



## Tibetan Education & Relief Association including Himalayan Communities

### SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Version 1.0, April 2018

- The T.E.R.A. Trustees are responsible for ensuring that those benefiting from, or working with our charity, are not harmed in any way through contact with our charity. We have a legal duty to act prudently, and we must take all reasonable steps within our power to ensure that harm does not occur, particularly with vulnerable persons and children. Trustees must familiarise themselves with what is regarded as lawful and 'Best Practice' when dealing with beneficiaries who need safeguarding. This publication by HM Government in the UK is primarily directed at charities whose activities are based in the UK, however it is appropriate for all charities and beneficiaries everywhere:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/592101/Working\\_Together\\_to\\_Safeguard\\_Children\\_20170213.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/592101/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children_20170213.pdf)

- Safeguarding is a term which is broader than 'child protection' and relates to the action taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Safeguarding is defined in '*Working together to safeguard children (2013)*' as:

*protecting children from maltreatment  
preventing impairment of children's health and development  
ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and  
taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes*

***The necessity to safeguard children applies both to charities working in the UK and other countries where children may face different or additional risks of abuse or exploitation. These safeguards should include a child protection policy and procedures for dealing with issues of concern or abuse. For the purposes of child protection legislation the term 'child' refers to anyone up to the age of 18 years.***

(taken from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-and-young-people/safeguarding-children-and-young-people>)

- T.E.R.A. Trustees and Representatives – including those who have direct contact with our beneficiaries in other countries – will not be engaged by our charity if they are known or suspected to have harmed a child or adult, and if already engaged by us, will be dismissed immediately if we know or suspect them to have harmed another person.



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T.E.R.A. commits to ensuring that:

- the welfare of our beneficiaries is paramount
- no child or group of children must be treated any less favourably than others in being able to access services which meet their particular needs
- all children without exception have the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs
- this policy is reviewed, approved and endorsed by the board of trustees annually or when legislation changes
  - who the policy applies to (i.e. all trustees, staff and volunteers)
- if necessary, children and parents are informed of the policy and procedures as appropriate
  - all concerns, and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously by trustees, representatives and volunteers and responded to appropriately
    - safe recruitment, selection and vetting of trustees, representatives and volunteers
- our activities promote children's safety and welfare, e.g. with regards to: health and safety, anti-bullying, protection of children online, and photography

If we become aware of a serious safeguarding incident directly related to our charity in any way, we will immediately report it to the Charity Commission

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-report-a-serious-incident-in-your-charity>