

## **GENFEST 2024**

### **Policy for the integral safeguarding of children, adolescents and vulnerable adults**

#### **I. COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOCOLARE MOVEMENT'S POLICY FOR THE INTEGRAL SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND VULNERABLE ADULTS**

The GENFEST, through its Executive Committee, formally and fully adheres to the Guidelines for the Integral Safeguarding of Children, Adolescents and Vulnerable Adults of the Focolare Movement, which is promoting the event.

It requires, through the terms of partnership and cooperation signed with the bodies and civil organisations that will facilitate the voluntary activities, explicit and formal compliance with its safeguarding policy during the preparation and course of the event, with the commitment to act in accordance to it and without reservation.

The Focolare Movement's integral safeguarding guidelines, which are the guide to Genfest's safeguarding policy, are available for consultation in the attachments/links below.

The following safeguarding policy has been established for the activities that the participants will carry out during the Genfest, in the 3 phases, as well as during their preparation and implementation:

#### **II. INTEGRAL SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND VULNERABLE ADULTS DURING GENFEST**

The Focolare Movement, through the Safeguarding Formation Commission, is committed to providing formation on the integral safeguarding of children, adolescents and vulnerable adults for Genfest participants and collaborators, particularly those participating in the first phase, which involves volunteering in the social sphere.

The volunteering will be carried out in small groups, distributed among civil society organisations in Brazil and other Latin American countries, which are assisting persons in vulnerable situations, such as children, adolescents, drug addicts, the elderly, the homeless and others.

They will take place between 12 and 18 July 2024, during which the participants will be welcomed and accommodated in the premises of these institutions.

For this reason, the young people must be prepared in advance for this volunteering, through a course on the integral safeguarding of children, adolescents and vulnerable adults, which is offered by the Focolare Movement on its digital platform, as well as through two virtual meetings to discuss and deepen their knowledge prior to the event.

On the date of the event, it is compulsory that the participants, including those involved in the volunteering activities, have followed the course, signed the Safeguarding Policy compliance form and obtained the relevant certification, so that they can carry out the activities safely and in accordance with the guidelines for the integral safeguarding of the person.

**Persons under the age of 18 will not be allowed to participate in volunteering activities, as the age range of Genfest participants is between 18 and 35.**

### III. RESOLUTIONS FOR THE GENFEST SAFEGUARDING POLICY

1. Before and after the GENFEST we will strive to:
  - a) Do everything possible to ensure that trust is not betrayed or abused.
  - b) Select and instruct all the persons responsible for the management of the event so that they can correctly recognise the violence they may suffer or commit, whether it be spiritual, physical, psychological, sexual (harassment, sex without consent) or gender-based (against women or the LGBTQIAPN+ population)<sup>1</sup> and respond according to our guidelines, which are available at the link given in the attachments.
  - c) Invite all persons attending the event to immediately report any violence of which they are victims, by informing the safeguarding team of the GENFEST | Focolare Movement, which is composed of the permanent team, **"Space for Protection"**, representative of Copac [CO.BE.TU?], the Genfest commission representative, volunteers and '*Instituto Aliança*' personnel present at the event, who will then take the following measures:

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<sup>1</sup> This document considers the following forms of violence observed and accepted: spiritual abuse, physical violence, psychological violence, sexual violence (harassment, sex without consent) or gender-based violence (against women or the LGBTQIAPN+ population).

- GENFEST safeguarding team: will immediately inform the persons who are responsible for the safeguarding of groups of other Movements, Associations or Dioceses.
  - "**The Space for Protection**" team / COPAC [CO.BE.TU] and the GENFEST safeguarding team: will provide safeguarding and liability measures, involving competent civil authorities if necessary.
- d) Take seriously all allegations of assault or abuse and take the necessary legal action.
- e) Respond to victims of violence who wish to speak out, regardless of the nature of the violence and when and where it occurred.
- f) Inform all persons attending the event, including collaborators, of this safeguarding policy.
2. The GENFEST integral safeguarding team commits itself to:
- a) Receive reports of sexual assault, violence of any kind and spiritual abuse during the event, regardless of who the accused person is;
  - b) Immediately inform COPAC [CO.BE.TU] when a victim or an accused member of the Focolare Movement is reported;
  - c) Listen with an open mind, take the person seriously and ensure that the person making the complaint understands and agrees with the additional measures that will be taken by the team;
  - d) Report all cases where required by the law.
  - e) Help victims to take legal measures for their full protection, making referrals to the Safeguarding Network.
  - f) Supports victims by listening and guiding, without committing to offer psychotherapeutic help.
3. GENFEST's integral safeguarding team is committed to working independently and to confidentially treating information related to its work.

Information received through any reports will be recorded and filed in accordance with the Brazilian General Data Protection Law (LGPD).

4. The GENFEST integral safeguarding team can be contacted 24 hours a day during the event and until **25 July 2024** at the following e-mail address [protecao.genfest@focolares.org.br](mailto:protecao.genfest@focolares.org.br) or by phone **+55 11 95842522**. The team will conclude its work on 30 July 2024, after which all information will be forwarded to the Focolare Movement's Commission for the Integral Safeguarding of Children, Adolescents and Vulnerable Adults (COPAC), which will monitor ongoing cases.

5. The GENFEST integral safeguarding team is represented by:

- Eliane De Carli and the COPAC team (person responsible)

**To report violations during the event**

- Languages spoken: en, es, it

## 6. How can I report a violation?

Participants who have witnessed any kind of violation of a person's integrity, or who are personally victims of it, are encouraged by the event organisers to speak up and tell the relevant people what has upset them. This can be the first step to protect others.

**During the first phase:** complaints can be submitted through COPAC, by e-mail [copac@focolares.org.br](mailto:copac@focolares.org.br) or by phone: **+55 11 95842522**. (Proteção Genfest).

**During the second and third phases:** the complaints can be submitted through the app and by visiting the "**SPACE FOR PROTECTION, SUPPORT AND CARE**", where the safeguarding team will be available to listen, offer guidance and support, and take appropriate action. During breaks in the programme and when the service in the Tent is closed, the team can be contacted by telephone: **+55 11 95842522**. (Proteção Genfest).

## 7. What to do if you witness a violation?

Participants who witness a violation can talk to the person concerned and, if it is opportune, to the persons responsible for the group to which they belong, so that they can contact the GENFEST Integral Safeguarding Team.

No action should be taken against the accused person, as the decision on how to proceed must be made in cooperation with the GENFEST integral safeguarding team and the person who has suffered the violation. If necessary, the legal guardian will be involved.

When witnessing a violation, it is important, if it is possible and safe to do so, to note down all information that could help to identify the accused person: name, place of origin, where they are lodged, the group they belong to, etc.

The same procedure applies to the use of drugs and excessive consumption of alcohol during GENFEST.

Participants who come to know of violations committed during the event or after it has concluded, or who have personally suffered a violation and decide to talk about it after the GENFEST, should contact the GENFEST Integral Safeguarding Team by sending an email to: [protecao.genfest@focolares.org.br](mailto:protecao.genfest@focolares.org.br) within the set date.

Moreover, in several countries there are associations for the protection of victims.

- In Italy there is a toll-free number for the fight against violence and stalking: 1522.
- In the United Kingdom, for example, there is the Childline service of NSPCC; +44 (0)808 800 5000.
- In the United States, you can call the number +1-800-422-4453 to contact the ChildHelp hotline.

## **8. Information on GENFEST's Safeguarding Policy:**

- a) All the participants will be informed by email, before the event, about the Focolare Movement's Guidelines for the Integral Safeguarding of Children, Adolescents and Vulnerable Adults and the **GENFEST Safeguarding Policy**. The Safeguarding Policy will also be available on the website, in the "**Space for Protection**", on the app and in printed format for consultation in the spaces used by the event.

- b) All collaborators, partners and physical or legal persons who are hosting participants at the event will be informed by the GENFEST coordinators of the measures taken for the integral safeguarding of the person. They will also be informed of the entire safeguarding policy of GENFEST and the Focolare Movement's guidelines for the integral safeguarding of children, adolescents and vulnerable adults, through the communication channels and websites [www.focolares.org.br](http://www.focolares.org.br) and [www.genfest.org](http://www.genfest.org).
- c) During the GENFEST, information and indications regarding the guidelines will be provided to all participants. The integral safeguarding team will be on hand to answer any questions, resolve any ambiguities and consult experts and civil authorities for further clarification.
- d) In addition, complete information on safeguarding will be available on the GENFEST app.
- e) During the event, everyone will have access to the GENFEST Safeguarding Policy and the Focolare Movement's Guidelines for the Integral Safeguarding of Children, Adolescents and Vulnerable Adults. The safeguarding team will provide participants, collaborators and partners with the necessary information to answer any questions, resolve any ambiguities and consult the necessary sources for further clarification.

#### **IV. THE SAFEGUARDING POLICY OF GENFEST IN PHASE 1**

- 9. In view of the GENFEST, the team of persons responsible for the first phase are committed to identifying and closely monitoring all those involved in the preparation group, so that they can **respond promptly to any concerns about the safety of people** and, with the help of COPAC [Cobetu], to any complaints. This will also apply to the partner organisations, which formally comply with the Focolare Movement's safeguarding policy through a cooperation and partnership agreement, the Integral Safeguarding Basic Course and a concrete commitment to promote safeguarding during the event.

10. The **implementation of the GENFEST safeguarding policy begins with the preparatory activities** in the period preceding the event. These include:

- a) a basic course on the integral safeguarding of children, adolescents and vulnerable adults - for all volunteers and collaborators of the event, as well as for partner organisations;
- b) educational support and information material on the safeguarding policy and rules of conduct when working with children, adolescents and vulnerable adults;
- c) online meetings with experts to go in depth, clarify doubts and dialogue on the application of the Focolare Movement's Guidelines for the Integral Safeguarding of Children, Adolescents and Vulnerable Adults and the Genfest Policy for the Safeguarding of People.

**Content of the programme** of the BASIC MODULE - Protection of children - Complete protection and guarantee of the fundamental rights of children, adolescents and vulnerable adults, available on the platform [www.focolaresead.org.br](http://www.focolaresead.org.br) (Total number of hours for the lesson: 217 minutes or 3h37min)

- **LESSON 1:** Children's rights: every right that is lost is a violence against children  
- Teacher: Eliane De Carli
- **LESSON 2:** Motu proprio Vos estis lux mundi  
- Professor: Dr. Eliane De Carli
- **LESSON 3:** Psychological aspects of violence: risk and protective factors for its prevention.  
- Teacher: Simone Veríssimo Medeiros
- **LESSON 4:** Educating in the context of the community and developing skills for a meaningful educational relationship  
- Professor: Fabiane Olivia Ardenghi
- **LESSON 5:** Practical handbook of preventive measures in activities with children, adolescents and vulnerable adults.  
- Professor: Cristiane Ganda Ribeiro
- **LESSON 6:** Basic concepts of integral safeguarding  
- Professor: Fabiane Olivia Ardenghi
- **LESSON 7:** Courage to speak, courage to listen. All responsible for all: the Focolare Movement's formative journey for the integral safeguarding of the person.  
- Professor: Cristiane Ganda Ribeiro
- **LESSON 8:** Towards a global culture of human safeguarding

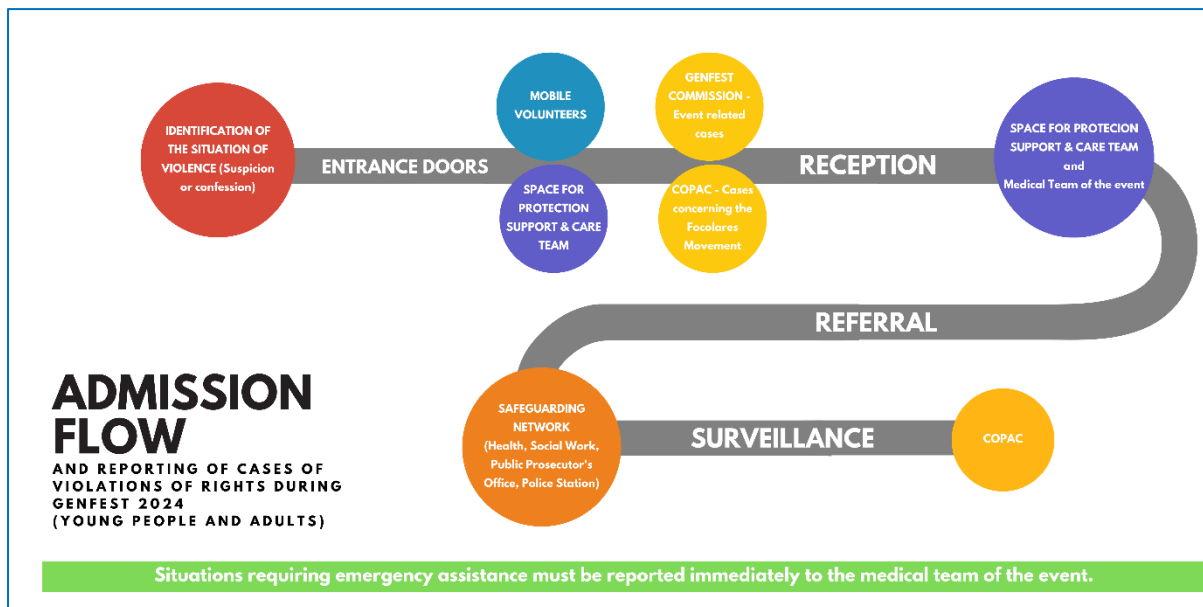
- Professor: Terezinha Cunha Barbas Pinto

11. The **signing of a partnership agreement** between the civil society organisations and the other partners of GENFEST, declaring their explicit **compliance with the guidelines** of the Focolare Movement, as well as with the safeguarding policy of the event, **without any reservation and with the commitment to implement it throughout the duration of the event and in all the environments associated with it.** To this end, collaborators and employees will participate in the basic safeguarding course, which will be given on the eve of the event, and they will receive the corresponding certification.
12. The organisation of **two online formation sessions** for the institutions that will host the participants of the Genfest. The first will be dedicated to the application of the safeguarding policy presented during the course and the second to the accompaniment of young people who will work as volunteers with children and adolescents and/or vulnerable adults.
13. Preparation of **support material for** the GENFEST safeguarding policy and the Focolare Movement's Guidelines for the Integral Safeguarding of Children, Adolescents and Vulnerable Adults.
14. At the beginning of the volunteering period, offer participants a **mini course** on the integral safeguarding of children, adolescents and vulnerable adults, **which should be a part of the programme of the first phase of GENFEST.** With practical content that allows the volunteering to be carried out in accordance with the Safeguarding Policy, ensuring the safety of the proposed activities and environments.
15. Participants who will be working as volunteers in the various social organisations must also be informed of the rules of conduct adopted by the organisations and it is essential that they express their compliance with all of them, in particular with regard to timetables, prohibition of alcoholic beverages, smoking, dress code, etc.

## **V. GENFEST'S SAFEGUARDING POLICY IN THE SECOND AND THIRD PHASES**



16. During the second and third phases of GENFEST, special attention will be given to the protection of the individual in all environments where the activities take place, with indications regarding the safeguarding and abuse prevention policy, as well as possible measures to be taken in case of violations during the event, following the outline below:



## VI. PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO INTEGRAL SAFEGUARDING

16. Fraternity creates closeness and personal trust and must not be used to the detriment of people. For this reason, all participants, collaborators and partners of GENFEST 2024 are committed to creating an atmosphere in which, regardless of origin, culture or age, everyone is treated with respect.
17. GENFEST 2024 participants, collaborators and partners are personally committed to maintaining appropriate limits in interpersonal relations in order to promote a culture of trust:
- Commitment to defend the psychological, physical and sexual integrity of all persons and to refrain from any behaviour that threatens or violates the integrity of GENFEST 2024 participants, collaborators and partners.
  - Commitment to respect people's privacy and confidentiality.

- c) Commitment to communicate openly, so that the people we are in contact with can understand the behaviour that goes beyond their limits.
- d) Commitment to immediately inform the safeguarding team or a specialised agency of the occurrence of the violations of rights, such as sexual harassment, spiritual abuse or violence of any kind, inflicted on them or anyone around them.

## **VII. ATTACHMENTS**

- Guidelines for the integral safeguarding of children, adolescents and vulnerable adults, by the Focolare Movement  
(<https://focolares.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/PT-20231108-DIRETRIZES-PARA-A-FORMACAO-SOBRE-A-PROTECAO.docx.pdf> )
- Practical handbook for the integral safeguarding of children, adolescents and vulnerable adults of the Focolare Movement in Brazil  
(<https://focolares.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/MANUAL-PRATICOversao-10-sem-anexos-1.pdf> )

***Eliane De Carli***

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With the legal advice of:

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*Lawyer - OAB/AM 11.885*

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With the collaboration of:

***Ilma Maria Costa da Silva Oliveira***

*Executive Director of Instituto Aliança*