

# CONCERN WORLDWIDE MODERN SLAVERY ACT TRANSPARENCY STATEMENT

## Introduction

This statement is given on behalf of Concern Worldwide, and its group companies, Concern Worldwide (UK) and Concern Worldwide (Northern Ireland) (together "**Concern**").

Concern is a non-governmental, international humanitarian organisation that strives for a world free from poverty, fear and oppression. We operate in approx. 25 countries worldwide. We deliver life-saving and life-changing interventions in the world's poorest and most crisis-affected countries. From rapid emergency response to innovative development programming, we go to the hardest to reach places to make sure that no-one is left behind.

Concern regards all forms of modern slavery and human trafficking as abhorrent and is committed to ensuring that everyone it deals with is treated with dignity. We are committed to ensuring that the way we conduct our business and dealings with our suppliers, service providers and contractors ("**Suppliers**") reflects our values. We strive to ensure that the way we run our business prevents and deters any form of modern slavery and human trafficking from occurring anywhere in our business and supply chain and are committed to the continuing evaluation of our systems and processes to ensure that we can better raise awareness of, prevent, report and respond to issues of modern slavery across the organisation.

## Our Staff

Concern employs around 4,000 people worldwide. The dedication and commitment of our staff to our core values is essential to the achievement of our objectives. It is therefore essential that the way we engage with our staff reflects our core values and that we treat people with dignity and respect.

Our recruitment standards prohibit the solicitation of a person for the purpose of employment, or offering employment, by means of materially false or fraudulent pretences, representations, or promises regarding that employment, charging employees recruitment fees and providing or arranging housing that fails to meet the host country housing and safety standards.

## Our Supply Chains

Given the nature of our work, our supply chains can be quite extended involving a broad range of participants such as suppliers, freight forwarders, transporters, warehousing and distribution personnel.

It is essential that we have confidence that our Suppliers are working towards meeting the same high standards as we do. In particular, we aim to ensure our Suppliers treat their own employees and workers with dignity and respect in a fair and ethical environment. This is reflected by our requirement that all significant overseas Suppliers are expressly bound to comply with the following Concern policies:

- Programme Participant Protection Policy (See Section 1a below);
- Child Safeguarding Policy (see Section 1b below);
- Anti-Trafficking in Persons Policy (see Section 1c below);
- Whistleblowing Policy (see Section 2 below); and
- Standard Terms and Conditions of Procurement (See Section 4 below).

Any failure to adhere to these requirements is a fundamental breach of the terms of the engagement.

## Our Policies

We have implemented a number of policies designed to ensure that the way we work, and the way those working with us behave, is reflective of the principles and standards we hold ourselves to. In that respect, we have implemented the following policies:

### 1. Code of Conduct

We have implemented a Code of Conduct (the "Code") as a tool for the prevention of harassment, exploitation, abuse and/or inappropriate behaviour by staff. It applies to partner organisations engaged on Concern programmes, consultants, interns, and volunteers.

Our Code stresses that any form of inappropriate behaviour is incompatible with Concern's fundamental belief in the human dignity of all people, and with our core values. For Concern

employees, a failure to comply with the Code may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal, and for our partner organisations, it may result in the suspension or termination of our agreement with them.

The Code specifically highlights the requirement that individuals' conduct is in-keeping with Concern's beliefs, values and mission. It also requires them to avoid any engagement in activities which are illegal, contravene human rights or compromise the work of Concern, as well as refraining from any form of bullying, harassment, discrimination, abuse, intimidation or exploitation.

Staff are required to bring to our attention any potential incident, abuse or concern that they are witness to, made aware of or suspect which appears to break the standards of the Code.

The Code is supplemented by three specific policies:

#### a. Programme Participant Protection Policy

This policy stresses the importance of being aware of, and mitigating against, the potential for abuse of power. Specifically, it requires that no individual can create a situation where he or she alone is perceived to be the sole and final authority responsible for allocating benefits. We expressly reserve the right to terminate any third party relationship if a breach or suspected breach of the policy occurs.

#### b. Child Safeguarding Policy

Actions to safeguard the wellbeing of men, women, boys and girls and prevent harm, abuse or exploitation is at the core of what we do. The safeguarding of children is a key element of our Code and this policy seeks to ensure that we integrate robust mechanisms to prevent and mitigate the risk of harm to and abuse of children.

#### c. Anti-Trafficking in Persons Policy

Concern strongly condemns trafficking in human beings and this policy prohibits all individuals with whom, and entities with which, Concern works from engaging in any form of trafficking in human beings.

## 2. Whistleblowing Policy

We are committed to the highest possible standards of openness, transparency and accountability in all our affairs.

We have implemented a Whistleblowing Policy so that all staff, volunteers, partners, consultants or contractors (engaged by Concern Worldwide or any of its subsidiaries and affiliates) can, and are encouraged to, raise or disclose concerns at an early stage. We operate a designated whistleblowing helpline as well as making clear our commitment that no one raising concerns in good faith are subject to any harassment or victimisation as a result.

## 3. Complaints Policy

Concern is committed to providing safe, accessible and effective ways for anyone to exercise their right to raise complaints about the work and behaviour of its staff, volunteers and partner organisations. Our complaints reporting mechanisms across the globe deliberately offer a means of reporting should there be any instances of violation of the Code of Conduct or any of our other policies (including this Statement). We ensure that appropriate and timely action is taken in relation to all complaints, both to deal with the situation and to stop the same thing happening again.

## 4. Standard Terms and Conditions of Procurement

Our overseas Suppliers are required to adhere to certain ethical standards as part of Concern's Standard Terms and Conditions for Procurement available [here](#). These ethical standards include adhering to International Labour Organisation conventions; ensuring working conditions are safe and hygienic; and ensuring exploitation of children is not tolerated and reflect the Ethical Trading Initiative Base Code of labour practice.

## 5. Purchasing Policy

We have also put in place a specific policy, which applies to the way in which we engage with our Suppliers. It ensures that Concern staff are clear about the standards which are expected of those

with whom we contract and reflects our recognition of the safety, health, environmental and ethical impacts of all supply decisions and involves our Supplier in addressing issues that may arise.

The central message underlying our policy is that we seek to purchase goods and services which are produced and delivered under conditions that do not involve the abuse or exploitation of any persons. We ensure that all procurement activities are fully and transparently documented, and that all employees involved in procurement comply in all respects with laws that apply to their purchasing activities. Potential Suppliers will be considered ineligible if (amongst other things) they have engaged in any corrupt, fraudulent, collusive or coercive practices. Our policy also makes it clear that we will seek alternative sources where the conduct of Suppliers violates basic human rights, or where companies anywhere in the supply chain are involved in the manufacture of arms or the sale of arms to governments, which systematically violate the human rights of their citizens.

## Risks

Concern has a risk management policy that provides a framework for management to identify, analyse and evaluate risk, and to develop strategies to deal with those risks identified so as to provide reasonable assurance that Concern Worldwide's objectives can be achieved in accordance with the organisation's risk appetite. The Concern risk register is updated annually and monitored on a monthly basis. One of the key organisational risks identified within this register relates to safeguarding. It is stated under this risk that Concern has zero-tolerance for exploitation in all its forms and is investing significant resources to design policies and procedures that reduce its occurrences.

## Training

It is important to us that our employees are aware of the issues surrounding modern slavery and support our values. All employees are required to adhere to our Code of Conduct and the values and principles contained in it. We regularly work with all staff to help them to understand and comply with their obligations.

## Looking Ahead

Compliance with the Modern Slavery Act is an ongoing commitment. As an organisation we are continuing to develop the way we work to ensure that slavery and human trafficking play no part in our business or supply chain. As part of this, we are now using the UK Government's Modern Slavery Assessment Tool to understand what our priorities should be in further strengthening our policies and practices.

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the UK Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes Concern's slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 31 December 2021.

**This statement was approved by Concern Worldwide's Board of Directors.**



John Treacy, Chair