

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Public Interest Science Center (PISC)
Les Tours Jumelles (Complexe Les Tours Jumelles), Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo
Email: info@pi-sc.org

Effective date: [DD Mon YYYY] • **Approved by Board:** [DD Mon YYYY] • **Next review:** annually

Purpose

PISC is committed to preventing sexual exploitation and abuse, harassment, and any harm to children or vulnerable adults in our programs, research, and operations.

Who this applies to

- Board members, staff, consultants, volunteers, interns, and partners working with PISC.
- All activities involving community members, patients, students, research participants, or beneficiaries.

Core commitments

- Zero tolerance for sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, harassment, bullying, and violence.
- Respect, dignity, and informed consent in all interactions.
- Safe, confidential reporting and non-retaliation for good-faith reports.

Standards of behavior

- Never engage in sexual activity with anyone under 18 years old.
- Do not exchange money, goods, services, or opportunities for sexual acts or favors.
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries; avoid being alone with a child where not necessary and not visible.
- Use images/data of children and participants only with consent and for legitimate purposes.

Safer recruitment and training

- Reference checks for staff/consultants in sensitive roles when feasible.
- Safeguarding briefing for all personnel before fieldwork; refresh annually.

Reporting and response

If you suspect abuse or exploitation, report immediately. PISC will take urgent steps to protect the person at risk, preserve confidentiality, and investigate appropriately.

- Primary reporting email: safeguarding@pi-sc.org (or designated safe channel).
- Alternate: whistleblower@pi-sc.org (see Whistleblower Policy).
- If a child is in immediate danger, contact emergency services and inform PISC as soon as possible.

Safeguarding roles

- Safeguarding Focal Point: [Name, Title].

- Board Safeguarding & Ethics Committee provides oversight and reviews serious incidents.