

Safeguarding Project Regional Lead x 1 post

Building inclusive civil societies with, and for, young people in post-conflict settings

Changing the Story (CTS) is looking for one Safeguarding Project Regional Lead to work with their Safeguarding Project Developer in developing context-specific safeguarding resources to support CTS grantees and partners in the South-east Europe regions.

Applications close 25 February 2020

Skype interviews 28 February 2020

Fee: 3000GBP AHRC-funded

For 20 days' work March – October 2020

We expect that you would apply (and be paid) as an individual. You would arrange your own travel, with reasonable travel expenses related to project activity (e.g. delivering workshops) covered by CTS on approval by the Safeguarding Project Developer.

What is safeguarding in international development?

Safeguarding means protecting children and young people (CYP) from harm, whether malicious or unintended, by believing and responding to concerns through a systematic approach. An understanding of safeguarding is crucial to interpreting international development objectives such as SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and recognised by UNICEF's Ethical Research Involving Children (ERIC) project in the planning and conduct of research involving CYP in any geographical, social, cultural or methodological context. We at CTS look to integrate these approaches by building on local knowledge and existing good practice.

Why is safeguarding important at *Changing the Story*?

Working directly with CYP and youth-centred organisations in complex settings, it is vital that we and our partners have a clear understanding of and commitment to international safeguarding standards, and how they can be applied to and shaped by local practices. We must be confident that our work is not putting the CYP we work with at further risk, and that we know what to do if we suspect or are made aware of existing or historic abuse. As partners of CTS, we all have a responsibility to ensure that our work complies with these standards. Given our commitment to building capacity among researchers and civil society organisations working with CYP in post-conflict settings, CTS is keen to support their strengthening of contextualised safeguarding measures that create bespoke solutions to specific needs.

Background

The Department for International Development (DfID) and UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) announced in 2018 plans for enhanced and context-specific standards for UK charities and NGOs on partners' policies and processes around safeguarding CYP from exploitation, abuse and neglect.

The University of Leeds, as a first-tier partner, has responsibility to ensure appropriate safeguarding standards throughout the chain, and is committed to applying best international practice that also appreciates the local knowledge and experience of those working with vulnerable CYP in local communities.

DfID will apply its enhanced safeguarding standards first to new grants or existing grants which involve new funding. From September 2019, partners with existing agreements who do not meet the new enhanced standards must put in place an improvement plan, or risk suspension of funding. The UK Collaborative on Development Research (UKCDR) will produce its set of principles and best practice guidance on safeguarding in the international development research context by February 2020



The role of *Changing the Story* Regional Lead

Diligence around safeguarding depends on the expertise and experience of those 'on the ground' in each region, and each *CTS* project will bring existing strengths and insights, and will identify its own needs and priorities.

Together with the Safeguarding Project Developer at the University of Leeds, you will:

- collate national legislation and partner organisations' policy on child protection and children's rights in your region;
- build relationships within and across *CTS* projects, developing an understanding of their current needs and opportunities for development;
- offer contextualised advice to help map existing quality, safeguarding and oversight mechanisms to a safeguarding policy that is compatible with international standards;
- contribute to the design and delivery of
 - face-to-face workshops to build organisational and research capacity in an evidence culture for early-career researchers, staff in civil society organisations (CSO) and the NGOs they work with
 - child-friendly focus groups and workshops that explore critical questions on their experiences of care and neglect, authority and punishment, consent or peer aggression;
- work with the other *CTS* regional leads to ensure a shared understanding across the project.

Person Specification

Essential

- A commitment to safeguarding and the welfare and safety of CYP;
- Knowledge of the *CTS* projects in your region;
- Awareness of CYP safeguarding issues, and of international and local standards, policies and practice;
- Expertise in developing, delivering and evaluating active, collaborative workshop learning;
- Strong team-working and communication skills;
- Excellent time-management skills;
- You must be based in the region for which you are applying, and willing to travel across your region;
- You must be a partner (academic or CSO) already involved in a *CTS* project or show an understanding of *CTS* project in Europe

Desirable

- Experience of using arts-based approaches with CYP, such as participatory film-making, applied theatre, animated screencasts or graphic design;
- Experience of developing engaging training resources;
- Knowledge of other languages spoken in the countries in your region where *CTS* works.

The outputs

A core resource pack and toolkit from each *CTS* region will enable cross-national comparisons, and contribute to a knowledge base around CYP wellbeing, experiences of abuse or neglect, and the risks and opportunities associated with involvement in international development and research programmes. Each project team will be able to adapt and supplement the core to create collective ownership of its own context-specific safeguarding agenda and policy, as well as workshop materials (including child-friendly versions) in a language and using terminology that is familiar to the intended audience. The culture change that this experience promotes may also encourage CYP-inspired participatory arts.

How to apply

Email your CV and one-page cover letter to changingthestory@leeds.ac.uk and upg@uni-pr.edu by **0900GMT on Tue 25 Feb 2020**. Please demonstrate how your skills match those in the person specification around your perceptions of safeguarding issues in *CTS* projects, and how you might help others explore these through workshops and materials development. To discuss the role in detail, contact Tony Cegiělka (Safeguarding Project Developer) at A.Cegiělka@leeds.ac.uk. For information on CTS at University of Prishtina (and the wider region) please contact the Principal Investigator at nita.luci@uni-pr.edu.