

CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY APS GIORNALISTE DEL MEDITERRANEO

On 10 March 2026, at the registered office of APS Giornaliste del Mediterraneo-Mediterranean women journalists, Via Murat 80, Bari, the extraordinary general assembly met and approved the following document containing the organisation's child safeguarding policies.

1. STATEMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT

APS Giornaliste del Mediterraneo acknowledges that any activity involving minors entails a direct responsibility for their protection. The Association undertakes to prevent any form of abuse, exploitation or neglect, ensuring that all its initiatives—educational, journalistic and cultural—produce benefits only and never harm.

This Policy is inspired by:

- the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- international safeguarding standards (e.g. Keeping Children Safe)
- current Italian legislation
- the Treviso Charter (updated in 2021)

It applies to:

- members
- employees and collaborators
- volunteers
- partners and suppliers
- anyone acting on behalf of the Association

2. FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

The Association adopts the following principles:

- the best interests of the child as the primary consideration in every decision
- non-discrimination and universal, inclusive protection
- participation and active listening to minors
- protection and development, including the right to safe growth
- zero tolerance towards any form of abuse

3. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Policy:

- **Minor/Child:** any person under the age of 18
- **Abuse:** any behaviour causing physical, psychological or moral harm

Types of abuse include:

- physical abuse
- psychological/emotional abuse
- sexual abuse
- neglect

This also includes:

- harmful media exposure
- improper use of images
- violations of privacy

4. SCOPE OF APPLICATION

This Policy applies to all Association activities, including:

- workshops in schools
- public events
- journalistic production
- digital content and social media
- training activities and workshops
- collaborations with third parties

5. PREVENTION AND RISK MANAGEMENT

5.1 Risk Assessment

Each project must include a prior risk assessment for minors, taking into account:

- the context (school, online, public events)
- the modes of adult-child interaction
- media exposure

5.2 Preventive Measures

- the presence of at least two adults during activities
- open or supervised spaces
- traceability of communications
- exclusive use of official channels

6. CODE OF CONDUCT

6.1 Obligations

Anyone working with minors must:

- maintain professional behaviour
- respect their dignity and integrity
- foster safe and inclusive environments
- report any risk or suspicion

6.2 Absolute Prohibitions

It is prohibited to:

- establish personal relationships of a non-professional nature
- contact minors through unauthorised private channels
- use inappropriate language

- share sensitive content
- remain alone with minors in unsupervised settings

7. PROTECTION OF IMAGE AND COMMUNICATION

The Association undertakes to:

- comply strictly with the Treviso Charter
- avoid identifying minors in vulnerable situations
- obtain prior written informed consent
- use dignified and non-stereotypical images
- protect personal data in accordance with the GDPR

8. TECHNOLOGIES AND DIGITAL ENVIRONMENTS

Specific guidelines are adopted for:

- the use of social media
- the production of digital content
- online interactions with minors

The following are prohibited:

- untraceable private contact
- unauthorised sharing of images
- the creation of personal digital relationships

9. STAFF SELECTION AND TRAINING

The Association guarantees:

9.1 Selection

- verification of criminal records
- self-declarations
- assessment of suitability

9.2 Training

- compulsory initial training
- periodic updates
- awareness-raising on abuse and risks

10. REPORTING PROCEDURES

10.1 Obligation to Report

Any suspicion must be reported within 24 hours.

10.2 Channels

- direct reporting to the President pro tempore
- dedicated email: tutela@giornaliste.org

10.3 Principles

- priority to the child's safety
- confidentiality
- timeliness
- traceability

11. CASE MANAGEMENT

A Case Management Team shall be established, composed of:

- the President
- the Executive Board
- any external consultants, where necessary

Its tasks include:

- assessing the case
- ensuring the child's immediate protection
- reporting to the competent authorities where appropriate
- activating psychological/social support
- managing disciplinary procedures

12. COOPERATION WITH PARTNERS

All partners must:

- adopt this Policy or an equivalent one
- sign formal commitments
- comply with shared reporting procedures

13. ORGANISATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

13.1 Presidency and Executive Board

- strategic guidance

13.2 Staff and Collaborators

- day-to-day implementation
- mandatory reporting

14. MONITORING AND REVIEW

This Policy:

- is monitored periodically
- is evaluated at least every 12 months
- is reviewed every 3 years or in the event of legislative changes

15. DISCIPLINARY SYSTEM

Violation of this Policy may result in:

- suspension
- termination of the relationship
- reporting to the competent authorities

16. ANNEXES

For communication activities involving minors, parents must sign the following informed consent and release form.

CONSENT AND RELEASE FORM

I, the undersigned _____, born in _____ on _____, residing in _____ at _____, as parent/legal guardian of the minor _____

AUTHORISE

APS Giornaliste del Mediterraneo to film and use images and videos of the above-mentioned minor during the activities of [Project Name] exclusively for documentary and informational purposes related to the Association's aims, in full compliance with the **Treviso Charter (2021 update)**.

DECLARE

that I have read the Association's Child Safeguarding Policy and approve its contents.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

17. FINAL CLAUSE

APS Giornaliste del Mediterraneo undertakes to promote a culture of child safeguarding as a structural element of its identity, integrating child protection into every journalistic, educational and social activity.

Bari, 10 March 2026

The President of the Executive Board
Marilù Mastrogiovanni, PhD