



Panhellenic Confederation of Greek Roma

CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY (2023)

Identity and mission of our organisation:

Panhellenic Confederation of Greek Roma “ELLAN PASSE” is a non-profit organisation, representing the Roma community in Greece. It is a tertiary body of national scope, while its members are federations and associations of regional and local scale. Due to the multifaceted problems faced by the Roma communities in the country, ELLAN PASSE's activities and actions are versatile and multilevel. ELLAN PASSE adopts a holistic approach to the social inclusion and integration of Roma citizens in Greek society. Considering that the housing, health, work and education conditions of the community members, as well as the severe discrimination and anti-Gypsyism they still face in many aspects of their lives are issues that need to be addressed in conjunction in order to be able to progress towards a substantial improvement in the conditions, accessibility, empowerment and opportunities of the Roma population in the country, ELLAN PASSE implements multifaceted actions and interventions in all the aforementioned axes, respecting both the cultural heritage and the will of the Roma citizens in Greece.

Children, regardless of their gender, national or ethnic origin, must be able to enjoy their rights, which are enshrined in international treaties, adopted, and promoted by international, European and national institutions and organisations (UNCRC, ECHR, Council of Europe). Often, children originating from and belonging to vulnerable social groups and communities, are forced to struggle due to their current living conditions, prejudice and discrimination, unable to enjoy their rights to their full potential. Respecting and safeguarding those rights in every action and intervention and by anyone associated with, interacting, representing or working with children, Ellan Passe complies with and protects these rights, as they result from the aforementioned international, European and national frameworks.





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The aims and purpose of the present child protection policy

This policy document and in accordance with the principles and objectives of ELLAN PASSE sets out the practices, commitments and policies related to the safeguarding of children and their rights.

Primarily, ELLAN PASSE recognizes the right of every child to safety, equal access and treatment and the establishment and implementation of its rights. As such, it is operating based on the following principles:

- The "best interests of the child" should and always is our primary concern. The best interests of the child should be determined on a case-by-case basis. Those who establish the best interests of the child should ensure that they are able to understand the child and they consider the child's views on his or her interests in accordance with his or her maturity and level of understanding. In order to identify the best interests of the child, a multidisciplinary approach should be taken in order to be able to diagnose the degree of vulnerability of the minor and his or her family and to provide appropriate support. In addition, any activity conducted and related to children should respect internationally binding standards, guidelines and directives.
- Equal approach to all children, regardless of origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, national, ethnic or social origin, religion, colour, disability and others. No discrimination is accepted when having to do with children's rights or their full access to them.
- Respecting the privacy of each child, any personal data processing is carried out in accordance with EU and Member State data protection legislation.





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- In the context of transparency and the protection of the child, it's integrity and rights in every action undertaken by ELLAN PASSE, it is noted that any harmful behavior, practice or treatment will be dealt with appropriately.
- Respecting children's self-determination and their desire to participate or not in any activity, ELLAN PASSE supports children's engagement in decision making and the creation of a safe space within which each child can express their concerns, thoughts or whatever is on their mind.

Applying our child protection policy:

ELLAN PASSE, is pledging to ensure that all individuals participating in activities involving minors, adolescents and children, acknowledge, agree and adhere to the positions, approaches and procedures outlined in this policy.

Therefore, a strict premise for participation in such activities and programs is:

- Adherence to applicable national legislation concerning the protection of children
- Compliance with the European framework concerning the protection and rights of the child.
- The awareness and subsequently the approach towards children in a respectful, appropriate way for their age and circumstances, and always taking into account the particularities of each child.
- The encouragement of each child to express anything that concerns it
- The undertaking of action when an incident of abuse experienced or witnessed by a child is detected.





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It is prohibited explicitly for adults involved in activities with children:

- To discriminate against children, show favor or treat differently.
- To expose children to any risk
- Spend time alone with children, away from the others and without supervision
- Withdraw the child from the designated work/activity area
- The use of any personal information or data (pictures, private information, etc.) without the consent of both the child and their legal guardian and without a clear purpose for the previously mentioned use.

Requirements and procedure for entering into cooperation and recruitment

The following requirements apply to scientific collaborators, board members, volunteers and external collaborators:

- All internal and external partners and volunteers must understand and adhere to the implementation framework and the principles of the ELLAN PASSE's policy. In addition, they should be aware of and comply with the legislation on child protection. In cases of non-compliance with the above, ELLAN PASSE may discontinue the partnership at any time.
- Before engaging with any partner or volunteer, ELLAN PASSE will provide the present framework and the relevant child rights guidelines, allowing any potential partner to be clearly aware of our approach and guidelines. The purpose of the above practice is to ensure harmonious engagement and agreement between partners on the critical child protection issues.





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Contact person and report methodology

Everyone who works with ELLAN PASSE, in addition to adhering to this policy, should be able to recognize and handle in a competent manner any incident or occurrence that violates the rights and integrity of the child. For this reason, for each project or activity carried out by ELLAN PASSE that involves children, a contact person will be appointed to be responsible for the explicit presentation, understanding and application of both the laws and this policy. In addition, this person will be charged with the responsibility of receiving any reports from partners and volunteers related to the violation of the above. For this reason, a specific reporting methodology is defined, which will assist both the reporting and the contact person to achieve optimal handling. By creating a reporting form, with clear requests and a short answer format that will be standardised and available for all to complete, it will be possible in an incident that needs to be reported, to gather all the information necessary for further incident handling.

ELLAN PASSE is in constant contact and cooperation with the competent authorities and bodies for continuous training, reporting and management on children's rights and their protection. The Board of Directors of ELAN PASSE is ultimately accountable for this policy and responsible for its implementation.

The content of this policy document has taken into account, drawn ideas from and includes the principles of children's rights and their protection as established by the relevant international framework. In addition, it has been inspired by the respective policies of civil society organizations with a long history of action on child rights and protection, which embrace and implement the above-mentioned international frameworks. The policy of Ellan Passé may be updated or modified at any time in order to better and more fully address and protect children and their rights.

