

POLICY STATEMENT



AdvocAid has zero tolerance for abuse and exploitation of people. We recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and that reasonable measures must be put in place to ensure, as far as possible, the safety and wellbeing of the women and girls we work with. AdvocAid will respond promptly and appropriately to all safeguarding concerns and will always take seriously and act on any disclosures made to the organisation.

AdvocAid believes that **everyone has an equal right to protection from abuse and exploitation** regardless of age, race, sexual orientation, marital status, pregnancy or having a child, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, or other status.

AdvocAid values the contribution of the women and girls we work with, and we consider them key partners in developing and improving safeguarding procedures and services. AdvocAid will adopt a survivor centred approach to safeguarding where the wishes of the person who experienced the safeguarding incident is the key consideration in our response. The survivor's rights to dignity, respect, safety, and privacy are paramount. We owe a duty of care to provide support, which may include medical support, counselling and legal advice.

AdvocAid's approach to safeguarding is influenced by the organisation's principles as outlined in our vision and values.

ADVOCAID'S VISION:

That women and girls in Sierra Leone have their human rights respected and protected by a gender-responsive justice system and are empowered to secure their rights and hold the system to account.

ADVOCAID'S VALUES:

- **Feminism:** We are passionate feminist advocates for women's rights and access to justice.
- **Trust:** We earn the trust of women and girls and our partners by acting with integrity and with confidentiality.
- **Respect:** We respect our partners, our staff and volunteers, and the women and girls we work with.
- **Standards:** We are committed to the highest standards and excellence to ensure we achieve the maximum positive change for the women and girls we work with.
- **Empathy:** We act with empathy, arriving at each conversation without judgement and the ability to listen so as to understand other perspectives and use them in designing solution
- **Inclusion:** We ensure that we provide our services and support without prejudice or discrimination on any grounds.