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GUIDANCE ON SAFEGUARDING PRACTICES FOR MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT WITH ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

Values promoted by the Adolescent Girls Investment Plan (AGIP) on safeguarding best-practices for safe and meaningful engagement with young people

Safeguarding practices should:

- be clear and accessible for young people and co-designed with them
- lead to knowledge and capacity strengthening of young people and enable them to navigate engagement opportunities and platforms in a safe and informed manner
- provide information on forms of online abuse, reporting mechanisms, and other useful platforms, as well as accessible resources to seek further knowledge and support
- promote safeguarding as an opportunity to engage more meaningfully with young people
- not become a barrier in meaningfully engaging young people
- ensure overall safety and wellbeing of young people in organisational engagement

Key aspects of safeguarding practices for meaningfully engaging with adolescent girls (Based on the AGIP discussions with adolescent girls, youth leaders, and girls' rights allies)

Process	Culture	Capacity strengthening
1. Technological measures 2. Risk assessment 3. Community based safeguarding focal points 4. Reporting mechanism	5. Safeguarding Policy 6. Risk and responsibility sharing 7. Power sharing 8. Resourcing sharing	9. Staff 10. Young people

PROCESS

Technological measures (Online events)	Done Y/N	Action Required
Know the latest interactive and safety features of the digital platform of your event and understand how to set it up		
Activate and cross-check to ensure that all necessary safety features are in place before the session		
Embed a section at the beginning of your event to brief participants on platform navigation		
Assign at least one staff member as the safeguarding focal point during the online event		
Resources <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. https://explore.zoom.us/docs/doc/Securing%20Your%20Zoom%20Meetings.pdf 2. Video: Zoom Security Basics by Zoom 3. FULL WEBINAR: Best practice safeguarding in the digital era by Girl Effect 		

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Risk assessment – not just a document to be signed off and filed away but a tool to improve safety measures	Done Y/N	Action Required
Map/co-map various types of risks that your participants, especially the young ones, are exposed to while engaging in your event		
Put safety and mitigation measures in place to address the risks identified above		
Review and discuss the mitigation measures with the target audience, young people in this case (To be done periodically, not necessarily with every individual risk assessment)		
Schedule a meeting time to reflect on the event experience and review and update the risk assessment for future references		
Resources <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AGIP's risk assessment template for online spaces 2. Girls Effect's template for online and offline spaces 3. RSH Nigeria: Safeguarding (or SEAH) risk assessment and management tool 4. The International Child Safeguarding Standards 		
Community-based safeguarding focal points – digital engagements are rooted in the 'offline' experiences	Done Y/N	Action Required
<p>For those who do not engage with their participants (children, adolescent, other marginalised groups) directly in their communities</p> <p>Onboard a community-based safeguarding focal point for children and adolescent participants to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support with contextual learning and accessibility needs • assess and mitigate immediate safety issues that may emerge during the digital engagement 		
Schedule discussion spaces for timely check-ins with community-based safeguarding focal points to understand the needs and experiences of adolescent participants better		
Resources <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safeguarding effectively in partnerships by RSH 2. Community based Safeguarding Visual Toolkit by InterAction 		
Reporting mechanism – 'everyone' knows who to reach out to for support	Done Y/N	Action Required
Reporting mechanism is shared with your participants in a manner and language they understand		
Reporting mechanism clearly mentions point of contact, levels of escalation, duration, and includes space for complainant in the resolution		
Reporting mechanism enables participant to use different formats of raising concerns		
Resources <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Child Friendly Complaint Mechanism by UNICEF 2. How to set up and manage a community-based complaints mechanism by RSH 		

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CULTURE		
Safeguarding Policy – not just a tick-box exercise but a living and breathing process that evolves with each engagement	Done Y/N	Action Required
Overall safeguarding policy is clearly communicated to participants in a manner and language they understand		
Safeguarding policy include values of engagement, reporting mechanism, learning resources and signposting, informed consent, and data collection and usage, and is context specific		
Gain written permission for photos and film (from guardians where participants are below 18) and ensure young people can opt out easily		
Organise discussion space ahead of the main event to discuss safeguarding aspects for those who need it		
Resources <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Guidance for online child safeguarding for service providers 2. Tip Sheet: Workplace wellbeing and safeguarding by RSH 		
Risk and responsibility sharing	Done Y/N	Action Required
Clarity among staff members on how risks and responsibilities are shared to manage engagement safely and what to do in case a safety incident emerges		
Power sharing	Done Y/N	Action Required
Event facilitation is respectful towards all, especially young participants and ensures everyone have equal say and space		
Co-design the events with young people wherever issues regarding their lives are discussed		
Resources: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quality and Standards Framework – HCD on ASRH by YLabs 2. Q&A Abusing power: exploring root causes and issues for safeguarding – power, privilege, gender, and intersectionality 3. Flower of Participation by Youth Do it 		
Resource sharing	Done Y/N	Action Required
Provide financial and non-financial support to young people to enable their access to engagement opportunities, especially where access is challenging and/or limited		

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Resources:		
1. Maximising benefits: A recommended framework for Volunteerism and Compensation for Young People		
2. Safeguarding and Participatory Grantmaking		

CAPACITY STRENGTHENING		
Staff	Done Y/N	Action Required
Staff members are trained to understand and identify all forms of abuses with special focus on added threats for young people from diverse backgrounds		
Staff members are trained in being an online active bystander		
Staff members are trained in navigating and setting up safe engagement spaces		
Staff members have easy access to reporting and response mechanism and best-practices for setting up safe spaces		
Staff members have awareness of the organisational safeguarding policy and changes made to it		
Resources <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Digital safeguarding tips and guidance by Girl Effect Being online active by standards by Glitch UK Helping to End Online Gender Based Violence for Black Women by Glitch UK SHEA and Safeguarding: E-module by Action Aid Safeguarding Matters: E-learning module Safeguarding children Practice Tools Child Safeguarding Standards and how to implement them 		
Young People	Done Y/N	Action Required
Hold 1-2 briefings with young people before the event to ensure safeguarding measures are in place, communicated, and well understood. This also promotes building overall capacity to navigate engagement opportunities in a safe and informed manner		
Resources <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Self defence tips by Glitch UK Watch how to Spot, Report & Support by Glitch UK Staying safe online by UNICEF 		

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DIGITAL SELF DEFENCE TIPS

<h3>GL!TCH</h3> <p>Adolescent Girls Investment Plan</p> <h4>DIGITAL SELF-DEFENCE TIPS</h4>	<h4>SET A STRONG PASSWORD</h4>  <p>Use an acronym to create a sentence from your password e.g. t2cmlp@yh ("Try to crack my latest password, all you hackers") or use a password manager such as 1password or Yoti</p>	<h4>USE TWO-STEP AUTHENTICATION</h4> <p>On all your social media or email accounts - a code will be sent to your phone through a text or an app whenever you or someone else tries to log in from an unfamiliar browser. You can turn this on from your security settings</p> 
<h4>DO REGULAR PRIVACY HEALTH CHECKS</h4> <p>Every 3 months go through the privacy settings on your social media accounts - are you happy with who can see your content?</p>  	<h4>HIDE YOUR LOCATION</h4> <p>Turn off your location settings and don't check in on social media whilst you're still there. Tag the location only after you have left.</p> 	<h4>CLEAN UP YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA HISTORY</h4> <p>What groups are you a part of? Are you happy to be a part of them? Are you happy with the information you've made public in the past? Who are you following? Do you still want to be following them?</p> 
<h4>CHECK IF YOUR DATA HAS BEEN BREACHED</h4> <p>Use haveibeenpwned.com to see if your personal data has ever been released.</p> 	<h4>RESOURCES</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Online Abuse 101 - Documenting Online Abuse Form - Your Digital Resilience Action Plan - Online Chatbot 	<h3>GL!TCH</h3> <p>Adolescent Girls Investment Plan</p> <h4>DIGITAL SELF-DEFENCE TIPS</h4>

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Keen to explore safeguarding for meaningful engagement with young people?

Reach out to AGIP's Youth Engagement Officer by writing to: agip.youth@girlsnotbrides.org

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