

Owner	Director of People, Culture and Change
Policy	Code of Conduct
Version	V2.2 July 2024 - Volunteers
Approved by	CAFOD Leadership Group
Audience	All CAFOD Volunteers in England & Wales
Next review due	July 2026

In line with our Vision, Mission and Values, CAFOD expects all staff and volunteers to conduct themselves in a manner that preserves the dignity, respect and equality of every individual. As a Catholic agency this code is based firmly on the principles of Catholic social teaching, specifically on the principle of the dignity of the human person.

This Code of Conduct outlines the conduct CAFOD expects from all our volunteers as representative of CAFOD in their local community.

CAFOD expects all volunteers to adhere to this Code of Conduct . Volunteer coordinators (both staff and volunteers) have a particular responsibility to promote and uphold the Code by ensuring all those who represent CAFOD are supported in understanding and working within the Code, as well as providing a strong role model.

We strongly encourage all individuals, volunteers and organisations to let us know if they suspect or know of a breach of these commitments. We welcome the information as a way to try and put things right and improve our quality and effectiveness. You can refer to our [Complaints Policy](#) and [Contact Us](#) page for ways to raise a concern, allegation or complaint at any time.

CAFOD volunteer coordinators have a duty to report any suspected or actual breaches of these commitments. The first point of contact will usually be your designated CAFOD staff contact or a regional manager where the immediate manager or coordinator may be implicated. If necessary you should refer to the [Complaints Policy](#), [Safeguarding Policy](#) and and/or [Whistle-blowing Policy](#).

Anyone who raises a concern about potentially serious malpractice will be protected from victimisation or any other detrimental treatment, provided that concerns are raised in good faith. Deliberate false allegations are a serious offence.

The Code of Conduct also applies to any online activity, including social media. You will be able to access guidelines on use of social media on CAFOD’s website.

The Code is divided into three core areas for ease of reference:

1. Values, Conduct and Ethics

1. I will ensure that my conduct is, and is seen to be, of the highest standards and in keeping with CAFOD's Vision, Mission and Values and does not bring CAFOD into disrepute.
2. I will act in good faith and treat other people with dignity and respect, without discrimination, harassment, abuse (including sexual harassment, abuse or misconduct) or neglect.
3. I will take reasonable action to protect others from harm and to challenge infringements into the rights of others.
4. I will ensure that I act in accordance with health, safety and security guidelines and endeavour to safeguard others.
5. I will treat CAFOD staff, volunteers and supporters with respect.
6. I will seek to build positive relationships with representatives of the Catholic community and be open to collaborating with other agencies in support of CAFOD's objectives, as appropriate.
7. When I am communicating about CAFOD's work I will do so upholding the dignity of all those we work with.
8. I will uphold confidentiality in a manner consistent with [CAFOD's data protection policy](#).

2. Conflict of interest, coercion and corruption

9. I will maintain appropriate standards of honesty and integrity in financial accountability.
10. I will not use the position of power conferred by my role as a CAFOD volunteer to exert pressure, enhance my personal gain economically, professionally, politically or sexually, or extract or accept favours, bribes, gifts or other forms of personal enrichment.
11. I will declare any financial, personal, family (or close intimate relationship) interest in matters of official business which may impact on my volunteering role – e.g. contracts for goods/services or employment, partner organisations, civil authorities, communities we assist.
12. While CAFOD recognizes that those who represent CAFOD may exercise and express their political views according to their own beliefs and principles, I will ensure a reasonable distance is maintained between my personal political activities and my role with CAFOD as a volunteer. I will declare any potential conflict of interest arising from my political activities.

13. I will ensure that the organisation's assets, tangible and intangible, e.g. vehicles, computers, communications equipment, intellectual property, and data are not misused and are protected from theft, fraud or other damage.
14. I understand that CAFOD prohibits the carrying of any weapons on any CAFOD property (owned or rented) including accommodation/office/vehicles etc.

3. Personal conduct and safeguarding

Volunteers must at all times ensure that their conduct does not bring CAFOD into ill repute and does not impact on or undermine their or others' ability to undertake the role for which they have committed to.

15. I will not use my position of power as a CAFOD volunteer to take advantage of those less powerful e.g. those under my supervision or care.
16. I will not use a position of power or authority given by my volunteer role to enter into a sexual relationship with any member of the community.
17. I will not exchange money, employment, goods or services for sex, including sexual favours or other forms of humiliating, degrading or exploitative behaviour.
18. I will not engage in any type of sexual relationships with any person under the age of 18.
19. I will take measures to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults, including refraining from physically abusing children (even where this is culturally acceptable) and use non-violent methods to manage children's behavior.
20. During my volunteering activity my contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults (whether by phone, online or direct contact) will be supervised, accompanied, or at least in sight of other adults. CAFOD recognises that situations may arise where this cannot be the case for urgent or for practical reasons. Where I must have contact as a lone adult with a vulnerable adult or one or more children, I will inform my manager or coordinator ahead of time or as soon as possible.
21. I will ensure that all pictures of children that I take in relation to my work with CAFOD are decent and respectful. I will ensure that I obtain informed consent and protect children's identity in any media involving under 18's. *
22. I will value the contribution of all children and not show favour to a particular child to the exclusion of others.
23. I will assess the safeguarding risks for all CAFOD led events for which I am responsible and I will plan for the mitigation of these risks.
24. I will not use my position of power as a CAFOD volunteer to withhold assistance or services.

25. I will never volunteer while under the influence of drug related substances or alcohol that inhibit my ability to perform my responsibilities.

26. I will not use the organisation's computers or other equipment to view, download, create or distribute inappropriate material, including but not limited to pornography.

27. I will not use covert audio or visual recording equipment in relation to any part of my role.

There may be specific circumstances where a behaviour not listed above could bring CAFOD into disrepute, in such a case the issue would be brought to the attention your CAFOD manager, coordinator or CAFOD leadership.

After you have read this policy, your Volunteer Coordinator would be very happy for you to please share any questions or concerns you have with them.

By signing the volunteer agreement you agree that you have read and understood the contents of this Code of Conduct , and will act in accordance with it as a condition of you volunteer role with CAFOD.

* Please refer to the Safeguarding Policy for more details of using images of children under 18.

Other relevant policies:

- Social Media policy
- Confidentiality and Data Protection commitment