



VAANI, Deaf Children's Foundation's Child Protection Policy

VAANI, Deaf Children's Foundation works for the empowerment of deaf children and their families.

VAANI is committed to protecting the rights of the child, deaf or hearing, at all times. This policy statement establishes the position and expectations of the Organisation in relation to the protection of all children that VAANI staff, including consultants and volunteers, come into contact with, in the course of their duties.

VAANI believes that the protection of children is everybody's responsibility, irrespective of role or designation within the Organisation and will work to ensure the following statements are true:

- All children have the right to safety and protection from violent, threatening or degrading behaviour.
- VAANI is committed to ensuring that no deaf child is denied his or her fundamental right to education.
- Each child should be treated as an individual and should be encouraged to express their own wishes and needs.
- All children should be valued equally regardless of their age, gender, race, culture, deafness or other disability.
- Each child's body is their own. No one else has the right to do anything to a child which makes them feel uncomfortable. We will support children in their right not to be subjected to any behaviour from children, or adults within our Organisation, which threatens them.
- Children's complaints and concerns will be taken seriously and dealt with using the appropriate procedures.

All our activities are planned keeping the best interests of the child in mind at all times.

- VAANI does not support the system of individual sponsorships and funds received by us go to support programmes, not individuals.
- Donors to our programmes may attend our workshops and interact with the participants but no child may be singled out for any preferential treatment.
- Unannounced visits to any of VAANI's beneficiaries are not permitted.

- Written consent is taken from each deaf child's guardian before the use of any close-up picture of the child on our website or in any of our information material.
- Written consent is taken from the partner organisation or the participating institution before pictures of deaf children participating in any VAANI programme are used on our website or in any of our information material.
- VAANI is committed to severing our relationship with any partner organisation or individual suspected of child abuse or inappropriate behaviour.
- VAANI will ensure that no deaf child is portrayed in a manner that highlights their disability or poverty in order to evoke sympathy or pity. All information relating to personal details of the deaf child will be used for public viewing only after written consent is obtained from the child's legal guardian.