

World Vision's Child Protection Policy

World Vision and Children

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome extreme poverty and injustice. World Vision serves those in need regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

World Vision upholds children's rights to survival, development, protection, and participation as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. We believe that child

protection is both a corporate and an individual responsibility, and every person who shares in the work of World Vision also shares in the responsibility to take every precaution to protect the children and families we serve.

World Vision's Child Protection Policy affirms our commitment to the welfare of children and their protection from abuse and exploitation.



Child Protection

World Vision offices around the world are actively involved in protecting children in the communities in which they work. World Vision partners:

Communities	To provide clean drinking water, nutrition, and primary health services that protect children from preventable diseases and provide early treatment of illness.
Children	Empowering children by promoting and encouraging their ability to engage in all decisions that affect them is an important part of child protection.
The most vulnerable children and their families	Such as boys and girls involved in exploitative child labour, those who survive war and conflict, survivors of abuse and neglect, and those who suffer from the effects of harmful traditional practices.
Other NGOs, UN Agencies & other organisations	To have a united voice on issues that affect children and to learn from one another.

World Vision advocates with governments and opinion leaders for policies, laws, and practices that strengthen the protection of children.

Child Abuse

World Vision is committed to protecting children from abuse. Abuse can take many forms, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, harmful cultural practices, early marriage and exploitative child labour. Child abusers often cannot be easily identified. Abusers can be male or female members of any social, cultural or economic group and of any age.

World Vision has policies and procedures for minimising the risk of abuse and responding to accusations of abuse in a manner that respects all involved. Non-compliance with these requirements will be taken seriously.

Visiting World Vision Projects

All visits to sponsored children must be pre-arranged through the New Zealand office of World Vision at least 3 months before a visit. For issues of safety and work programming it is not possible to accommodate unscheduled visits.

All visitors to World Vision projects must:

- ✓ Always be accompanied by a World Vision staff member;
- ✓ Dress in culturally appropriate ways; and
- ✓ Be sensitive to cultural differences.

Child Protection Requirements

All field visitors, volunteers, contractors and staff must:

- ✓ Have a police background clearance; and
- ✓ Sign a document stating they have read and agree to comply with the behaviour protocols.





Behaviour Protocols and World Vision

These behaviour protocols are universal to World Vision and all field visitors, volunteers, contractors and staff are expected to comply with them.



Interacting with Children

- ✓ Treat all children and their families with respect and dignity.
- ✓ Listen to children.
- ✓ Never be alone with a child, always ensure that another adult is present.
- ✓ Be sensitive to the unwritten laws of personal familiarity in language, conversation, and physical intimacy, and observe them.
- ✓ Stop any interaction with a child if a child says stop, or if the child appears uncomfortable with the interaction.
- ✓ Do not take a child to your home or encourage meetings outside the programme activity.
- ✓ Do not give children alcohol, cigarettes or drugs.
- ✓ Do not touch sexual areas of the body or have sex with a child.
- ✓ Do not expose anyone to sexual materials or abuse them through non-contact sexual activity. Be cautious in sending verbal, non-verbal, or written messages that could be misinterpreted by the child or adults.
- ✓ Do not slap, hit or physically abuse any child.
- ✓ Do not psychologically or verbally abuse any child.
- ✓ Adults are always responsible for their behaviour with a child, even if a child is acting seductively.
- ✓ Raise all concerns, issues and problems as soon as possible with a World Vision representative.

Photos and Stories of Children

The following minimum standards must be observed to ensure that human dignity and the right to personal privacy are respected when taking photos and videos of those with whom World Vision works, especially children.

- ✓ Always check what photography or filming is appropriate with a World Vision representative before taking photos or videos.
- ✓ Always ask permission from a child and the child's guardians if you wish to take photos or videos, and explain how they will be used.
- ✓ World Vision requires written permission from the individual concerned or their guardians when a photo, video or story:
 - Clearly identifies and provides substantial information about a particular person; and
 - Places a person in a situation that could be damaging to their dignity, safety or reputation. For example, information about HIV status, involvement in prostitution or armed conflict.
- ✓ Be extremely sensitive to a person's vulnerability at times of trauma or grief, and always assess how a photo, video or story will impact on the safety, dignity and well-being of the person concerned.
- ✓ Do not portray people as helpless victims. Balance human needs with positive language about what people are doing to help themselves.
- ✓ Photos and stories must not use real names of children or real locations, especially when communicating sensitive information. For example, HIV status or sexual abuse.

Treat with the utmost importance the confidentiality of children in World Vision's programmes.

Electronic Child Safety Standards and Procedures

- ✓ Anyone storing photos, videos or information about children must use every effort to prevent unauthorised access or inappropriate use.
- ✓ Child personal and physical information that could be used to identify the location of a child within a country should not be used on websites or in any other form of communication about a child.
- ✓ Efforts must be made to copyright and watermark all photos of children on websites and anyone displaying photos must use all technology available to prevent unauthorised downloading or copying.