RUISLIP-NORTHWOOD FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

VULNERABLE PEOPLE AT RISK POLICY

IMPLEMENTED: February 2025 **ANNUAL REVIEW DUE: February 2027**

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Brenda Reed, 0208 422 1145

The British and International Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech work for amateur festivals everywhere to help create thousands of educational performance opportunities for adults, children, and young people each year.

The Federation, and our member festivals, are committed to ensuring safe environments for vulnerable people at risk and believe that it is always unacceptable for a vulnerable person at risk to experience abuse of any kind. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all vulnerable people at risk, by a commitment to recommend best practice which protects them.

This policy applies to our Board of Trustees, Adjudicator members, volunteers, students, or anyone working on behalf of the federation and our member festivals.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of a vulnerable person at risk is paramount
- All vulnerable people at risk, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation, or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Working in partnership with vulnerable people at risk, their relatives, carers, and other agencies is essential in promoting their welfare.

The purpose of the policy:

- To provide protection for vulnerable people at risk who participate in our festivals
- To provide volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a vulnerable person may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm
- To actively promote the empowerment and well-being of vulnerable people who participate in our festivals.

We will seek to safeguard vulnerable people at risk by:

- Valuing them, listening to, and respecting them
- Adopting safe working practices for volunteers

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- Recruiting volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Sharing information appropriately about adults who are at risk, with their consent
- If consent is refused and there are considered to be serious concerns of abuse for the individual concerned or others, then consent may be over-ridden in line with guidance and only shared appropriately with those who need to know.
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, and training

The Federation will review this policy each year in January or sooner in light of any changes in legislation or guidance. All changes will be communicated to our member Festivals in time for the start of the new festival year.

This policy was last reviewed on:

Name: BRENDA REED

Signed: Brenda Reed

Date: 27th January 2026