

# ICPD25/SAFEGUARDING GUIDELINES FOR YOUTH PARTICIPANTS



Dear youth participant,

We are very excited to welcome you to the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25. We are committed to making sure that your participation in the Summit is meaningful, enjoyable and safe. We have prepared this note to help you understand:

- What you can expect from us;
- What is expected of you, and
- How to report any concerns.

Please make sure to read this note in its entirety and take note of relevant points. Please also join the **webinar on safeguarding for youth participants** on November 4, Monday at 9 am EST (*Connection:* <https://unfpa.zoom.us/j/273313352>) The recording will be posted on the website for those who are unable to attend.

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## **What you can expect from us:**

- We will work under the guidance of the [Summit Code of Conduct](#) and the [Code of Conduct to Prevent Harassment, Including Sexual Harassment, at UNFPA Events](#) to make sure that the Summit is an inclusive, respectful and safe environment for all participants, including those with vulnerabilities related to their age, gender, ethnicity, background, sexuality, religion, and other important personal characteristics.
- We will listen to all your concerns and concerns raised by anyone about your safety, protection and wellbeing and deal with all such concerns seriously, promptly and appropriately.

## **What we expect from you:**

- We expect you to behave with integrity and respect towards all participants attending or involved.
- We expect you to abide by the [Summit Code of Conduct](#) and the [Code of Conduct to Prevent Harassment, Including Sexual Harassment, at UNFPA Events](#).
- We expect you to be respectful of each other's differences and keep away from situations that could result in personal danger for you or others.

If you have any questions about the safeguarding guidelines and the information shared in this note, please send an email to [nairobisafeguarding@unfpa.org](mailto:nairobisafeguarding@unfpa.org).



## How to report any concerns:

- If you think you are in danger in any way, or feel uneasy about something or someone, please speak to:
  - **A safe person**, who you can identify by the purple scarf they have around their wrist. They can be found at the community zone and also around the convention center. They are UNFPA staff members that have been trained to help you and guide you about how you can report and submit complaints, or
  - **A member of the security team**, or
  - **Your chaperone or delegation focal point**.
- If you are uncomfortable speaking about a problem face-to-face, you can send an e-mail to [nairobisafeguarding@unfpa.org](mailto:nairobisafeguarding@unfpa.org).



### **IMPORTANT TO KNOW!**

Please be aware that anything you talk to an adult about that suggests you might be in danger, will have to be shared with the safeguarding coordinator and the security team so that we can make sure your concerns are properly addressed.

## What does harassment mean?

Harassment is any improper or unwelcome conduct that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offense or humiliation to another person. Harassment in any form because of gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical ability, physical appearance, ethnicity, race, national origin, political affiliation, age, religion or any other reason is prohibited at the Nairobi Summit.

Sexual harassment is a specific type of prohibited conduct. Sexual harassment is any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offense or humiliation. Sexual harassment may involve any conduct of a verbal, nonverbal or physical nature, including written and electronic communications, and may occur between persons of the same or different genders.

For examples of behaviours that can constitute harassment, please refer to the [Code of Conduct to Prevent Harassment, Including Sexual Harassment, at UNFPA Events](#).

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# HOW TO NETWORK SAFELY AND RESPECTFULLY

(\*This note has been adapted from Plan International's tool with the same title.)

This is a short and practical tool to support you to feel safe, empowered and knowledgeable when interacting with other participants at the Nairobi Summit. It includes some basic practical tips and examples.

## 1. Codes of behaviour towards other participants:

You should:	You must not:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>→ Cooperate with and listen to each other</li><li>→ Respect each other's differences (religion, gender, background, ethnicity views and opinions, experiences)</li><li>→ Be friendly, helpful and supportive</li><li>→ Treat participants and attendees with respect, both in person, in mobile communication and on digital platforms</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>→ Pick on or make fun of each other</li><li>→ Bully or be abusive to each other</li><li>→ Yell or shout at others or each other</li><li>→ Use digital platforms or mobile communication to be abusive or to cyberbully (for example sending negative messages, taking and sharing photos without permission)</li></ul>

## Key Points:

- **Be aware of different cultural norms and sensitivities.** What is acceptable in your friends group, community or country may not be okay everywhere. Learn about the different cultural norms within a group and adapt your behaviour.
- **Recognise your own power and privilege over other people in the group.** This might be because of your gender, language, education, economic class, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation or something else.
- **Be professional and appropriate in conversations and when using tools like WhatsApp or Facebook.** What may be perceived as friendly to you, may be perceived as unwanted flirting or inappropriate sexual harassment to someone else. Stick to discussing relevant topics. Do not ask personal questions and do not use language that may be of a sexual nature.
- **Protect others' identities.** Don't share someone else's contact information unless they have explicitly asked you to for networking purposes.

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## Personal tips for self-reflection

Participating in an international conference can be a stressful and overwhelming experience. Make sure that you are looking after yourself and reflecting on your own behaviour.

- **Check in with yourself:** Ask yourself during spare moments how you are feeling, become self-aware of your level of comfort and act accordingly.
- **Be aware of the dynamics around you:** Notice who the “loud” and “quiet” people are in the group and which you are. If you are a loud/dominant participant in discussions, consider using that to make space and invite the opinions of quieter members of the group.
- **If you find another person to be rude or offensive:** Always consider your response from a place of empathy and kindness. You do not have to put up with poor behaviour, but understanding that poor behaviour often comes from difficulties in another is always a good place to start.

## Examples Scenario Considerations / Suggested Next Steps

Someone in the group sends you personal Whatsapp messages to talk about your advocacy/activism	Think about whether you are comfortable with a 1:1 discussion. If so, continue chatting. If not, either block that person or tell them you would prefer to speak in the group chat only. If they persist or you feel uncomfortable, tell a trusted adult or peer.
You want to engage with someone 1:1 on a professional matter about their advocacy/activism	Ask yourself if that level of privacy is really necessary. If so, kindly ask the other person if they are okay with speaking to you on a 1:1 basis, and explain to them the nature of what you wish to discuss.
Someone you are talking to about professional topics asks you something you're not comfortable with	Block that person if you feel comfortable doing so or tell them simply that their language is unprofessional and you would prefer not to speak 1:1 anymore. Report the incident to a safe person or your chaperone.
You are having a professional conversation with another young person over WhatsApp and you want to become closer friends	Remember, they probably see you as a professional contact. You should respect this boundary. Try asking if they are comfortable speaking outside of the group chat.
You want to introduce new contacts to each other to build your network with people you met at the Summit	Before sharing anyone's personal information, confirm with them that they are happy with it and know who is receiving their contact details and why. Confirm what information they would like to share e.g. email, phone number.
You want to start a new WhatsApp/Facebook group. There are people from different countries and cultures.	Don't invite new people in without asking the group first and never share personal contact information (address, phone numbers etc) in an open group. Don't add people without asking them, instead, share the link to join the group and let them decide on their own.

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