

Safeguarding Policy for Protecting Vulnerable Individuals at the University of Applied Arts Vienna

We, all persons who work and study at the University of Applied Arts Vienna, are called upon to recognize the need to protect vulnerable individuals in a reflective and caring manner as a fundamental aspect of our work environment and of our dealings with each other in our daily lives.

We respect the dignity of every individual and actively support efforts to ensure the well-being and security of disadvantaged and endangered persons.

In the context of our work, we take a reflective and (self-)critical approach as regards the respect, protection and implementation of the rights of vulnerable individuals. We acknowledge this attitude as a guiding principle and hold to it in our dealings with third parties.

The University adheres to the standards set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in the European Charter of Human Rights, in the Austrian Constitution and in the Austrian Universities Act 2002.

We understand the term “vulnerable individuals” as referring to:

- Children and young persons under the age of 18;
- Persons over the age of 18 who for one reason or another (e.g., on ethnic or social grounds, whether disability, age or illness) are not in a position or could not possibly be in a position to protect themselves sufficiently from substantial harm or exploitation.

In our work environment, we do not tolerate any form of psychological or physical abuse or violence, nor do we tolerate discrimination against or harassment of vulnerable persons or any form of racism.

All persons are entitled to protection from harm, regardless of age, disabilities, sex, cultural and/or ethnic background, religious beliefs, sexual orientation or socioeconomic background.

The Rectorate of the University of Applied Arts Vienna sees itself as having final responsibility for the implementation of these fundamental principles.

It is the joint responsibility of all persons pursuing an activity at the University of Applied Arts Vienna to prevent situations that could constitute a danger and, should such a situation occur, to protect any endangered individuals.

The fundamental principles set out here are an implicit factor behind decisions regarding personnel and constitute the basis on which cooperation and cohabitation can take place in a spirit of mutual respect within our social framework.

20 October 2020

Rectorate, University of Applied Arts Vienna