

Self-Commitment Statement

For Volunteers of Österreichische Kinderfreunde

We, Österreichische Kinderfreunde, work based on our shared values and are guided by children's rights.

As a result, the following principles arise, to which I actively commit myself:

1. I commit to doing everything in my power to ensure that children and young people in our organization, the Österreichische Kinderfreunde, are protected from physical, emotional, and sexual violence.
2. I adhere to the legal regulations and commit to complying with the Child Protection Concept of the Austrian Österreichische Kinderfreunde.
3. I know the designated child protection officers and know where to turn for support.
4. I respect the feelings of children and engage with them at eye level. I recognize and take seriously their individual boundaries and respect their privacy. I treat children with dignity and respect and offer them appreciation and trust.
5. I shape the relationships with children transparently and handle closeness and distance responsibly. I work in a trustworthy manner with the legal guardians of the children under my care, respect their responsibility, and inform them about our principles for child welfare.
6. I am aware of the power imbalance between staff on one side and children on the other. I handle the responsibility entrusted to me carefully and consciously.
7. I refrain from verbally and nonverbally demeaning behavior (e.g., authoritarian, harsh, shouting, etc.). I actively take a stand against violent, discriminatory, racist, and sexist behavior.
8. I resolve conflicts nonviolently. I always strive for descriptive and non-judgmental statements from my own perspective. When conflicts escalate, I ensure an atmosphere that allows for a return without defeat.
9. Before taking an action that is not in line with my educational role or may endanger the child's well-being, I remove myself from the situation and ask someone else to continue instead of me.
10. I pay attention to signs of neglect or violence in children. If I suspect something, I inform my colleagues. If necessary, I discuss the next steps with my child protection officer.

11. I offer the opportunity for feedback. I take criticism and complaints from children, young people, and parents seriously, pass them on, discuss, and address them.
12. I listen attentively and watch for changes in the behavior of the children and young people in my care.
13. I will address situations that are not in line with our self-commitment statement, to create and maintain an open atmosphere in the group and within the team. I commit to reflecting on potential misconduct both individually and within the team.
14. I have read the self-commitment statement and commit to working according to these principles.

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Date, Place

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Signature of the volunteer

