**vulnerable adult**” is a person aged 18 years of age or over who is or maybe unable to take care of himself/herself and/or unable to protect himself/herself against harm or serious exploitation.

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children and vulnerable adults are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children and vulnerable adults:

* are provided with healthcare and education in a safe and trusted environment
* are protected from abuse whilst being provided with healthcare and education and in all other circumstances.

CRF acknowledges that some children and vulnerable adults, including the disabled or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.

As part of our safeguarding policy CRF will:

* promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults;
* ensure that everyone (including, without limitation, any volunteers engaged by CRF to provide healthcare and/or educational services, all trustees of CRF, all paid staff of CRF (if any) and anyone else working or volunteering in any capacity on behalf of CRF) understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children, young people and vulnerable adults;
* ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern;
* ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored;
* prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals (including, without limitation, individuals volunteering engaged by CRF to work on, or in connection with, the provision of healthcare and education services);
* ensure that all appropriate checks are made on any individuals engaged by CRF in respect of the provision of healthcare and educational services (and ensure their effective supervision for so long as they are engaged in the provision of any such services);
* ensure that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing policies and procedures in place; and
* ensure (to the extent practicable by regular visits to such projects and by working closely with any partner organisations with whom CRK works) robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation in respect of the provision of healthcare and education services by Calcutta Rescue in Kolkata or by any other organisation with which CRF may work from time to time.

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in CRF. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

**Monitoring**

The policy will be reviewed a year after development and then every three years, or in the following circumstances:

* changes in legislation and/or government guidance
* as required by the UK Charity Commission; or
* as a result of any other significant change or event.

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