Word Scouting Draft Policy Summary Brief

Safe from Harm

1. Introduction

World Scouting is updating the World Scout Safe From Harm Policy to support the improvement of the quality, relevance, and impact of Scouting education provided through National Scout Organizations (NSOs). Following consultations with NSO representatives from all five World Scouting Regions, WOSM Consultants, and volunteer experts, the policy review team developed an initial draft. This was further refined through cross-policy reviews, resulting in Draft 1.

This brief introduces the main proposed directions of the revised policy and guides NSOs, national teams, and other relevant stakeholders through the review and feedback process.

It aims to help readers:

- Understand the main proposed policy directions and their potential implications for NSOs.
- Review Draft 1 of the policy and assess its relevance, clarity, and applicability.
- Engage relevant national stakeholders in discussing the proposed changes.
- Provide feedback through the consultation form or by commenting directly on the policy draft.

The proposed directions are not yet final and may change based on the feedback received during the consultation process.

2. Main directions of the policy

The revised policy proposes eight main directions for NSOs to maintain, strengthen, improve, or develop as they adapt and implement the policy nationally. Directions representing significant changes or greater emphasis compared with the current policy are identified as **New** or **Strengthened**.

1. **Safe from Harm includes safety, safeguarding and wellbeing** as in the previous policy but with a refocus on the three topics.
2. **Definitions will include new terms** such as concern, Listening Ears, violence, safety, safeguarding, wellbeing. (*NEW*)
3. **The policy has two purposes**, 1) guide the NSOs to develop their own policies and 2) to be the policy of World Scouting.
4. **Guiding principles were added to the policy** as for many safeguarding policies around the world. They include people-centered, respect and equity, duty to care, no harm acceptable, shared responsibility, confidentiality, do no harm, informed consent. The aim of the guiding principles is to ensure a strong culture around Safe from Harm in the implementation of the policy. (*NEW*)
5. **The policy statement has been redrafted**; however, it maintains the same direction as the previous version of the policy

6. **Roles and responsibilities have been organised in a different way**. We now have roles and responsibilities at local level, national level and World Scouting level.
7. **The policy areas have been restructured, with the introduction of a fifth one,** being the final set as follows: Education, Adults in Scouting, Structures, Response and Scouting events. For each of these areas, a few points are highlighted in safety, in safeguarding and in wellbeing. This is based on the original document, the assessment and the knowledge gathered by different project teams in the past triennium.
8. In the chapter covering the **implementation of the policy**, there is now a subsection on what is expected from an NSO and what is expected from World Scouting as this is the direct policy of the organisation.

3. What these directions mean for NSOs

The proposed policy directions strengthen our holistic approach around safety, safeguarding and wellbeing, ensuring our frameworks are aligned and people-centred. This direction is not new, but it emphasises the need for all of us to prioritise the work on Safe from Harm transversally across organisations and ensure it is implemented at the local level. The policy sets shared expectations but also gives NSOs flexibility to adjust to their needs, legal framework and realities.

If adopted, NSOs would progressively translate these directions into practice through:

1. **Policy alignment:** Review national policies, educational frameworks and organisational practices based on the Safe from Harm assessment requirements and the World Safe from Harm policy.
2. **Roles and responsibilities review:** Reassess the Safe from Harm structure in your organisation and make sure all adults understand their role and responsibilities based on their appointment. Trainings might need amendments or adjustments.
3. **Transversal implementation:** Reflect on the different areas of the organisation and the impact the policy may have on them. Further work with each area on concrete implementation actions
4. **Building capacity:** request support through WOSM services to progress your Safe from Harm framework and receive expert guidance on areas of implementation
5. **Monitoring and evaluation:** Build a system to regularly review the progress and actions planed to implement your policy. Make sure you give opportunities to children, young people, adults and any other stakeholders to give feedback, allowing corrective actions to be taken.

4. How to Participate in the Policy Review

NSOs, national teams, and other relevant stakeholders are invited to review Draft 1 of the World Scout Safe from Harm Policy and contribute to its further development.

Step 1. Read the Policy Draft - Read Draft 1 of the World Scout Safe from Harm Policy. Pay particular attention to the proposed policy directions, their explanation in the draft, and the expectations for NSOs.

[Read the World Scout Safe from Harm Policy – Draft 1]

Step 2. Reflect on the Proposed Directions - As you review the draft, consider:

- **Relevance:** Do the proposed directions respond to the needs of young people and the realities of Scouting in your country?
- **Clarity:** Are the policy directions, concepts, and expectations clear and easy to understand?
- **Applicability:** Can the proposed directions be adapted and implemented within your national context?
- **Gaps and challenges:** Is anything missing, unclear, or difficult to apply? What additional guidance or support might be needed?
- **Areas to maintain or strengthen:** Which elements should be retained, improved, or further developed?

Step 3. Organise a Stakeholders Discussion - National teams are encouraged to organise a discussion session to review the proposed policy collectively and prepare consolidated feedback. Where possible, involve relevant stakeholders, including Youth Programme teams, youth representatives, Adults in Scouting teams, adult volunteers, and other national teams or groups involved in the development and implementation of Safe from Harm.

During the discussion, consider the proposed directions, identify areas of agreement or concern, and consolidate the main recommendations from your NSO. The objective is to provide a collective national perspective that reflects different experiences and realities within your organisation.

Step 4. Provide Your Feedback - There are two ways to contribute to the consultation process:

Option A. Submit feedback through the consultation form	**Option B. Comment directly on the Policy Draft**
National teams are encouraged to submit consolidated feedback following their discussion session. Individual stakeholders may also use the form to provide feedback. **[Access the Policy Consultation Feedback Form]**	This option is particularly useful for suggesting changes to specific sections, requesting clarification, or identifying wording that could be improved. **[Access Draft 1 to Provide Direct Comments]**

5. Your Contribution Matters

Your feedback will help ensure that the revised World Scout Safe from Harm Policy is clear, relevant, practical, and applicable across different national contexts.

At this stage, the aim is not to assess how well NSOs are implementing the proposed directions, but to understand whether the policy provides appropriate guidance and expectations for the future.

By reviewing the draft, engaging in national discussions, and sharing your recommendations, you can help ensure safe and inclusive Scouting for everyone.

Deadline for submitting feedback: 11 January 2027.