

Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Statement

1. Name and nature of service being provided

Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI) is a national organisation working to promote justice, empowerment and equality with migrants and their families. MRCI operates a national centre providing information and support to migrant workers and their families mainly in relation to immigration and workplace rights. We combine frontline services, policy, legal advocacy and campaigning with community and youth work that builds the critical participation of migrants and seeks to support their leadership on migrant rights issues.

MRCI comes into contact, either direct or indirect with vulnerable adults through 1) our national Information & Support Centre and casework that supports migrant families and 2) through our community work and outreach activities, 3) or whereby a disclosure is made to a member of staff during the course of their work.

Throughout our work MRCI strives to ensure that vulnerable adults who access our service and are active in the work of MRCI, are safe from harm and the organisation believes that the best interests of vulnerable adults are paramount.

In accordance with the requirements of above, the Board of Management of the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland has agreed the Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Statement set out in this document. This statement has been developed not only for vulnerable adults in our service but also families, staff, fellows and volunteers engaged in the work of MRCI. This document is based on, and adheres to, the following:

As an organisation MRCI:

- Recognises that the protection and welfare of vulnerable adults is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- Adopts safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to vulnerable adults and to protect workers from the need to take unnecessary risks that may leave them open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- Respects in full confidentiality requirements in dealing with vulnerable adults protection matters.
- Believes that our guiding principles apply to everyone in our organisation and that staff/volunteers must conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of our organisation;
- Upholds that all vulnerable adults have an equal right to attend a service that respects them as individuals and encourages them to reach their potential, regardless of their background;

2. Application of Safeguarding Statement

This Safeguarding Statement is displayed prominently on the MRCI website, our offices and at locations in which we run activities and outreach. A copy will be made available to all staff, fellows and volunteers. It is readily available to anyone coming into MRCI upon request. Safeguarding Statement applies to:

- All the staff of MRCI
- Students on placement
- Volunteers and Fellowship awardees
- Board Members
- People accessing our services

The Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Statement also applies when working in the MRCI offices, including at locations outside of the main office, and while representing MRCI at other venues; conducting outreach and at external events.

3. Assessing risk and procedures

MRCI has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a vulnerable adult while availing of our services. The MRCI Board of Management has agreed the Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- The Designated Officer (DO) is Sancha Magat (Information & Support Centre Manager in MRCI) and can be contacted at sancha@mrci.ie
- The Deputy Designated Officer (DDO) is Daniel Korolev (Caseworker in MRCI) and can be contacted at daniel@mrci.ie

MRCI recognise that vulnerable adult protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of MRCI activities and must be reflected in all of MRCI's policies, procedures, practices and activities. Our Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with MRCI's overall safeguarding framework.

The following procedures and measures are in place:

1. MRCI has a procedure in place for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with vulnerable adults. MRCI adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and engages in a thorough interview process and reference checks.
2. In relation to provision of information and where necessary instruction and training to staff in respect to the identification of the occurrence of harm, MRCI has procedures in place. MRCI;
 - Provides each member of staff with a copy of MRCI Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Policy
 - Provides Training for new staff and ongoing for all staff
 - Has provided relevant vulnerable adults protection and safeguarding information in MRCI's supervision framework (namely staff induction), and in MRCI's Staff Handbook and Casework Manual
3. In relation to the reporting of vulnerable adult protection concerns, MRCI has relevant procedures in place. All staff are made aware of who the DO, Deputy DO, and mandated persons are in the organisation. Training is provided on how to manage an allegation of abuse by a vulnerable adult and the reporting procedure is contained in MRCI's Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy.
4. Procedures are in place for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a vulnerable adult availing of our service. MRCI's Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding statement is made available in all groups, on display on our website, in our premises and at relevant activities/events. Supervision of activities in community work settings apply and complaints procedure are in place and known.
5. All staff and volunteers with MRCI are made aware of expected behaviour while interacting with vulnerable adults. Relevant information is made known through the Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy, Staff Handbook and Casework Manual. A structured induction period applies for all new staff, and the Code of Conduct of MRCI is made available to all staff and on our website.

4. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy and the procedures that support our intention to keep vulnerable adults safe from harm while availing of our service. This Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy and Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter which this statement refers.

Provider's name and contact details:

For queries in relation to the Safeguarding Statement, please contact:

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