

# Day of General Discussion 2021 Safeguarding Policy

## Child and youth friendly version

The organisations involved in organising the Day of General Discussion 2021 on children's rights and alternative care are committed to making sure that **all children and young people are kept safe from harm** while working with us on this project.



### What is harm?



**Harm** is any action which may negatively impact a child/vulnerable adult's sense of safety or wellbeing. Harm can be caused intentionally and unintentionally. Abuse is a type of harm. Abuse and harm are never ok.

Children have a **right to be protected from harm and abuse** by adults working with them, and governments, organisations and individuals have a responsibility to protect children from harm.

This means that if someone is harming or abusing you - **you have the right to tell someone, to be taken seriously and to be protected.**<sup>1</sup>



**Any adult** working on the Day of General Discussion (DGD) 2021 has a **responsibility to keep the children and young people involved safe**, and protect them from harm.

<sup>1</sup> Image : E. Chen, 2013. <https://fra.europa.eu/en/about-fra/what-we-do/fra-for-children/where-do-my-rights-come-from%3F>

This safeguarding policy covers **any activities to do with the Day of General Discussion 2021 (DGD)**, including:

- online working with the CAT and YAT,
- other activities with children and young people to prepare for the DGD,
- as well as the DGD itself, which will take place virtually using the Zoom platform in September

**All children and young people** who will be involved in the DGD activities, including the **Children's Advisory Team (CAT)** and **Young People's Advisory Team (YAT)**, are covered by this safeguarding policy and the staff working with them have a duty to keep them safe from harm during any DGD activities.

Additionally, as adults, YAT members also have a responsibility to take action if they are told about or suspect any abuse.



<https://iconsout.com/illustration/boy-and-girl-giving-high-five-to-each-other-2130735>

## Who is responsible for protecting children and young people from harm during the DGD?

Children and young people will work with different groups of staff/adults for the DGD, who will be responsible for your safety at different points

### Supporting Organisation

Your **supporting organisation** knows you best and is the main organisation responsible for your safety.

They are responsible for ensuring children and young people are kept safe when they are working on and preparing for the DGD in their own countries.



Your supporting organisation should also help you to register for the DGD and help you with any translation needs you may have, if you do not speak English, French, or Spanish.

### Staff of Coordinating Organisations

**DGD Facilitators** will be working with the CAT and YAT to prepare the DGD, and with children and young people on the day itself, as well as the preparation and debrief days.

They, and their colleagues in the organisations helping to prepare the DGD, are responsible for making sure the environment is safe, protective and inclusive during the online preparatory work for the DGD, and the DGD itself in September.



Created by Gregor Cresnar  
from Noun Project

There is a **Child Safeguarding Focal Point** who oversees all aspects related to safeguarding for children and young people involved in the DGD.

This is Nancy Maguire, Child Participation Manager at Lumos.



You can contact Nancy at her email address:

[Nancy.maguire@wearelumos.org](mailto:Nancy.maguire@wearelumos.org)

If Nancy is busy, she might ask **Angelique Robold** to help you with your concerns.

Angelique is the Senior Safeguarding Manager at Lumos. During the DGD, she will be the **Backup Safeguarding Focal Point**, and will be available to fill in for Nancy if necessary.



We should note that Nancy and Angelique are both English speakers. If you are a French or Spanish speaker, Nancy and Angelique will be able to get help from a professional translator to assist with your concern.

**Speak to the safeguarding focal point for your session** – Every session of the DGD will also have a *Safeguarding Focal Point*. This is a person who is joining the call to help any child or young person who becomes uncomfortable during the session.

Details of the different safeguarding focal points for each session will be provided at the beginning of each session. You can send them a message at any time during the session if you need.

### **Speak to someone**

- You can always speak to someone if you're feeling anxious at the DGD. We recommend speaking to someone at your supporting organisation, as they know you best. But you can also speak to a member of the safeguarding team, who will be happy to help out.
- If you don't have anyone you can speak to in your supporting organisation, you may prefer to speak to a professional in your own country. For contact details of child helplines in your country, please see here: <https://www.childhelplineinternational.org/child-helplines/child-helpline-network/>

### **Rules to keep us safe**

The **DGD Safeguarding Policy** tells adults what things they should and should not do to keep children and young people safe from harm.

## Keeping Safe Online

Because the DGD is taking place virtually this year, it is really important to know how you can stay safe online.

It can be really fun working together as a team on a project!



If other CAT & YAT members, Facilitators or other adults start asking you to do things that seem odd, you do not have to give in to their requests.

## Saying no

Sometimes when we work together online people can try to convince us to do things, even when we have said no.

This might be one person you're chatting to online, or it could be lots of people.

Their requests can feel uncomfortable, such as asking you to chat one-to-one, asking for your personal information, or asking you to do things you do not like to do.



If someone is asking you to do things online that don't feel right, **stop and tell someone.**

## What does pressure look like online?

It can be difficult to spot manipulative behaviour in others, and it might not always be obvious when someone is putting you under pressure online.

It might be lots of compliments and flattery, promising gifts or nice things, or sending you lots of comments.

This can make people feel like they need to do what they are being asked, even if they don't want to.



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Alternatively it might be something more obvious, such as someone saying that bad things will happen to you if you don't do what they're asking.

**These are all elements of pressure and blackmail and this is wrong.**

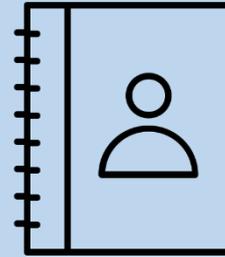
If people online are asking you to do things that make you feel uncomfortable **you can always say no**, as difficult as this may feel. Even if the people seem nice and the other things they say to you make you feel good, **you never have to do something you're uncomfortable with** and **you always have a choice**.

You can find more information about pressure online here:

[https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/14\\_plus/Need-advice/dealing-with-pressure-online/](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/14_plus/Need-advice/dealing-with-pressure-online/)

## Personal Information

You should not share your personal information, like your family name, date of birth, email address and phone number, with anyone you don't know well.



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This includes adults working on the Day of General Discussion.

The only staff involved in the project who should have your contact details (full name, email address, etc) are **your supporting organisation** and **the staff from Lumos: Amy Drage, Aisling Ledwith, Caroline Rose and Nancy Maguire**, as Lumos is the organisation responsible for keeping your personal information safe for all DGD activities.

**If anyone else asks for your contact information or other personal information, do not give it to them and please tell either your supporting organisation or Nancy, the Child Safeguarding Focal Point.**

## What should we do if we are concerned that a child or vulnerable adult is being harmed or at risk of harm?

- if you have been harmed or think you are at risk of harm, whether physically, or because of something someone has said or done, or,
- if you are worried that another child or a young person involved in the DGD is at risk of or experiencing harm or abuse (it might be that the person has told you something, or from things you have noticed)

the staff involved in organising the DGD will **listen to you**, and **take your concern seriously**

If you have a concern, you should follow the below steps:

### 1. Talk to a member of staff



preferably from your supporting organisation, as they know you best

but it can also be someone from one of the coordinating organisations if you feel more comfortable with that

### 2. If it's about another child or young person

try to just report what you have been told or what you have seen and try not to add your opinions or judgement



we can't promise to keep possible abuse or harm a secret – we have a legal responsibility to report it to a responsible person– but beyond the member of staff you tell, you shouldn't tell anyone else

### 3. If someone is in danger of immediate harm and there is no available adult to tell

you should call the appropriate authorities in the country you are in, like the police, fire or ambulance service

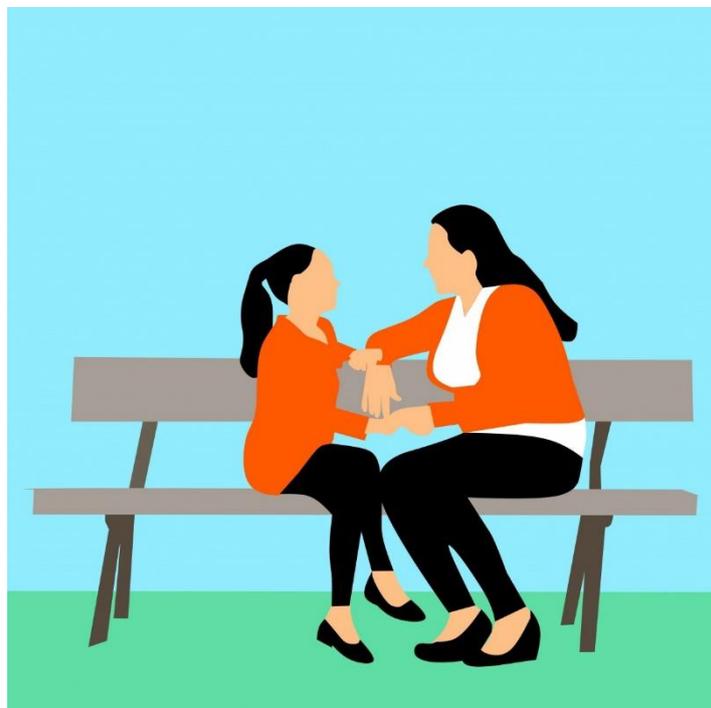


## What will happen then?

If you report something to an adult from your supporting organisation, during the lead-up to the DGD, or during the DGD, they will have policies and procedures in place to take the concern forward.

If you report something during the scope of the DGD activities, it will be reported to Nancy, the Child Safeguarding Focal Point.

**If you don't feel able to tell your supporting organisation for any reason, you can contact Nancy directly at [Nancy.maguire@wearelumos.org](mailto:Nancy.maguire@wearelumos.org)**



**If *you* need any support because the things you have shared are upsetting, please talk to your supporting organisation or to one of us (the Facilitators).**