

Nasc, Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre

Child Safeguarding Statement

Updated 2024



Nasc

Migrant & Refugee Rights

Nasc, the Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre (Nasc) is a non-governmental organisation and registered charity which provides information, advice and supports to migrants, refugees and international protection applicants and their families moving to, or living in Ireland.

This Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice and the Charities Regulator Safeguarding Guidance for Charitable Organisations working with Children 2020.

Nasc engages with children in the following ways:

- Nasc's Advocacy Service, occasionally provides face-to-face support, advice and representation to children, young people and their families. Typically, but not always, the minor is accompanied by a parent, guardian or other professional (eg foster parent, teacher, guardian *ad litem*, social worker) during these consultations.
- Nasc's Advocacy Service may provide immigration or international protection-related information or advice to a minor via its phone line service.
- Nasc staff members responsible for outreach may provide information or support to children, young people and their families while visiting congregated settings including direct provision or emergency centres or accommodation centres for Ukrainians. Typically the minor is accompanied by a parent, guardian or other family members during these sessions.
- Nasc staff members responsible for outreach may visit a family home for the purposes of providing information, advice or support and may meet children as part of the family unit living in that home. Children will be accompanied by a parent or guardian during any such visits.
- Nasc may, at the request of a school, provide an information session to promote integration and/or educate children and young people on issues affecting migrants, refugees and international protection applicants. These sessions are supervised by staff from the school.
- Nasc provides 1:1 social work-led services to children and young people through its Connect and New Beginnings Projects. As part of these services, one of the staff members or volunteers employed through the Connect or New Beginnings Project may visit the child or young person and their family in their home or arrange a consultation in Nasc's office.
- On a very occasional basis, Nasc works hosts events that may include minors. Typically minors are accompanied by a parent, guardian or other professional (eg foster parent, teacher, guardian *ad litem*, social worker).
- On a very occasional basis, Nasc may work directly with children and young people on legal, policy or other projects.
- On a very occasional basis, minors may work in Nasc offices (as volunteers or interns) as part of a school placement. Minors will be supervised by a Nasc member of staff at all times.
- Nasc liaises with organisations that work directly with children.

Principles to safeguard children from harm

Nasc is committed to the protection of children and young people with whom we work and to promoting good practice within our organisation. We are committed to promoting the rights of the child including the participation of children and young people in matters that affect them.

We believe the following:

- Ensuring the safety and welfare of every child and young person who attends our service is paramount.
- Our guiding principles and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and we will review our guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures every two years.
- All children and young people have an equal right to attend a service that respects them as individuals and encourages them to reach their potential, regardless of their background.
- We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who attends our service, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to and be heard.
- Our guiding principles apply to everyone in our organisation.
- Staff members, board members, interns and volunteers must conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of our organisation.

Mandated Reports

Nasc maintains a list of mandated reporters.

Eilis Ni Laoi	Social Worker

Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. The list below are the identified areas of risk and the procedures for managing/mitigating those risks.

Risk Identified	Policies and/or Procedures in place to manage and mitigate identified risk
A child is harmed by a Nasc staff member (for the purposes of this statement staff member shall include volunteers, interns and board members) through coming into contact with Nasc.	Child Protection Policy, in particular the sections on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General procedures on safeguarding children (Sections 1, 1.1, 2 and 5 of the Child Protection Policy) • The management of allegations of abuse against staff of a child availing of our Services (Section 4.4 of the Child Protection Policy) • The procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of staff (Section 6 of the Child Protection Policy) • The procedure for the provision of child safeguarding training (Section 2 of the Child Protection Policy)

<p>A child is harmed by another person (including another child) through coming into contact with Nasc.</p>	<p>Child Protection Policy, in particular the sections on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General procedures on safeguarding children ((Sections 1, 1.1, 2 and 5 of the Child Protection Policy)) • The management of allegations of abuse against a person who is not a staff member of a child availing of our Services (Sections 4.1 and 4.2 of the Child Protection Policy) • The procedure for the provision of child safeguarding training (Section 2 of the Child Protection Policy)
<p>A child is harmed by a failure on the part of a staff member to report or the filing of a poor report of allegations/suspensions of abuse made to Immigrant Council staff by telephone, email, letter or in person.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management of allegations of abuse against a staff member or another person who is not a staff member of a child availing of our Services (Sections 4.1 and 4.2 of the Child Protection Policy) • The procedure for the provision of child safeguarding training (Section 2 of the Child Protection Policy)

Nasc's Child Protection Policy identifies procedures to follow to mitigate risks that may present in the following identified scenarios:

- Where children are accessing information through the Nasc phone line service or in person the Advocacy and Information Service
- Where children are working in the Nasc offices (as transition year work experience students) or children present in the offices for other reasons (such as the children of staff members);
- Where children are present during outreach or in-reach to congregated accommodation settings.
- Where children are present during home visits.
- Where social workers are working one-to-one with a child or young person
- Where children are attending at events which Nasc has organised
- Where allegations/suspensions of abuse are made to Immigrant Council staff by telephone, email, letter and/or in person.

Procedures

The following procedures and practices support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- General procedures for safeguarding children (Sections 1 (particularly 1.1, 1.2) 3 and 5 of Nasc's Child Protection Policy)

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against employees/interns/volunteers/board members from a child availing of our service (Section 4.4 of Nasc's Child Protection Policy)
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of employees, interns and volunteers to work with children (Section 6 of the Nasc Child Protection Policy).
- Provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm (Sections 1.1 and 3 of the Nasc Child Protection Policy)
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla (Sections 3.3, 3.4, 4.1 and 4.2 of the Nasc Child Protection Policy)
- The Appointment of a Designated Liaison Person and Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Section 1.3 of the Nasc Child Protection Policy)
- A list of mandated persons is maintained by Nasc and is available in our Child Protection Policy and Safeguarding Statement (Section 4.3)

Implementation and review

- Implementation is an ongoing process. Nasc is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.
- This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in December 2024 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Statement refers.
- This Statement along with our Child Protection Policy has been published on our website and is displayed in a prominent place on our premises.
- It has been provided to all staff, interns, volunteers and board members, and any other persons involved with the service. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla if requested