



# *Palestine Trauma Centre (UK)*

Company number: 6795059 Charity Commission number: 1133560

## **SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT**

PTC(UK) recognises that it has a duty to support and enhance the wellbeing of all those working in its project teams. It also promotes the values that will help to ensure the wellbeing of children and families who are treated by the PTC(UK) project teams.

As stated in the preamble to UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (General Assembly Resolution 44/25 of 20<sup>th</sup> November 1989) we are:

*Convinced that the family, as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children, should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community.*

This emphasis on family and community exactly reflects PTC(UK)'s therapeutic aims and its approach to Safeguarding.

**TRUSTEES, TRAINERS AND SUPERVISORS AT PTC(UK) ARE COMMITTED TO:**

- ENSURING THE SAFETY, WELLBEING AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE THERAPY TEAMS IN PTC(UK) PROJECTS.
- VALUING CHILDREN AND ADULTS IN THE CARE OF THESE TEAMS IRRESPECTIVE OF BACKGROUND, RELIGION, RACE OR GENDER.
- WHEREVER POSSIBLE, LOOK OUT FOR SIGNS OF ABUSE IN TEAM MEMBERS AS WELL AS CLIENTS IN THE FIELD AND ASSIST IN PREVENTING OR CURTAILING IT, IF THIS LIES WITHIN OUR PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY.
- PROMOTING TOLERANCE, COLLABORATIVE DECISION-MAKING, MUTUAL RESPECT AND GOOD LISTENING.
- ACCEPTING A DUTY TO PREVENT PEOPLE BEING DRAWN INTO TERRORISM.
- LOOKING OUT FOR ANY POSSIBLE REPUTATIONAL DAMAGE FROM INNAPPROPRIATE PARTNERSHIPS OR CONTACTS.
- ENSURING THERE IS PROPER INSURANCE COVER AND SAFETY MEASURES FOR EVENTS ORGANISED BY PTC(UK).
- ENSURING THE PROPER USE OF DONATIONS AND FUNDS AND THAT THEY ARE FOR THE DELIVERY OF PTC(UK) PROJECTS ONLY.
- ENSURING THERE ARE INDEPENDENT CHECKS ON THE TEAMS' WORK BY TRUSTWORTHY PROFESSIONALS ON THE GROUND IN GAZA.
- INSURANCE WITH BERKELEY INSURANCE GROUP INCLUDES EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY, WHICH COVERS ACCIDENTS TO ANY VOLUNTEER WORKERS. PUBLIC LIABILITY COVERS EVENTS WE ORGANISE. TRUSTEE INDEMNITY COVERS ASSETS AND RESOURCES. WE ALSO TAKE OUT TRAVEL INSURANCE IF ANYONE FROM OUR UK GROUP VISITS GAZA.
- RISK ASSESSMENTS ARE DONE FOR ALL TRAVEL TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND A DETAILED GUIDE FOR BEHAVIOUR, SAFETY ISSUES AND CONTACTS IS PROVIDED. THERE HAVE BEEN NO SUCH VISITS SINCE 2015.

## PTC(UK) and the members of the project teams in Gaza.

Following the six safeguarding principles advised in the Care Act 2014, PTC(UK) checks that all staff are empowered, protected and supported. The following measures are in place for Safeguarding related the staff for the projects.

1. Each member of staff signs a contract written by PTC(UK) and its host organisation in Gaza.
2. Weekly skype meetings are held with the UK project supervisor and the senior staff for the projects or all the staff.
3. Monthly skype meetings are held with the UK support therapists and trustees to help staff with their own problems and discuss case studies in their work.
4. Film, photographs and written reports are gathered by Gaza team staff to share with PTC(UK) for use in conferences and meetings in the UK and elsewhere. Permission for filming or taking photographs is always obtained first.
5. Training of staff in specific therapeutic practices is ongoing and they are supported in higher education study with academic advice. They are encouraged to attend courses and contribute to research. They are constantly made to feel that their work is of great value.
6. Each member of the therapy teams is encouraged to be a Facebook friend of one or more of the PTC(UK) trustees. This gives them personal support and is also a friendly way for PTC(UK) to monitor them on a daily basis.
7. With regard to the children and families treated by the PTC(UK) project teams, safeguarding regulations set by and administered by the local governance are followed. These have been checked by PTC(UK) and found to be satisfactory. The host organisation has the proper insurance to cover issues of accountability.
8. Where it is found that the host partner is mistreating staff for the PTC(UK) projects, PTC(UK) has the right the immediately terminate the MoU and find a new venue from where the teams can operate.
9. An Ethical Behaviour Policy, based on international recommendations, has been written in Arabic and English for all team members in Gaza to sign. It covers work done with children, families and vulnerable individuals. It details duties of care, legal commitments and reflects values of Universal Human Rights and the Rights of the Child.

## Risk management relating to PTC(UK) in the UK.

These precautions include signing up with the Funding Regulator, Due Diligence checks on large donations and main funders, independent checks on project work in Gaza, daily checks by our Projects Supervisor of online administration of the projects and reports from him at all trustee meetings.

**GOVERNANCE RISKS:** The backgrounds of all trustees and trainers are known and recorded. Strategic decisions are made at trustee meetings which are held at least four times a year. A public meeting each year reports on activities to donors and others. Annual reports are published on our website [www.ptcuk.org](http://www.ptcuk.org).

**OPERATIONAL RISKS:** There is daily contact with the team in Gaza by our Projects Supervisor and between him and the PTC(UK) Chair of trustees. Trustees are kept in regular touch with developments by email and are invited to participate in monthly skype meetings with the Gaza teams.

**FINANCIAL RISKS:** Annual accounts, project proposals and project reports are seen, discussed and approved by UK trustees. All expenditure and money transfers are verified by receipts and the spending is monitored by the qualified accountant in Gaza and by the Project Supervisor in the UK. Paper and electronic records are kept.

**REGULATORY COMPLIANCE:** This is checked on a regular basis in Gaza by the field supervisor and legal advisor at the host venue and in the UK by trustees responsible for risk management.

**IT and DATA:** Trustees in the UK have had training in Data Protection and issues of client confidentiality are taken very seriously by the project teams. PTC(UK) has a website which is accessed and edited by the chair of trustees and project supervisor only.