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**PROTECTION SYSTEM FOR MINORS AND OTHER
PEOPLE IN SITUATION OF VULNERABILITY
WITHIN THE WORLD YOUTH DAY LISBON 2023 -
WYD DON BOSCO 23**



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Introduction/Context

"Without this vision of faith, everything we say and do falls on deaf ears. This certainty is essential for facing the present without evasion, but with audacity, courage, wisdom, tenacity, without violence, with passion but without fanaticism, with constancy but without anxiety, and thus changing everything that today can jeopardize the integrity and dignity of any person. In fact, the solutions we need require confronting problems without getting entangled in them or, worse yet, repeating the same mechanisms we want to eliminate." (Letter to the People of God, written by Pope Francis on May 31, 2018, paragraph 2).

The mistreatment of minors and other vulnerable individuals is one of the most serious and complex social issues. Addressing this problem requires a serious and dedicated effort from not only public institutions but also all private institutions and the professionals working in them (CNPCJR, 2010). The protection of minors and other vulnerable individuals becomes a task that, by legal imperative, involves the entire society and its citizens. Each level of intervention has competencies and responsibilities for protection derived from specific norms.

This effort entails multiple demands, and one of the most crucial aspects is that all involved parties have clear guidelines for action to ensure access to relevant information in this area and the most appropriate practices in preventing mistreatment and intervening in such situations. Often, professional misinformation hinders the effective and efficient detection and treatment of these situations. It is important to prevent a first intervention from happening only when severe and irreversible harm has already occurred. Therefore, it is essential to enhance the means and strategies for early intervention in cases of mistreatment and to prevent the emergence of others.



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With this awareness, in 2015, Pope Francis wrote a letter to the Presidents of Episcopal Conferences and Superiors of Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life concerning the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, emphasizing the need to "offer proposals and initiatives aimed at improving norms and procedures for the protection of all minors and vulnerable adults."

Specifically, on different occasions and in various documents, Pope Francis highlights the need to create a place accessible to the public to report suspicions, the obligation to report, and the welcoming and listening of victims and their families. In this context, it is important to ensure the creation of safe educational-pastoral environments through the active involvement of the educational-pastoral community.

With the same concern, Chapter 27 of the Salesian Congregation reinforces the importance of "fostering in our environments an atmosphere of respect for the dignity of minors, committing ourselves to create conditions that prevent any form of abuse and violence, following the guidelines and directives of the Rector Major and the General Council" (CG27 73.4).

For us, who follow the "Salesian apostolic project" of Don Bosco: "to be, in the Salesian style, signs and bearers of God's love for young people, especially the poorest" (Const.2), respect for the dignity of the most vulnerable implies PROTECT, PREVENT, and PROMOTE.

Within the framework of the World Youth Day, the largest global youth event, a very special effort must be made to implement measures to protect minors and vulnerable individuals. During this grand gathering, several thousand young people (and also adults and children) will participate in various activities organized by the event, from August 1 to 6, in the city of Lisbon.

The organizing committee of WYD Lisbon 2023 and the Portuguese Association for Victim Support (APAV) are collaborating to define procedures for prevention, protection, and response to incidents that may involve young participants in the journey, also aiming to prevent cases of sexual abuse.

In particular, WYD DON BOSCO 23 is responsible for the registration, reception, and accompaniment of pilgrims who register as part of the Salesian Youth Movement at



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WYD Lisbon 2023. The accommodation for these groups is responsibility of WYD DON BOSCO 23, and everything must be ensured to guarantee the protection of minors and vulnerable individuals.

With this awareness and commitment, WYD DON BOSCO 23 - Salesian Foundation presents this System for the Protection of Minors and other Vulnerable Individuals within the framework of World Youth Day Lisbon 2023 - WYD DON BOSCO 23, based on the Protection System for Minors and other Vulnerable Individuals (SPMPV) of the Salesian Foundation. This protection system aims to provide guidance on procedures to prevent mistreatment and promote consistent, objective, and effective actions for the protection of minors and vulnerable individuals in the context of participating in WYD Lisbon 2023.

The SPMPV covers all individuals who collaborate with WYD DON BOSCO 23 and have direct or indirect, frequent or occasional contact with minors or other vulnerable individuals, to ensure that everyone has access to the information and guidelines provided by this system as mentioned earlier. WYD DON BOSCO 23 is thus committed to promoting the safety of all Salesian pilgrims, especially minors and vulnerable individuals.



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CODE OF CONDUCT FOR WYDDONBOSCO 23 VOLUNTEERS

The Code of Conduct for the Protection System of Minors and other Vulnerable Individuals is embraced by volunteers of WYDDONBOSCO23 and the Salesian Foundation.

The Code of Conduct clearly and objectively outlines the behaviors to adopt when interacting with minors and other vulnerable individuals, providing clear guidance to all volunteers and collaborators in line with the ethics and deontology codes of their respective professions. As such, the Code of Conduct contributes to creating a responsible, safe, and protective environment for minors and other vulnerable individuals, based on their best interests, and considering interactions that may occur in various areas: language, supervision, individual contact, behavior management, privacy in different contexts, illnesses or injuries, recording and capturing images, acting in cases of mistreatment, managing confidential information, among others.

Failure to comply with the Code of Conduct can have repercussions on the well-being of those served by WYD DON BOSCO 23. According to the current legislation, non-compliance may result in consequences such as the termination of the volunteer agreement and dismissal and/or referral to the national authorities with competence in this matter. Therefore, all volunteers and collaborators are aware that they must follow this Code of Conduct and report any situations that go against its principles in good faith.

The following points identify the principles and behaviors that all collaborators must adopt to comply with the Code of Conduct and ensure the promotion and protection of all minors and other vulnerable individuals:



VOLUNTEERS AND COLLABORATORS OF WYDDONBOSCO 23 COMMIT TO...

...Maintain respectful and responsible conduct by:

- Prioritizing the best interests of adolescents and young people.
- Respecting the legislation referred to in the SPMPV and acting in accordance with the values of WYDDONBOSCO 23 and the Salesian Foundation.
- Demonstrating non-violent and supportive behavior in their actions, language, and gestures.
- Respecting the fundamental rights of all, regardless of gender, age, ability, health condition, language, ethnicity, race, color, religion, economic status, sexual orientation, or any other aspects of identity or personal characteristics.
- Treating everyone with tolerance, dignity, and respect.
- Not discriminating, harassing, intimidating, exploiting, or physically, sexually, or verbally abusing others.
- Displaying respectful and responsible behavior as models and examples.
- Avoiding the use of harassing, abusive, humiliating, sexually provocative, or culturally inappropriate language.
- Refraining from physical punishment.
- Not being under the influence of psychoactive substances that significantly impair their ability to perform their duties.

...Promote the well-being and harmonious development of all by:

- Contributing to the development of each person's potential and well-being.
- Creating a warm and affectionate environment.
- Recognizing equal opportunities and treating everyone equally.
- Abstaining from promoting activities that are inappropriate given the age, development, physical constitution, culture, or religion or that may compromise safety.
- Providing necessary care in case of illness or injuries, following established procedures.
- Encouraging active participation of minors and vulnerable individuals.



...Protect minors and other vulnerable individuals by:

- Adopting behavior that protects against all forms of discrimination and mistreatment.
- Not engaging in sexual relationships with minors or other vulnerable individuals.
- Not exchanging money, employment, goods, favors, or services for sexual relations, including sexual favors or other forms of humiliation or abusive behavior.
- Not spending excessive time alone with minors or other vulnerable individuals except when necessary and appropriate given the nature of the work.
- Reporting concerns about current or potential cases of mistreatment or any other violation of the SPMPV.
- Disclosing any information about accusations of mistreatment against them when entering into volunteer service or whenever such accusations arise during their collaboration.
- Avoiding any inappropriate physical contact that may be perceived as aggressive or sexual.
- Abstaining from providing personal care that can be carried out autonomously by the individual (e.g., bathing, dressing, using the bathroom).
- Not establishing personal relationships that go beyond the professional relationship.
- Respecting the protocol of action provided by the SPMPV and following its instructions scrupulously.

...Use positions of power and hierarchy responsibly by:

- Not using their authority position concerning minors or vulnerable individuals for personal gain or benefit for themselves, their family, or friends.
- Not requesting personal payment, services, or favors from those served by WYDDONBOSCO 23 and the Salesian Foundation as a reward for assistance, support, goods, or services of any kind.



...Use resources responsibly by:

- Using all computers and other information technology responsibly.
- Abstaining from any improper use, especially related to creating, viewing, downloading, or distributing inappropriate or offensive materials, such as abusive images of children, pornography, or child pornography.
- Paying increased attention to road safety, both active and passive, when transporting minors or other vulnerable individuals.

...Ensure the confidentiality of information and its responsible use by:

- Not disclosing sensitive or potentially harmful information to external entities or individuals, including representatives of the media, without proper authorization.
- Committing to maintaining confidentiality and secrecy regarding all information related to their duties.
- Not using confidential information they have access to for their exclusive or unilateral benefit, present or future, or for the benefit of third parties.
- Not making any recording or copy of confidential documentation they have access to.
- Not appropriating confidential and/or secret material from available technology.
- Respecting the confidentiality of data concerning individuals served by WYDDONBOSCO 23 and the Salesian Foundation.
- Considering the following aspects before photographing or filming a minor or vulnerable individual: (i) not taking, storing, using, or disclosing images without authorization from those depicted or their legal representatives; (ii) ensuring that images portray the individual in a dignified and respectful manner, with special care taken regarding the exposure of the body; (iii) evaluating whether collecting images does not conflict with the culture of the individuals.