



Yspaniola Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

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1. Introduction

1.1. Yspaniola's Vision

We believe in an inclusive Dominican Republic, which provides access to high-quality education and promotes the human rights of all people.

1.2. Our Values

1.2.1. High-quality Literacy Education

The Dominican education system is consistently ranked as one of the poorest in the world. Many students from bateyes and other marginalized communities fall behind and are unable to master the most basic skills of reading and writing. At Yspaniola, we strive to provide children with the best possible start to their education by offering our literacy-focused curriculum to students from four to 17 years.

1.2.2. University Scholarships

We offer scholarships for talented students whose families cannot afford a college education, and technical training courses for students looking for a vocational path into the professional workforce. Ultimately, our education programs aim to equip students with the skills and knowledge to envision a positive future, advocate for themselves and their community, and participate fully as members of Dominican society.

1.2.3. Right to Identity and Social Inclusion

We help protect students' right to reside in the country where they were born and reduce the threat of deportation. Since 2013, Yspaniola has run two documentation initiatives to help Batey Libertad residents to obtain legal identity documents which enable individuals to access higher education, health care and to travel within the country without fear.

1.2.4. Outreach and Advocacy

Cross-border solidarity and local outreach are at the core of Yspaniola's work. We partner with universities, high schools, churches and others outside of the Dominican Republic, as well as connecting with like-minded NGOs, civil society organizations and volunteers in-country to establish new support networks and collaborate to advocate for social justice.

2. Foreword

Yspaniola's safeguarding procedures are evidence of our commitment to protecting our students and staff and they aim to maintain the quality of our services in all that we do for the children and for the community of Batey Libertad.

These procedures are compliant with National Dominican Law:

“Ley N° 136. Código para la Protección de los Derechos de los Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes” issued by The Dominican Republic 's Chamber of Deputies, Palace of the National Congress the 7th August 2003.

“Constitution of The Dominican Republic” reviewed by the National Assembly (Asamblea Nacional Revisora) the 13th June 2015.

These procedures also adhere to International Law:

“Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)” issued by The United Nations on the 20th November 1989.

2.1. Purpose and scope

The purpose of this document is to generate clear guidelines that all workers, volunteers, board members, interns and fellows involved with Yspaniola's activities must follow. This includes any permanent or temporary employee, volunteer, intern or external agent involved with Yspaniola at any time. Everybody should refer to this policy and procedures if they are concerned about one of Yspaniola's student's safety.

A document for visitors has also been created (**Annex I**). This document contains a set of guidelines for any external visitors or guests that Yspaniola might have. This includes Service Learning Trips, external organizations, friends/family of current Yspaniola's staff visiting Batey Libertad etc..

**This is a SAMPLE of Yspaniola's Child Safeguarding Policy.
The full policy can be requested by email: info@yspaniola.org**