



EMOTL CHILD AND YOUTH SAFEGUARDING AND PROTECTION POLICY

The European March of the Living Network (EMOTL) adheres to the EU's 'principles for integrated child protection systems,' in that;

1. every child is recognised, respected and protected as a rights holder, with non-negotiable rights to protection
2. no child is discriminated against
3. child protection systems include prevention measures
4. families are supported in their role as primary caregivers
5. society is aware and supportive of the child's right to freedom from all forms of violence
6. child protection systems ensure adequate care, including standards, indicators and systems of monitoring and evaluation. Child safeguarding policies and reporting mechanisms for organisations working with children certification and training for all professionals working for and with children
7. child protection systems have transnational and cross-border mechanisms in place
8. no child should be without the support and protection of a legal guardian or other responsible adult or competent public body at any time
9. training on identification of risks is given to teachers, health sector professionals, and social workers
10. safe, well-publicised, confidential and accessible reporting mechanisms are in place

EMOTL Network is fully committed to preventing, protecting and responding to harm to children and to create a child-safe environment. EMOTL will update our child protection policy guidelines and code of conduct (in and outside the Network work environment) where appropriate, according to the EU and national directives for the child protection policy.

This policy is informed by, and shared among the Network partners. EMOTL require all our staffs and lay leaders to sign up to child protection policy guidelines and to fully implement and respect them in recruitment, involving lay leaders and volunteers who are or could be in contact with children, and/or in organising activities for children, including needed vetting checks. EMOTL will require

Network partners to ensure that their staffers and lay leaders will fully implement and respect those child protection guidelines.

EMOTL will only engage with high school students under the age of 18 through their schools. We will therefore contact the principals of those schools to ensure that the teachers accompanying the students under the age of 18 are fully accredited regarding the child protection directives of their countries. Every child is treated with dignity and as a unique and valuable human being with an individual personality, distinct needs, interests and privacy, with due regard to the child's right to participation.

Included in the current registration form for teachers is a special clause regarding the respect and the implementation of child protection policy and will require the signature of teachers or of any staffer in contact with the high school students under the age of 18 that they will fully implement and respect those child protection policy guidelines.

EMOTL will also ask any of its staffers, volunteers or lay leaders to sign on the full implementation and respect of those children protection guidelines. In this respect, EMOTL makes these efforts to inform the public, including children, about children's rights and encouraging action to prevent violence against children, and to prevent the stigmatisation of child victims of violence.

EMOTL will plan training on identification of risks for children in potentially vulnerable situations, delivered to teachers attending. Training seminars for teachers and attendees in advance of the March are conducted in order to prepare participants, eg listening to testimonies from survivors and previous attendees of the March.

EMOTL's safeguarding procedures ensure that our employees and volunteers, partners, operations and programmes do no harm to children, young people or vulnerable adult, that they do not expose them to the risk of discrimination, neglect, harm and abuse; and that any concerns the organisation has about the safety of vulnerable people within the communities in which they work, are dealt with and reported to the appropriate authorities. It is also the responsibility that the organisation has for protecting its employees and volunteers when they are vulnerable, for example, when ill or at risk of harm or abuse.

EMOTL has zero tolerance against abuse and exploitation of vulnerable people. EMOTL recognises that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and that it has an obligation to put in place reasonable measures to ensure, as far as possible, the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable people with whom we work and those in the communities in which we live.

Participation to the Annual March of the Living in Poland and in other transnational Holocaust Remembrance activities

EMOTL will ask its Austrian partner, MORAH to designate an experienced Child Policy Implementation and Monitoring Coordinator to oversee the implementation of EMOTL child protection and safeguarding policy in the EMOTL Network Holocaust Remembrance Activities, events and marches and especially the Annual March of the Living in Poland and in the Auschwitz camps. MORAH is highly experienced in the implementation of child protection and safeguarding policy due its rich experience of bringing large groups of High school students under the age of 18 (over 5000) with their teachers over the last eight years to the March of the Living and other activities.

In addition, MORAH is providing psychological welfare and medical support for the High School students participating in its activities and especially in the Annual March of the Living. MORAH provided and shared with the EMOTL network partners those guidelines for psychological welfare and medical support to High School students

A risk assessment is prepared for any visits to Auschwitz. This covers the following areas with controls in place:

Preparatory stages prior to the visit

Controls:

- Staff carry emergency contact details and medical details for all students
- Each group will consist of no more than 20 students
- A limited number of teachers will be invited on the course with up to 2 added to each group
- Local Authority regulations are met where possible

Airports and flights

Controls:

- All participants are provided with check-in time, location, and the flight number prior to the date of departure
- All participants are advised to travel in pairs around the airport and to let staff know if they are approached by a stranger
- Prior to the flight all participants will be made aware of what they can and cannot take through security and on to a plane
- The entire group will make its way through immigration and customs together at Krakow airport. The airport is quite small

Coaches

Controls:

- Coaches are clearly marked with group numbers
- Participants are given details of their coach allocation during the flight
- On each coach there will be one staffer/teacher responsible and for every 3 to 4 coaches there will be one first medical aid care provider and one psychological welfare support accredited staffer.
- Staffer in charge of each coach will take a participant register each time participants re-board the coaches
- no coach will depart until everyone is accounted for
- participants are instructed to use the seatbelts on the coach; staff check that these are being worn

In the event of illness on site

Controls:

- Participants are required to provide medical details prior to the visit
- Group educators are informed of any serious medical issues of their group
- A qualified paramedic is present throughout the day with a mobile phone and has medical details of all participants

In the event of losing the group

Controls:

- Staff ensure their group keeps together throughout the tour and count them at regular intervals
- Participants have an emergency contact number should they become lost
- Each group has a minimum of 2 adults to ensure participants do not become separated from the group
- A register is taken each time the group re-boards their coach.

Inclement weather

Controls:

- Participants are told at the Orientation seminar to dress appropriately and wear suitable footwear, and are provided with a check-list of what to bring
- Participants are advised to check the weather in Kraków prior to departure
- staff carry torches during winter months when it may become dark before the end of the day; students are also asked to bring a torch with them
- During hot weather additional water is purchased for all participants and staff carry spare suntan lotion
- When the ceremony is held in the Auschwitz camp Sauna building, educators are aware of the nearest exit and will register their group outside in the event of a need to evacuate the building

Emotional impact of the visit

Controls:

- Coordinating Teachers are allowed to choose students suitable for the project and asked to inform EMOTL in advance of the visit to Poland, about any emotional, social and spiritual needs (pastoral care) relating to their students
- Staff are highly experienced in dealing with pastoral issues
- Participants attend an Orientation seminar prior to the trip to prepare for the emotional impact
- Group educators will be with their students throughout the seminars and visit in order to build up trust

- There will be at least 2 adults with the group to allow the Group educator 1:1 time with students when and if necessary
- All staff have been DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) cleared.

Return journey issues

Controls:

- Logistical staff carry a record of the passport details of each participant
- Logistical staff are last through security and last to board the plane to make sure participants are accounted for.