

ROMA VERSITAS KOSOVO - Internal Child Protection Policy

About Roma Versitas Kosovo:

Roma Versitas Kosovo is a non-governmental organization founded in Pristina in June 2017, certified on June 8, 2017, in accordance with Law No. 04/L-57 on Freedom of Association in Non-Governmental Organizations in the Republic of Kosovo. Roma Versitas Kosovo is a non-governmental organization operating in Kosovo that promotes human rights, culture, education, and multi-ethnic coexistence through social dialogue and the use of education and employment as tools for promoting professional development.

Achievements from 2017:



100⁺

programs/projects
implemented



5,000⁺

beneficiaries



500⁺

training and workshops
provided



1,000⁺

scholarships for students
provided



100⁺

individuals awarded with grants

Internal Child Protection Policy:

This Child Protection Policy aims to safeguard all children engaged in or affected by the programs, services, and activities of Roma Versitas Kosovo (RVK). It outlines our commitment to protecting children from abuse, exploitation, and harm, in compliance with the **Law on Child Protection in Kosovo**, and in line with the international best practices such as those of **Save the Children**.

This policy applies to:

- All RVK staff, interns, and volunteers;
- Board members and consultants;
- Partner organizations and contractors;
- Visitors or external persons involved in RVK activities;
- Any individual acting on behalf of RVK in any capacity.

Child: Any individual under the age of 18, as defined in Article 3 of the Law on Child Protection in Kosovo.

Child abuse: All forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse (UNCRC, Article 19).

This policy is based on:

- **Law No. 06/L-084 on Child Protection (Kosovo)**
- **Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**
- **Save the Children Child Safeguarding Policy**
- **Constitution of Kosovo** and related national laws on anti-discrimination, gender equality, and family.

RVK is guided by the following principles:

- **Best interests of the child:** All decisions and actions concerning children shall prioritize their best interests.
- **Non-discrimination:** All children are protected regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, ability, social background, or any other status.
- **Participation:** Children have the right to express their views and have those views respected in matters that affect them.
- **Do no harm:** Activities must not cause any harm to children, whether physical, psychological, emotional, or sexual.

Preventive Measures

- **Recruitment and Vetting:** All staff, volunteers, and associates must undergo background checks and sign a declaration of commitment to child protection.
- **Training:** Mandatory child protection training for all staff and associates, updated annually.
- **Code of Conduct:** A child protection code of conduct must be signed and followed by all individuals representing RVK.
- **Safe Programming:** All RVK activities involving children must be risk assessed and designed to minimize risks of harm or abuse.

RVK ensures:

- **Clear reporting procedures** for suspected or actual abuse, including internal and external channels.
- **Confidentiality and data protection** of all parties involved in a report.
- **Immediate response** to all allegations of abuse, including appropriate support to the child and referral to competent authorities.
- **No retaliation** against whistleblowers or those reporting in good faith.

Roles and Responsibilities

Executive Director: Ensures policy implementation and compliance.

All Staff and Associates: Responsible for knowing, respecting, and implementing the policy.

Monitoring and Review

The Child Protection Policy will be reviewed every two years or after any major incident involving child protection concerns. Updates will be approved by the Board of Directors.

Approved by: Avni Mustafa
(ROMA VERSITAS KOSOVO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR)

Date: 18 June 2017

Place: Prishtina/Kosovo

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Avni Mustafa', is positioned to the right of the approval text.