



Association of Child Protection Professionals (AoCPP) Special Interest Group (SIG)

'Culture' in Child Protection Terms of Reference

**For the purposes of this SIG culture refers to factors relating to a child's race, ethnicity and religion*

1. Purpose

- To understand the importance of culture in achieving effective working practises when supporting diverse communities.
- To understand the relationship between culture and effective child-centred practice.
- To reflect upon and share experiences of culture and child protection, in order to address challenges and promote positive practice.
- To share, discuss and critique national trends illustrating child welfare and child protection disproportionalities,
- To critique regional and national policies addressing these disproportionalities and taking action to respond to gaps in policy
- To discuss and evaluate organisational practices seeking cultural competency
- To inform the Association and members of current national and international reflections, research and best practice models which examine the significance of culture and child protection.
- Explore and integrate relevant theoretical frameworks, including intersectionality¹ and critical race theory², to strengthen practice, practitioner confidence, and policy developments in the arena of culture and child protection.
- Support the dissemination of this information across groups of researchers, practitioners, organisations and interest groups operating within the field of child protection.

¹ Intersectionality theory considers the multiple dimensions of one's identity, including gender, race, class, sexuality and disability

² Critical Race Theory provides a framework for exploring race and racism as social constructs and the need to challenge structures in society which sustain racism

2. Responsibilities and remit of group

2.1 Develop a safe space amongst members to explore the issues of culture and child protection in a deep and reflective way, allowing each to have their voice heard and respected.

2.2 Consider the impact of learning and reflection in relation to culture and child protection, to influence organisational and practice system change, led by the membership.

2.3 Inform and influence national policy and practice, in relation to culture and child protection.

2.4 Receive and respond to updates from group members in relation to culture and child protection regarding:

- Emerging learning themes
- Identification of good practice
- National and International Research
- Relevant Safeguarding Reviews
- Opportunities to influence policy and practice
- Consultation and Support for members

2.5 Ensure the Special Interest Group's understanding and actions are informed by relevant research, theory, practice-based evidence and the knowledge of experts-by-experience.

2.6 Link with associated groups on the national and international stage.

2.7 Promote inter-university co-operation in researching culture and child safeguarding.

3. Outputs of Group

3.1 Review and debate practice, policy, research and areas of challenge in meeting the needs of organisations to influence change in the evolution of processes and good practice.

3.2 Identify and enhance the existing pool of resources within the Association to inform improvements in practice.

3.3 Provide contribution to AoCPP Newsletter / Journal.

3.4 Identify and develop training resources for dissemination via AoCPP forums e.g. via AoCPP training events

3.5 The Chair of this SIG to provide updates to AoCPP Chair and contribute to the annual report regarding the work of the group and the development of priorities for future business plan.

4. Frequency of meetings

4.1 The group consists of AoCPP members meeting quarterly to debate, identify and develop learning and training opportunities. Extraordinary meetings can be called if required by the Chair of their own volition or at the request of any member of the group. Minutes and actions will be noted and circulated to all members of the group.

5. Reporting arrangements

5.1 The group will report to the Board of Trustees (BoT) providing relevant updates.

6. Variation

6.1 The Terms of Reference for this SIG may be amended by the Group and be subject to approval of the AoCPP Chair.

6.2 The Terms of Reference are to be reviewed annually every April.