



***Das „Entwicklungspädagogische Informationszentrum EPiZ im Arbeitskreis Eine Welt Reutlingen e.V.“ Reutlingen schließt sich als Mitglied des Dachverband Entwicklungspolitik Baden-Württemberg e.V. (DEAB) der Kinderschutz-Policy des DEAB an. Wir arbeiten mit dem DEAB an der Weiterentwicklung der Policy eng zusammen und verstehen diesen als einen fortlaufenden Prozess.***

***As a member of the Dachverband Entwicklungspolitik Baden-Württemberg e.V. (DEAB), EPiZ (Entwicklungspädagogisches Informationszentrum im Arbeitskreis Eine Welt Reutlingen e.V.) follows the DEAB Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children. As a member of DEAB, we work closely together on the further development of the policy and understand this as an ongoing process.***

## **DEAB Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children**

against abuse and exploitation, in particular sexual, physical and psychological violence, in national wide development work, in development cooperation and in humanitarian aid<sup>1</sup>.

### **Introduction**

The preamble to the DEAB statutes states: " In Baden-Württemberg we work together to ensure that many people are guided by a vision of global justice and live, act and make policy in such a way that people in all parts of the world have a decent life."

Together, the members of the Dachverband Entwicklungspolitik Baden-Württemberg stand up for the fight against poverty, the realization of human rights and the preservation of the natural foundations of life with even greater vigor.

Following the principle 'children's rights are human rights', all DEAB members feel obliged to strengthen girls and boys in the use of their rights and to protect them from abuse and exploitation in the context of education, public relations and campaign work for global responsibility and solidarity (hereinafter: domestic work), in partnership work, development cooperation and humanitarian aid. The goal of every organization in these fields of work must be to create an environment that is safe for children<sup>2</sup> and persons at risk and in which respect for human rights is guaranteed. This includes protection from abuse within their own organizational structures.

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<sup>1</sup> This Code is based in word and spirit on the 'VENRO Code on Children's Rights: Protection of Children from Abuse and Exploitation in Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid' in its version of December 2010. Even though the VENRO Code explicitly includes development policy in-country work, it is mentioned even more explicitly in some places in the DEAB Code. This is because the majority of the work of NGOs, action groups and world shops / Fair Trade Shops organized in the DEAB consists of in-country work, education, public relations or campaign work, which is intended to sensitize citizens of Baden-Württemberg to global responsibility and solidarity.

<sup>2</sup> According to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, a child means "every human being below the age of eight and ten years, unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier".

## Frame of reference

In every country and every society, girls and boys are affected by sexual violence<sup>3</sup>, abuse and maltreatment, and exploitation. A large number of persons who are addressed in the context of the above-mentioned domestic work or who receive support in partnership work, development cooperation and humanitarian aid are children. They need special support and protection. It is a task of domestic work and development cooperation to strengthen children's awareness of their rights, to work towards their recognition as subjects of their actions, to improve their development and development conditions as well as their opportunities for co-determination and to protect them from possible dangers.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the three supplementary protocols<sup>4</sup> form the frame of reference for this code. The best interests of the child are given the highest priority.

## Commitments

We want to establish the protection of children and the following standards as a quality feature in our work at here and abroad. The association and its members commit themselves to,

1. to strengthen all girls and boys in all their rights and to protect them from sexual, psychological or physical violence, exploitation and neglect,
2. to create an environment that is safe for children and persons at risk and in which respect for children's and human rights is ensured,
3. to involve children in activities that affect them and to take their interests and competencies into account in the planning and implementation of our activities,
4. create awareness and sensitize to the issue within our organization and among our partners,
5. implement appropriate tools including clearly defined responsibilities and procedures in the areas of prevention, crisis management and monitoring,
6. to ensure, within the framework of our press, education and public relations work, that the dignity of the child is always respected,
7. to sensitize decision-makers in politics and business as well as networks in this sense.

By adopting the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children, the DEAB members at the same time express their will to work on the implementation of the Code.

In the event of suspected violations of this Code, the DEAB Board of Directors is obligated to investigate. If violations are identified, appropriate measures shall be taken.

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<sup>3</sup> Sexual violence is an individual, age- and gender-dependent (defined) violation of boundaries and means any sexual act that is performed on or in front of a child or adolescent against his/her will or to which the child or adolescent cannot knowingly consent due to physical, psychological, cognitive or linguistic inferiority. The perpetrator uses his/her position of power and authority to satisfy his/her own needs at the expense of the child. (according to Bange/Deegener: Sexual Abuse of Children, Weinheim 1996).

<sup>4</sup> See '1st Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict', '2nd Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Trafficking of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography' and 3rd 'Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on an Individual Complaints Mechanism'.