

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

MASSA SALVATGE

We are a worker cooperative located in Valencia (Spain) that interconnects art, education and participation, and is committed to **children's wishes, feelings and rights**. Therefore, **we implement educational projects, cultural mediations, artistic creations, social activations, research and training programs, always against young people's oppression, from an anti-adultism and collective approach.**

Over the years we've developed several **tools and methodologies** such as text editing, graphic design, publishing, podcasting, audiovisual production, performative actions on public space, critical cartographies, playground interventions and many more. These formats let us base our practice on **social dimension by collaborative creation processes.**

We believe in the values of the **social and solidarity economy**. So we link together with other entities, groups and communities with whom we share proximity, in terms of geographical, ideological and professional fields of actuation.

OUR POLICY: CHILDREN ARE PEOPLE OF THE PRESENT

Massa Salvatge ensures that in all our practices children, adolescents, and young people are safe, treated with dignity, and keep their rights protected. Our purpose is to **guarantee that everybody, regardless of age, is considered a full citizen.** **We deem children not as people under construction but as people of the present. In this sense, we generate opportunities for real childhood participation, where their interests, rhythms, needs and self-management capacity are thoroughly respected.**

This Child Protection Policy* sets out the bare minimum standards shared by all the individuals and entities with which we merge, in order to certify that children's rights, especially cultural rights and the right to participate in civic life, are fully accomplished and guiding our actions.

General principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child**

Massa Salvatge works aligned to the **Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**, promoted in 1989 by the UN General Assembly (UNGA), since we conceive children's rights within human rights as a whole **paradigma**. Our aim is for children to understand that they

are right holder subjects too, like every other grown-up relative or around. According to the CRC, children shouldn't be no longer considered future citizens but rather full citizens, legitimate citizens of the present.

The CRC contains 54 articles that can be abstracted into **three general categories**, usually known as «the 3 Ps»:

- **Provision**, which covers children's special needs like education and medical care.
- **Protection**, which vouch for the safety of children and covers specific issues such as abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- **Participation**, which recognizes children's progressive development to make decisions and participate in society as they approach maturity.

Besides, the 3 Ps reflect four basic principles that we truly advocate, chiefly the second one and fourth one:

- **Non-discrimination (Article 2)**: All rights apply to all children without exception, and the State has to protect them from all forms of discrimination.
- **Best interests of the child (Article 3)**: Children's best interests must be the primary consideration in all decisions affecting them, above the interests of any involved adults (e.g., parents, teachers, caregivers).
- **Survival and development (Article 6)**: Every child has an inherent right to life, and the State is obligated to secure their survival and development.
- **The Child's opinion (Article 12)**: Children's views should be heard and given due consideration in any matter affecting them.

Directly related to our practice, we shall highlight as well:

- **Freedom of self expression (Article 13)**: This article includes the freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas of all kinds regardless of frontiers; whether orally, in writing, through art, or through any other medium of the child's choice.
- **Freedom to assemble with other children (Article 15)**: Children have the right to free association and to hold peaceful assembly.
- **Leisure, recreation and culture (article 31)**: Children have the right to rest and leisure, to engage in play, and to participate freely in recreational activities appropriate to their age. States shall respect and promote their right to participate fully in cultural and artistic life, ensuring equal access to these opportunities.

- **Make these principles known to both adults and children (Article 42).** States undertake to make principles and provisions of this Convention widely known to both adults and children, across all generations.

* The CRC defines a child as any person under the age of eighteen. Therefore, when we refer to “children,” this includes adolescents and young people up to that age.

* The Convention on the Rights of the Child uses the term “child” to encompass both feminine and masculine genders. However, Massa Salvatge adapts this concept to our national languages, ethics, and current context, by using terms such as "childhood," inclusive feminine forms (instead of "the person"), gender-neutral expressions, and non-binary pronouns.

PEOPLE INVOLVED: CHILD PROTECTION IS EVERYONE'S JOB

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child specifies that safeguarding human rights is particularly important during childhood. Everyone should be familiar with this international framework, especially children, parents, caregivers, and those working in related professions.

Massa Salvatge helps to raise awareness of CRC principles, which are fundamental to our operations and achievements. Therefore, we ensure these principles are known and applied by everyone associated with our organization, including employees, volunteers, attendees, our governing body, partner entities, consultants, contractors, suppliers, and allies.

This policy covers:

- Children who come into contact with Massa Salvatge.
- Teenagers and young people in contact with the entity up to the age of 18.

“Being in contact with the organization” means any interaction, including but not limited to:

- Participating in any event or activity involving someone working for or on behalf of the organization.
- Taking part in research or consultations.
- Interacting with any worker from or for Massa Salvatge—or acting on its behalf—whether during work hours or personal time.
- Receiving a service provided by a partner, contractor, or other person acting on behalf of Massa Salvatge.

If a colleague or collaborator has concerns about the safety of a child who is not directly in contact with our organization (e.g., a child in a neighboring community), they should report this to the appropriate authorities, such as social services for child protection and/or the police, in accordance with local laws and policies.

Any vulnerability incident, reported by or related to individuals who have participated in a Massa Salvatge project or service, and which occurred during their direct contact with the organization as a child, adolescent, or young person, will be communicated to the entity's governing body and managed according to the procedures outlined below.

PROCEDURES:

Massa Salvatge provides a safe and empowering environment for and with children, into every project we undertake. By means of:

- **Childhood participation:** Opinions, choices and **experiences of children, adolescents and young people are taken into account when designing every project and evaluating its short-term and long-term impact, assessing their well-being and relevance.** Whenever possible, children will have the opportunity to contribute to the planning and implementation of organizational activities that involve them.
- **Play and art as a core practices:** Massa Salvatge retrieves spontaneous playing as one of the most genuine forms of human development, which unfortunately is neglected for childhood and adulthood nowadays. We understand it as a tool that creates invaluable learning spaces, through research, experimentation, affection, error, and enjoyment. Thus, **we are interested in art, in general, and in activism, in particular, as a practice that enables pedagogical and participatory processes in childhood.** We value the power of imagination, crafts, the poetics of the senses, and the desire for discovery as tools for becoming conscious and critical individuals with the capacity to transform our context.
- **A project of connection:** We work and collaborate with local and national organizations and institutions. We believe in collective practice and **cooperative work, in which our actions connect us with our living environment, actively intervening and participating in the cultural and political life with our neighbors and the educational community, including other entities** such as social services, healthcare providers, and ombudsman's offices, to protect children, adolescents,

and young people and strengthen general child protection frameworks.

- **We research together, we learn together, we grow together:** We distance ourselves as much as possible from didacticism and authoritarian forms of teaching. We want to break away from traditional adult roles and hierarchies. We also want to embody knowledge and learning, shifting the predominance of mental processes in favor of other forms of learning, like embodying emotions.
- **We are diverse and political:** We are essentially feminists, we aim to denaturalize capitalism, and we wholeheartedly confront any form of fascism. We think and speak in valencian language and use the feminine inclusive form. We do so by welcoming, promoting, valuing, and respecting any other possible language and identity. The staff and others working at Massa Salvatge provide support and services in a way that does not discriminate against any child on the basis of race, color, sex or gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, economic status, birth, or other status.
- **Always placing life at the center:** We provide equal access, taking into account each person's needs and experiences. Whenever appropriate, additional measures will be taken to ensure the participation and well-being of groups of children who may be particularly vulnerable so that no one is excluded due to resources or lifestyles. Costs, schedules, and spaces must always be flexible, with a willingness to welcome and care for each other. All in all, we are convinced that everything personal is political.

ACTUATION AREAS

AWARENESS, TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

- **Workshops addressed to** Early Childhood and Primary Education teachers, students of the Degree in Teaching, students of Vocational Training, Early Childhood Education Technician and Socio-cultural Technician, other groups of people interested in artistic education for childhood rights.

- **Training Focus Areas**

"Childhood, Play, and Contemporary Art"

This workshop explores educational strategies for approaching contemporary art in educational settings. Contemporary art as a play, a metaphor, and a

creative practice that allows us to move beyond singular explanations and answers, and to engage with the world through our senses. We will approach to artistic creation by posing questions about our own educational practice, such as: What happens when you don't expect anything to happen? How important is the final product? What role do prior ideas and personal experiences play in our engagement with art?

"Neighborhood, City, Territory, and Childhood: Discovering Context Through Artistic Tools"

This workshop focuses on rediscovering the immediate environment from the perspective of its inhabitants, in a participatory and experiential way. Traditional cartography often excludes subjective experiences; therefore, we propose to generate "sensitive cartographies" as an educational and artistic tool, emplacing in the center the knowledge of the people who inhabit those places , establishing a meaningful relationship between the territory and educational and institutional centers.

"Adulthood and Artivism: Rethinking Our Roles as Adults Through the Arts"

This workshop uses artistic tools to examine our roles as adults in the school teaching system. Through various dynamics and collaborative creations, culminating in a collective fanzine, we will explore our relationship with adulthood in classrooms and educational institutions. We will address questions about our own collective experiences, such as: What actions do I take in the classroom that make me feel uncomfortable? What attitudes do we hold within our positions of power? Might art be useful for teachers to provoke reflection and vindication processes about the educational system?

ACTIVATING CHILDHOOD PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES IN...

- educational centers
- cultural institutions
- a neighborhood or specific territory

RESEARCHING ABOUT CULTURAL MEDIATION AND CHILD PARTICIPATION

COUNSELING TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Massa Salvatge has an evaluation form with indicators associated with several aspects of the child policy and its implementation, through each project or activity executed by the entity or on its behalf.

It also features a game-like resource to ponder and think over these paradigms by asking to articulate the organization's policy and principles regarding children's rights. This resource is used to design and evaluate cultural mediation and participation projects, and other activities with children.

Massa Salvatge offers a specific training program about children's rights and anti-adultism in cultural mediation projects, as well about activism and child participation. These training specifies in detail the principles, actions, and methodologies for implementing a project with children aware of their rights. This training is provided to anyone who works for the organization or on behalf of Massa Salvatge.

Final responsibility for the implementation of this Policy compits to the governing body or board of trustees from this worker cooperative.