



BAKETIK'S CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Introduction

Baketik Foundation is a civil society organisation that works for peace, coexistence, conflict resolution and social action based on the defence of human rights.

Based on its mission, Baketik works in different areas: peace and coexistence, social action and mentoring and art for transformation. Specifically in the area of social action and mentoring, Baketik develops different projects related to children, people in vulnerable situations and volunteers. Baketik also works with children and adolescents at schools in peacebuilding and storytelling, and during theatre forum activities.

For this reason, and in coherence with our mission, Baketik presents this Child Protection Policy in which it presents its commitment to protect children from all forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Organisational definition and objectives

Baketik is a civil society organisation focused on conflict resolution through social transformation and commitment to change, always within the framework of human rights.

We believe in...

- In **social inclusion**, through community solidarity processes that favour knowledge and recognition between people with different realities.
- In **truth, justice and reparation** in the aftermath of any conflict a society has faced.
- In the **construction of memory**, as a key element for social coexistence after any rupture.
- In the **active and transformative participation** of each person and groups, including women, children and adolescents, victims of rights violations or people in situations of inequality.
- In the **capacity of society and civil society** to build a fairer and more convivial society.
- In **facilitating processes** as a form of social construction.

From these convictions stems our commitment to child protection and the prevention of all forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation.



Field of action

The purpose of this Policy is to define the guidelines and procedures of the internal Child Protection Policy that relate to the organisational structure of Baketik in the context of its activities.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights treaties give everyone the right to protection from all forms of physical, emotional, social or mental harm or abuse, neglect, maltreatment or exploitation. This policy bases its values on these international treaties as well as on the Organic Law 8/2021, of the 4th of June, on the integral protection of children and adolescents against violence and the Law 2/2024, of the 15th of February, on Childhood and Adolescence of the Basque Country; and is applicable to all Baketik's professional staff and volunteers who participate in the different projects through which they come into contact with children and adolescents, as well as people in vulnerable situations.

Baketik recognises that abuse, neglect and exploitation occur in every country and society in the world; and that abuse is often perpetrated by people in positions of trust and can include professionals, volunteers and others in contact with children through programmes such as those run by our organisation. We are committed to the prevention of child abuse and neglect and to the protection of children and vulnerable adults.

Thus, in all its programmes and actions, Baketik advocates and requires that all parties interacting with children do so with honesty and integrity and are committed to preserving and protecting the safety of children and vulnerable people at all times. Violence of any kind towards children, adolescents or adults, direct or indirect, will not be tolerated. This includes verbal and written communication, physical or other abusive actions, including demeaning treatment of children, adults, their culture or family relationships.

Definitions

When we talk about **children, adolescents or childhood** in general, we mean anyone under the age of 18.

Child **abuse** refers to any form of maltreatment and neglect of children under the age of 18, including all forms of physical and emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect and exploitation that result in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power.

A **vulnerable** adult is any person aged 18 or over who may be experiencing a situation of vulnerability and may therefore be in need of or using community care services due to various personal or problematic situations. In this context, community care services include



all care services provided in any setting by any organisation or institution, including voluntary services. It therefore includes Baketik's volunteer programmes.

Values representing us

- Abuse is never acceptable.
- All persons have equal rights to protection from abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- We are committed to protecting children and vulnerable people.
- We have a responsibility to meet standards for the protection of children and vulnerable people.
- We are guided by the principle of the "best interests of the child". We will always act in the best interests of the children we come into contact with.
- We work in partnership with parents, tutors/institutions, volunteers and other professionals to ensure the protection of children and vulnerable people.

We will do

- Raise awareness: all staff and volunteers should be aware of the problem of abuse and the risks to children and vulnerable people.
- Prevent: train, supervise and support people involved in Baketik's programmes to minimise risks to children and vulnerable people.
- Require a Sexual Offences Certificate for all staff and volunteers directly working with children.
- Inform: All staff and volunteers should be clear on the steps to take when concerns arise about the safety of children and vulnerable people. Detailed procedures should be available to all involved.
- Respond: take action to protect children and vulnerable people and support them.

Code of conduct

- Children and adults should always be treated with respect regardless of gender, ethnic or social origin, language, religious or other beliefs, disability or other status (yours or your family's).
- Language and behaviour towards children and adults should at all times be appropriate and in no way harassing, abusive, degrading or violent.
- Physical punishment, inappropriate physical force or humiliating punishment of any kind must not be used.
- Sexual activity and harassment towards children and families with whom we work and within the workplace, regardless of age, is prohibited.

- When photographing or filming children and/or vulnerable adults, parents and tutors must give their consent, and children and vulnerable adults, where appropriate for their age and where they have the capacity to understand the possible consequences of being photographed or filmed, must give their consent or assent. Consent must be in writing, images must be respectful and the use of the material must not expose children or vulnerable adults to any risk.

Baketik's responsibilities

- All protection concerns raised will be taken seriously.
- Support will be given to all staff, volunteers, families, professionals, children and young people, and others who raise concerns.
- A person responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Child Protection Policy in Baketik will be appointed.
- Measures shall be taken to ensure the protection of children and vulnerable persons who are the subject of concerns, including referral to other actors in accordance with any local procedures and to cooperate with any investigative process.
- All staff and volunteers will have access to this Child Protection Policy as well as other related established documents and protocols (code of conduct, confidentiality, etc.).
- Recruitment procedures for staff and volunteers will include checks on their suitability to work with children and vulnerable people.
- Information on this policy will be included in staff and volunteer training sessions.
- Failure to comply with this Policy or the organisation's codes of conduct may result in disciplinary action and/or termination of connection with Baketik programmes.

Baketik will review the Child Protection Policy whenever there are relevant changes in national or international legislation or at least once every five years.



Ander Lizaso Solis

In Tolosa, 04 June 2024