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MUSEO NAZIONALE DELL'EBRAISMO ITALIANO E DELLA SHOAH

MUSEUM OF ITALIAN JUDAISM AND THE SHOAH

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY DEL MUSEO NAZIONALE DELL'EBRAISMO ITALIANO E DELLA SHOAH



### Premise

The Museo Nazionale dell'Ebraismo Italiano e della Shoah – MEIS (National Museum of Italian Judaism and the Shoah) was founded with Italian Law 91 of 17 April 2003, amended by Law 296 of 27 December 2006, aims to raise awareness of the history, thought and culture of Italian Judaism and to promote educational activities as well as to organise events, national and international meetings, conferences, permanent and temporary exhibitions, film screenings and performances on the themes of peace and brotherhood between peoples and the encounter between different cultures and religions.

The mission of the National Museum of Italian Judaism and the Shoah is to:

a) bear witness to the events that have characterized the two millennia of Jewish presence in Italy;

a) raise awareness of the history, philosophy and culture of Italian Judaism from its origins, with particular emphasis on testimonies of racial persecution and the Holocaust in Italy;

c) promote the values of peace and brotherhood among peoples and the meeting of different cultures and religions.

The MEIS aims to encourage dialogue between different cultures, religions and ethnic groups and to be a space open to discussion and the free flow of ideas. It is a place where the history of Italy can be rediscovered through a new point of view. Welcoming and valuing diversity is what has always enriched society culturally and humanly: for this reason, through the experience of the Jewish minority, the MEIS wants to give voice and space to everyone.

The management of the Museum is entrusted to a Foundation, the founding members are the Ministry of Culture, the Municipality of Ferrara, the Emilia-Romagna Region and the UCEI (Union of Italian Jewish Communities).

The Foundation is a non-profit organisation, that pursues the Museum's mission, with particular attention to the enhancement of research on the evidence of the Jewish presence in Italy, on the transmission of knowledge on the theme of education for active citizenship as a prerequisite for the development of a culture of legality, with particular attention to the condemnation of discrimination, respect for religious minorities, raising awareness on issues of communication and the use of non-hostile language according to the dictates of the Constitution and as an interdisciplinary approach to the teaching of Civic Education.

The Foundation operates in Italy and pursues the realisation of the exhibition itinerary illustrating the history of Italian Jews, promotes research and publications, organises seminars and conferences, preserves cultural heritage, archival, photographic and library funds. The Foundation establishes relations with universities, institutions, businesses and cultural networks and participates in international cooperation projects.

In pursuing its institutional aims, the Foundation is based on the principles of Article 9 of the Italian Constitution and Articles 1, 2, 10 and 11 of Legislative Decree No 42 of 22 January 2004, the Cultural Heritage and Landscape Code pursuant to Article 10 of Law No 137 of 6 July 2002. It is inspired by the Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005) and adheres to the principles of the ICOM Code of Ethics 2004, translated into Italian in 2009 and updated in 2018.

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The Foundation also promotes educational activities as stated in the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Ministry of Education-MI in 2017 and renewed in 2022.

### The Foundation's operating principles

The Foundation has its own code of ethics and conduct in place, which exemplifies the Foundation's actions by recognising and respecting personal dignity and rights of individuals. The Foundation rejects and condemns any form of discrimination, harassment or offence, whether sexual, personal or of any other nature.

The Foundation requires its employees and collaborators to base their conduct on the ethical principles indicated above and on criteria of transparency, moral integrity, honesty, correctness, and good faith, and their violation leads to the application of sanctions that may go as far as unilateral termination of the work-relationship.

### POLICY

The Foundation orients its activities towards the realisation of initiatives involving all segments of public. The activities are divided into age groups and are aimed at adults (exhibitions, scholarships, training, seminars and conferences for scholars of the humanities, management of archives and availability of documents to researchers, etc.) and children under 18 years of age, hereinafter referred to as "minors", with an educational offer on the themes that constitute the Museum's mission. With reference to this area of activity it has therefore drawn up and approved the present "Child Protection policy".

This policy aims in particular to:

- minimize the risk that damage or abuse or exploitation of minors may occur on the occasion of or as a result of the activities carried out by the Foundation;

- reinforcing attention to minors in planning activities aimed at them in which the Foundation is involved, directly and/or indirectly;

- make its employees, collaborators and people involved in the Foundation's projects and activities more aware of the issue of protecting minors.

The Foundation intends to reaffirm with this policy the recognition of the value of each individual, and the rejection of any form of discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation.

This policy is inspired by:

- Convention on the Rights of the Child Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989 entry into force 2 September 1990, in accordance with article 49;

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- Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

- Keeping Children Safe's Guide "Keep Children Safe, Child Safeguarding Standards and how to implement them"

## PEOPLE

The Foundation reaffirms that every child has the right to be protected from any kind of violence or abuse and rejects and condemns all violence and abuse against them.

The Foundation therefore prohibits all those who on behalf of the Foundation in any capacity have a relationship with minors from:

1. perpetuate physical or psychological violence against a child;

2. adversely affect the harmonious and socio-relational development of the child;

3. act in a way that may be harmful or put the child at risk

4. using offensive, harmful or inappropriate language or behaviour with the child; 5. establishing or maintaining interpersonal contacts with the child;

5. establish or maintain interpersonal contacts by means of online media (e-mail, chat, social networks, etc.) outside the activities envisaged or connected to the carrying out of the Foundation's projects;

6. addressing a minor with violent content or methods;

7. to lend goods or other benefits to a minor outside the parameters and purposes established by the project activities or without the knowledge of the parent or guardian;

8. discriminate against or treat differently or favour some minors to the exclusion of others.

The Foundation commits, when designing activities for children, to ensure that those involved:

1. promote the health and welfare of children by providing opportunities for them to take part in its activities safely;

2. ensure the dissemination and maintenance of a culture of openness and sharing;

3. enhance the skills and competences of the minors;

4. avoid the dissemination of material unsuitable for minors;

5. minimise the use of children's information, stories and images (such as photographs, videos and social media) and avoid any inappropriate use thereof.



#### PROCEDURES

To ensure compliance with the policy's contents, the Foundation, in planning and organising activities aimed at minors, relies on the collaboration of staff and organisations with proven experience and reliability, such as educational institutions, organisations operating in the children's sector, professionals, who have not been convicted, or are under investigation, for crimes against minors.

The Foundation commits to carry out its activities in safe and protected environments such as its own premises, schools and the premises of the associations with which it works.

The Foundation pays particular attention to communication, to management of social media and photo and video archives, to the performance of activities involving interaction with minors, and in this regard it undertakes to:

- collect photographic documentation of minors only where strictly necessary for activities related to the reporting of national/international projects in which the Foundation participates or for internal documentation needs;

- comply with applicable regulations such as Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation), and not use the images for any purpose other than that for which it was made necessary to acquire them;

- rely on professionals with proven experience and who have not been convicted of crimes against minors to take photos and videos;

- preferably, and in any case always if the consent for the use of the images has not been given by the parents of the minor, encrypt the minors' faces before publishing the images on their website or social channels.

### ACCOUNTABILITY

The policy integrates the Foundation's organisational and procedural framework and is published on the Foundation's website.

The policy will be brought to the attention of staff and collaborators, as well as of the bodies and organisations that work with minors on behalf of the Foundation.

Formal acknowledgement and adherence to the Foundation's Child Protection Policy will be requested, and a commitment to rigorous respect for the principles and values contained therein will be acquired at the beginning of every new collaboration with persons and/or organizations that work with minors on behalf of the Foundation. Any violation of the policy may entail the application of sanctions that may go as far as unilateral withdrawal from the contract.

At the start of activities with minors, the Foundation, with the help and advice of experts, may will organize preparatory meetings with the staff and collaborators involved, aimed at examining the issues of child protection that such initiatives may entail.

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The policy will also be communicated to the Foundation's funders and supporters.

# INTERNAL POLICY CONTACT PERSON

The Foundation identifies Amedeo Spagnoletto as the internal contact person to monitor compliance with the policy.

Anyone who has an interest in the matter may report to the contact person by electronic communications to the e-mail address direzione@meisweb.it or by a sealed envelope to the address of the Foundation of any reports concerning violations of the provisions of the policy or suggestions aimed at implementing the policy itself.

In the event of reports of violations of the policy, the contact person shall proceed to:

- evaluate the reports, including anonymous reports, and carry out any subsequent in-depth investigations,

- report to the competent bodies of the Foundation the verified circumstances, in order to initiate the application of the contractual sanctions.

The Foundation protects whistleblowers against any form of direct or indirect retaliation, discrimination or penalization for reasons connected directly or indirectly with the report, without prejudice to the obligations of the law and the protection of the rights of the Foundation or of the persons wrongly accused and/or accused in bad faith.

Violations of the protection measures provided for whistleblowers, as well as the malicious or grossly negligent making of reports that prove to be unfounded, constitute a violation of this policy and, as such, are subject to the sanctions provided for in the contracts with the persons concerned, which may go as far as the unilateral termination of the contract itself.

The President

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The Director Amedeo Spagnoletto

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