

Ulemu.com's Risk Assessment Procedures, Safety Checks & Child Safeguarding Statement

Ulemu.com is an organisation that has statutory responsibilities under the Children First Act 2015 insofar as it provides 'educational and cultural activities' to children, which are defined as a 'relevant service' to children under article 5 (a) of Schedule 1 of the Children First Act 2015;

With respect to the Children First Act 2015 which places specific obligations on organisations that provide services to children, in the course of its activities Ulemu.com members will always ensure to keep children safe from harm while they are engaged in Ulemu.com's activities;

To this end, Ulemu.com has:

- carried out a risk assessment to identify whether a child or young person could be harmed while availing of an activity organised by Ulemu.com. See heading below.
- developed a Child Safeguarding Statement that outlines the policies and procedures which are in place to manage the risks that have been identified. See heading on page 2 below.
- appointed a relevant person to be the first point of contact in respect of the organisation's Child Safeguarding Statement. This person is Ms. Ailbhe Joyce, who is a qualified and certified primary school teacher in Ireland.

Specific risk assessment procedures, safety checks & safeguards

With regard to child safety, safeguarding and abuse, in with consideration for Section 11(1)(a) of the Children First Act 2015 which defines risk as "*any potential for harm to a child while availing of the service.*" and Section 2 of the Children First Act 2015, which defines harm as:

- a) Assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or
- b) Sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances or otherwise.

With regard to **safety checks** in line with the Charities Act 2009, for the purposes of registration, the application must specify safety checks employed by the charitable organisation. The Charities Regulator considers safety checks to include the policy and procedures for child protection and welfare, which is declared as being consistent with Children First National Guidance 2017 and include at a minimum:

- Dealing with child protection concerns (including the management of allegations of abuse against workers/volunteers)
- Reporting child protection concerns
- Working safely with children
- Recruiting and managing staff / volunteers
- Roles and responsibilities (including mandated persons and the relevant person)
- Child safeguarding information and training
- Involving parents and children
- Implementing and reviewing the safeguarding strategies

This **risk assessment** is intended to enable Ulemu.com to:

- Identify potential risks¹ to children participating in Ulemu.com activities

¹Potential risk for the purposes of this document are defined as situations where children risk being ill-treated, neglected or sexually abused in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect their health, development or welfare during, on their way to, following or in the vicinity of an Ulemu.com activity.

- Develop policies and procedures to minimise risk by responding in a timely manner to potential risks
- Review whether adequate precautions have been taken to eliminate or reduce these risks

Ulemu.com's Child Safeguarding Statement

Safety checks and safeguarding procedures:

- During all classroom presentations and other Ulemu.com activities conducted in Irish primary and secondary schools:
 - > a trained school-teacher is present at all such activities.
 - > no member/volunteer/staff of Ulemu.com are ever alone with one children during such activities
 - > Ailbhe Joyce is made known as Ulemu.com's Designated Liaison Person to the management of all Irish primary and secondary schools where Ulemu.com is invited to conduct activities such as classroom presentations.
- During all pre-school nursery classes, home-work clubs, malaria testing and treatment, sporting events and other Ulemu.com activities conducted in Malawi in which children participate:
 - > no member/volunteer/staff of Ulemu.com are ever alone with one children before, during or after such activities
 - > all members/volunteers/staff of Ulemu.com in Malawi receive training about child protection and safe-guarding once per year on the contents of this document as well as TUSLA's Children First online training (<https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/children-first-e-learning-programme/>)
 - > two designated liaison persons (one male, one female) are agreed by community members and leaders, and are made known to the parents of the children participating in Ulemu.com activities, and it is explained to all parents, relevant community members and leaders, and members of Ulemu.com that any concerns over child protection should be directed towards them.
- Within one month following any incident of potential or actual risks of harm or actual harm being reported to any of Ulemu.com's designated liaison persons for child protection, a meeting is held by all relevant Ulemu.com members, to review what has happened, how the reported risk/harm could have been mitigated/avoided, how future similar risks/harm can be avoided, and what other adequate precautions have been taken to eliminate or reduce these risks
- Any allegations made against any member/volunteer/staff of Ulemu.com shall be referred to the Designated Liaison Person and referred to Tusla in the case of allegations made referring to Ulemu.com activities in Ireland, and to Mrs. Jane Majawa, Head of Social Welfare at Zomba District Council, in the case of any allegations made relating to Ulemu.com's activities in Malawi.
- Regarding the selection and recruitment of Ulemu.com members, volunteers and staff, only people of reputable character with no history of child abuse will be considered to support Ulemu.com activities in Ireland or Malawi. In Ireland, Garda clearance will be prerequisite for any volunteer, members, and staff prior to them supporting Ulemu.com activities, as set out in the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012–2016 . In Malawi, police clearance stating the applicant has no history of criminality or child or sexual abuse, or has never been the subject of inquiries or allegations of child abuse with other relevant Malawian authorities (e.g. the Social Welfare department of Zomab District Council.
- A list of persons in Ulemu.com who are mandated persons under the Act will be maintained within the Ulemu.com shared drive.

- Ms. Ailbhe Joyce, a trustee of Ulemu.com and a trained and certified primary school teacher in Ireland has been appointed as the relevant person in the organisation for the purposes of the Act
- This Child Safeguarding Statement will be made available to all of Ulemu.com's members, volunteers and staff. Ulemu.com will also display this Child Safeguarding Statement publicly and make it available to parents and guardians, Tusla and members of the public upon request.