



YOUNG
EUROPEAN
FEDERALISTS

Protection guidelines for minors during JEF Europe events

1. Introduction

As mentioned in JEF Europe's Code of Conduct, JEF Europe is committed to maintaining and further developing a culture based on mutual respect, human dignity, safety, and equality as preconditions to ensure full access and active participation, reflecting the right to an empowering space and safe participation in its activities.

In general, JEF Europe's target group are young people between 18-35 years old. However, in some exceptional cases, there might be minors (mostly between 16-17) in attendance at our activities. JEF Europe acknowledges its responsibility to do no harm to minors, and thus aims to minimise the risks for underaged participants attending our activities.

During the activities at local level, when working with minors, there are guidelines and child protection statements by the specific sections in agreement with schools, parents or other educational institutions in place. Those are closely developed with the teaching professionals of the schools and also follow the specific country legal frameworks.

Thus, in addition to JEF Europe's Code of Conduct, child protection guidelines have been developed to be implemented during international activities. This reflects JEF Europe's commitment to child safeguarding.

1.1 JEF Europe aims to:

- ❖ Protect minors and young people who attend JEF Europe's activities from harm. This includes children of adults attending the events of JEF Europe, who remain under the sole responsibility of their parents.
- ❖ Provide staff and volunteers, as well as minors and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that offer guidance during events where minors participate.

1.2 JEF Europe believes that:

- ❖ Minors and young people should never experience abuse of any kind.
- ❖ We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all minors and young people, to keep them safe and to act in a way that protects them when they attend our events.

1.3 JEF Europe recognises that:

- ❖ The wellbeing of minors and young people is respected during all activities we conduct. In all the decisions we take, all minors, regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation, have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- ❖ Some young people are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.
- ❖ Working in partnership with minors, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

2. Overview of responsibilities for the protection of the underaged participants

When underage participants take part in international activities directly organised by JEF Europe, extra attention will be dedicated to provide them with a safe environment. Before their attendance, a [parental consent form](#) will be required from their parents. The logistics of the participation of the underage participant will be overseen by the Secretariat.

At each seminar, a dedicated contact person from the national section of the underage participant(s) or the Executive Board will be designated for each underage participant to answer any question the underage participant may have during the event. The contact persons as defined in the Code of Conduct are dedicated to ensuring safety and feeling of safety of all participants. They are also available throughout the event for the underage participants.

During events, all members of the organisational team bear responsibility for the protection of the underaged participants. This means that both the members of the JEF Secretariat present and the members of the hosting sections should be aware of the guidelines as mentioned in part 3 of this document. Before an event is taking place in a section's country, the dedicated contact persons will have a briefing with the responsible hosting section to be able to adapt and react to national rules and necessary protection measures.

Furthermore, in case any complaints or comments of inappropriate behaviour towards minors who have attended JEF events arise, the Code of Conduct contacts person can be contacted. The same process as introduced for breaches in the Code of Conduct shall be used in cases of inappropriate behaviour against minors during JEF Events.

In addition, during the onboarding process of JEF Europe's Secretariat staff, these child protection guidelines will be explained. All JEF Europe staff will have to hand in their criminal records to prove they are allowed to work with minors. External trainers will be required to do as well for events in which minors are participating.

3. Guidelines (and procedures) for protection of minors at JEF events

- ❖ Valuing, listening to and respecting them.
- ❖ Adopting child protection and safeguarding best practices through our policies, procedures and Code of Conduct for staff, volunteers and subcontractors.

- ❖ Be mindful of online safety regarding content and accessibility that might be harmful for minors and related procedures.
- ❖ Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently.
- ❖ Recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, this especially applies to staff acting as multipliers and educators.
- ❖ Recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance and asking for the permission of the legal responsible before publishing any material where under-age participants are visible.
- ❖ Making sure that minors, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern.
- ❖ Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment, as outlined in the Code of Conduct, and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise.
- ❖ Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our minors, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.
- ❖ During activities during which alcohol consumption is possible, procedures, such as differentiated wristbands, shall be put in place by the Secretariat to prevent minors from consuming alcohol according to national legislation age limits. Such procedures shall be explained to all participants to ensure national legislation is respected and the event shall be inclusive for all, regardless of the consumption or not of alcohol. .
- ❖ Building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, minors, young people and their families, treat each other with respect.

These guidelines apply to anyone involved in the activities on behalf of JEF Europe, including full-time staff, volunteers and potential subcontractors. We do not employ underaged staff.

4. Accountability

- Protection guidelines for minors shall be reviewed minimum every 2 years and updated if needed.
- When working with partner organisations, JEF needs to make sure that joint events are also up to the protection standards
- The present child protection guidelines shall be made accessible on the JEF Europe website for transparency so everyone can access the document (parents of underaged participants etc).

References:

- *National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (2019): [NSPCC safeguarding standards and guidance](#)*
- *Child Safeguarding Standards and how to implement them (2014) by Keeping Children Safe*