



**EDU
KACJA**
KRYTYCZNA



We explore

We act

We change



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



In Toruń, another child has died in Poland, and it was not a natural death, it was murdered by its parents. Kamil from Częstochowa suffered abuse at the hands of his closest family members for many years, practically his entire life, and was even tortured. He was 8 years old when his suffering ended tragically. The child was 8 years old and repeatedly asked adults for help; many adults were involved with this family, yet despite this, he could not be saved. The aftermath of these events, not the first and not the only ones in the history of children in Poland, caused a great stir, known as "moral panic." Experts and child welfare activists from organizations such as the "Give Children a Chance Foundation" and the "Opportunity Association from Głogów," worked together with lawyers and specialists from the government and parliament on a new legal solution.

The goal was very ambitious to ensure that Kamil's death was not in vain! To ensure that no child in Poland ever dies at the hands of their parents again! How was the new law supposed to address this? What was missing in the previous law? Namely, a comprehensive approach, creating a legal framework so that society, which is certainly not indifferent to the suffering of children, everyone who hears the stories of abused children is moved... thus—the Kamil Memorial Act is designed to help all adults in our country who work with children to recognize children's suffering, violence directed against them, how to respond correctly, and how to prevent it from happening.





introduction



The Act mandates the implementation of child protection standards that address two areas:

- External to institutions (what happens to children at home and in other places they frequent)
- Internal (what they experience "with us," in our workplace).

Regardless of whether the place is a water park, theater, school, hotel, or hospital... anywhere children are under the care of adults, where they learn, study, and develop... including "spiritually," they should feel SAFE. They should know that if they are harmed, they have someone to turn to. They should know that the adults around them know how to help and will do so effectively while respecting their privacy. They should understand that this law is for them and what it means in practice—that it's not just "papers for the drawer." The "Kamil Act" is seen by many as a burden, an additional duty for the staff, increasing requirements and expectations. This may be true... hence, we want to help! A team of experts worked on this original material under the direction of Dr. Kamila Kamińska, who has been dealing with this issue both scientifically and practically since 2000. She trained in Belfast, completed her Ph.D. in 2003, and published a book on state policy towards violence against children. For over 20 years, she has been supporting children who have had a difficult life. She runs the Association for Critical Education, continues to teach at the university, trains... and the workshops she offers in this set were personally conducted by her in 2024 through a project with UNHCR in schools in Wrocław.



Children in Poland have the right to feel safe and understand the "Child Protection Standards," and that is the purpose of the materials we are providing to you.

They are a unique combination of artistic education and civic education. Through the joyful folk art of Maria Prymaczenko, we introduce themes of inner strength (spirit animal) and safety, and then move on to the topics of the Act, practically adapting its provisions to the language and specifics of our group. Don't worry! All materials can be ordered from our association, or you can create them yourself. Detailed information about what is needed for the workshop can be found in the description, but whether you dedicate an hour or two depends on you and the group! The order of exercises and whether you use all of them is also your decision.

A part of these activities includes remembering Kamil from Częstochowa and other children who have suffered abuse in Poland—not to traumatize children, but to discuss with sensitivity and without graphic details. The story about Kamil once running away from home, wandering the streets in just his pajamas looking for help, is not meant to scare children but to evoke empathy—they can be the ones to call for adult help if their friend has problems. We should not shy away from difficult conversations with children; they need to be conducted wisely.

Our experiences



"I know that you need to look around before stepping onto the street and not cross at a red light."

You knew how to avoid trouble and what to do to stay safe.

"I feel safety in my stomach."

You knew that when there is no fear there, it doesn't tense up or growl... It doesn't tense up in your heart either, and a million thoughts don't race through your mind every minute.

"Sometimes I have this knot in my stomach, and when I carry it for a long time, it gets heavier and heavier."

In such cases, you don't have to wait; there is surely an "emergency" adult nearby whom you can turn to and unload that burden.



Legal basis for actions:

Pursuant to Article 22b of the Act of May 13, 2016, on Counteracting Sexual Crime Threats and the Protection of Minors (consolidated text, Journal of Laws of 2023, item 1304) and Article 7, point 6 of the Act of July 28, 2023, amending the Family and Guardianship Code and certain other acts (Journal of Laws of 2023, item 1606).





Standard 1 – The Organization has developed, adopted, and implemented Child Protection Standards, which specify:

- Safe staff recruitment guidelines;
- Procedures for responding to abuse; Procedures and individuals responsible for receiving reports, documenting them, and taking further assistance actions;
- Guidelines for establishing a support plan for the minor after abuse disclosure;
- Guidelines for safe staff-minor relationships, including prohibited behaviors;
- Guidelines for safe minor-minor relationships, including prohibited behaviors;
- Rules for using electronic devices with internet access;
- Procedures for protecting children from harmful content and internet threats, including image and personal data protection; Rules for disseminating and evaluating the Standards.

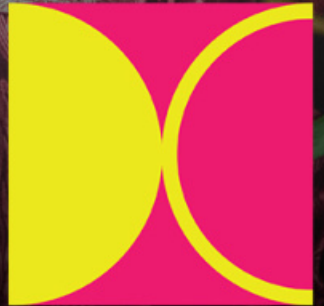






Standard 2 – The Organization applies safe staff recruitment principles and regularly trains staff on the Standards.







Standard 3 – The Organization has implemented and follows intervention procedures that are known and accessible to all staff. Every employee knows whom to report information about the abuse of minors and who is responsible for intervention actions. Contact information for local institutions responsible for counteracting and intervening in cases of child abuse is made available to organization employee.

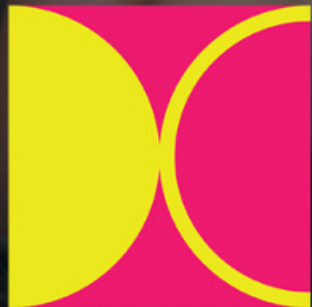






Standard 4 – The Organization monitors and, if necessary, evaluates the provisions of the Standards at least once every two years, consulting with staff, children, and parents or legal guardians, and updates them accordingly.





Guidelines for Organizations on Creating Child-Friendly Informational Materials

Here are some tips to help organizations create child-friendly policy document that inform children about their rights and the organization's child protection standards:

1. **Color Choices:** Use bright, vibrant colors that will catch children's attention.

Photos and Illustrations: Include photos and drawings that are understandable and interesting to children.

3. **Number of Pages:** Keep materials short and concise to avoid overwhelming young readers with too much text.

4. **Language:** Use simple, accessible language. Avoid complicated terms and long sentences.

Structure: Divide information into short sections with headings to make it easier to navigate the content.

6. **Interactivity:** If possible, add interactive elements such as questions, quizzes, or spaces for notes.

7. **Specific Needs:** Create brochures that address specific questions and issues relevant to children in the given community.

Workshops: Organize workshops where children can actively participate in creating materials.

9. **Regular Consultations:** Regularly consult with children to get their feedback on the materials being created.

10. **Display the child and youth helpline number:** e.g. 116 111, in a prominent place.





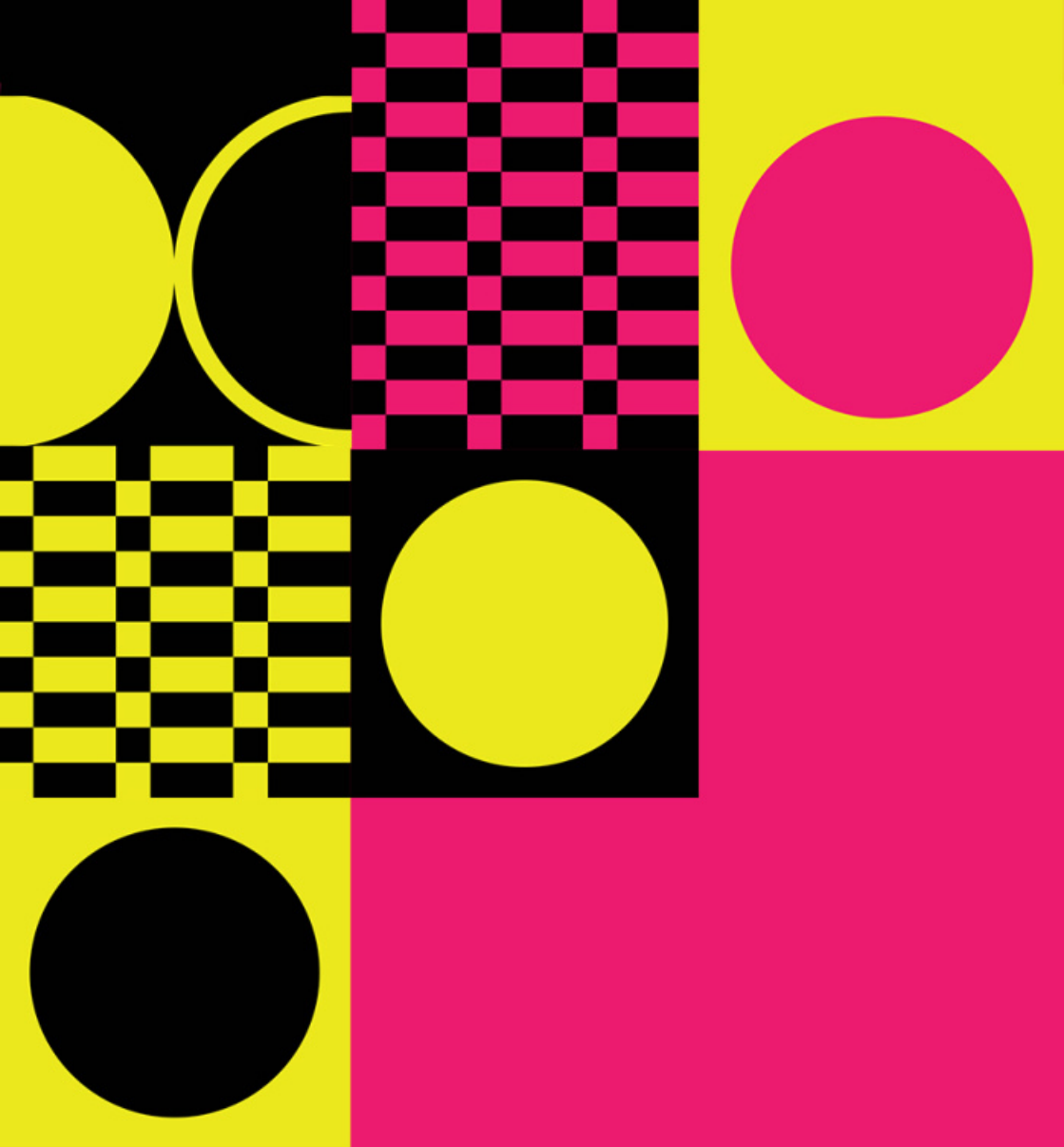


For any questions or to request training or educational assistance, please contact us at:

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For more information about our activities, you can also visit our Facebook page.





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