

The Bhutan Society of the United Kingdom: Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct

Policy

The Bhutan Society of the UK (“The Society”) believes that it is always unacceptable for a child or vulnerable adult to experience abuse of any kind.

The Society offers honorary membership to Bhutanese studying in the UK, including those under the age of 18. Ordinarily, subscribing members should be over 18. The Society recognises that a Member may be a vulnerable adult. The Society expects that young Bhutanese attend Society events with the knowledge and guidance of the parents, guardians, carers, schools or institutions responsible for them. Members are welcome to bring guests, including children, to Society events and will have primary responsibility for their care.

The Society is committed to policies which protect children and vulnerable adults and ensure that all their interactions with The Society are safe.

Code of Conduct

The Committee, all Members of The Society, and those taking part in The Society’s events, are expected to abide by this Code of Conduct:

1. Always prioritise the well-being of children and vulnerable adults.
2. Help to create a safe and inclusive environment before, during and after Society events.
3. Respect a child’s and vulnerable adult’s right to personal privacy.
4. Where possible, do not be alone with a child or vulnerable adult. If necessary only do this once advance parental/carer approval has been gained.
5. Do not abuse, neglect, harm or discriminate against anyone; or act in a way that may be interpreted as such.
6. Report all concerns as soon as possible:
 - If someone is in immediate danger, call the Police (999)
 - If someone is not in immediate danger: during a Society-organised event, report all concerns to the Committee Member leading the event; or call the Secretary of The Society (David Glazebrook) on 07961 301 764; or, in their absence, call the NSPCC on 0800 800 5000 for advice.

To enforce this Code of Conduct, the Committee will:

1. Review the practices of The Society for the protection of young and vulnerable adults.
2. Reserve the right to terminate membership of The Society where there is reason to believe that safeguarding standards put children or vulnerable adults at risk of harm.
3. Review this Policy and Code of Conduct annually.

The Society’s Code of Conduct should be interpreted in a spirit of integrity, transparency and common sense, with the best interests of children and vulnerable adults at risk as the primary consideration.

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