

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

CroAI – Croatian Association for Artificial Intelligence

Registered in the Register of Associations of the Republic of Croatia under number 21012542

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1. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

CroAI is a national non-governmental organization dedicated to the development and application of artificial intelligence in socially responsible and inclusive ways. While CroAI does not directly work with children as part of its core mission, it occasionally engages with children and young people through educational and promotional initiatives (such as the BrAIIn project). This Child Protection Policy ensures that all individuals involved in CroAI activities understand and uphold the rights, safety, dignity, and well-being of children.

This policy applies to all CroAI employees, members, volunteers, consultants, and external partners who may come into direct or indirect contact with children during CroAI projects and events.

2. DEFINITIONS

Child: Any person under the age of 18, as defined by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Child abuse: Includes physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, neglect, exploitation, and exposure to harmful environments, including digital or online settings.

Direct contact with children: Physical presence or direct interaction with children during CroAI-organized activities.

Indirect contact with children: Access to personal data, photographs, videos, or digital interactions involving children.

3. PRINCIPLES AND COMMITMENTS

CroAI commits to the following core principles:

- Every child has the right to a safe, respectful, and supportive environment.
 - Children must be protected from all forms of abuse, exploitation, and neglect.
 - All individuals involved with CroAI must behave in ways that uphold children's dignity and safety.
 - Any use of children's images or data must have the written informed consent of a parent or legal guardian.
 - All concerns or suspicions regarding child welfare must be acted upon immediately and reported to the relevant authority.
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4. STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR

All CroAI associates must:

- Treat children with respect and recognize their individual rights and needs.
- Avoid being alone with a child where others cannot observe the interaction.
- Use appropriate language, behaviour, and communication methods.
- Be aware of situations that could be misinterpreted and avoid actions that could be seen as exploitative or abusive.
- Report any concerns related to child safety immediately to the designated child protection contact in CroAI.

They must **never**:

- Hit or otherwise physically harm a child.
 - Engage in any form of sexual activity with or in the presence of a child.
 - Use language or make suggestions that are inappropriate, offensive, or degrading.
 - Discriminate against or favour particular children.
 - Publish or share children's images or data without appropriate permissions.
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5. REPORTING PROCEDURES

If a CroAI team member or partner suspects that a child may be at risk of harm or has witnessed inappropriate behaviour:

- They must immediately inform the designated child protection officer or project coordinator.
- A written incident report must be submitted within 24 hours.
- The responsible person within CroAI will notify the child's guardian (if applicable) and, if necessary, report the incident to the competent authorities.

In serious cases, CroAI will immediately suspend involvement with any individual under investigation until the matter is resolved.

6. CONSENT AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Before involving children in any activity (e.g. events, photography, interviews), written **parental or guardian consent** must be obtained. Children must be appropriately informed about the purpose of their involvement in a way they can understand.

All personal data about children must be handled confidentially, securely, and in line with GDPR and national laws.

7. SCOPE AND APPLICATION

This Policy applies to all CroAI programs, projects, campaigns, and public engagements where children are involved, either directly or indirectly, both online and offline.

CroAI will ensure that all team members and external collaborators are familiar with this Policy and receive guidance on its implementation. Background checks may be conducted as required by law.

8. FINAL PROVISIONS

This Child Protection Policy was adopted by the Board of the Croatian Association for Artificial Intelligence (CroAI) on 30.06.2026. It shall be made publicly available on the organization's official website.

All updates and revisions to this Policy must be approved by the Board.

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