



Whistleblowing Procedure

Organization of literacy support for independent Afghanistan

2025

OLSIA WHISTLEBLOWING PROCEDURE

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Board Approval

The board of director of OLSIA, by resolution duly adopted by unanimous vote at a meeting duly called and held and not subsequently rescinded or modified in any way, has duly determined that this policy is workable and fair to and in the best interests of OLSIA, the board, approve this policy, recommended for use and directed that the amendment be submitted for consideration by OLSIA board members and ED at the OLSIA board meeting.

Each member of the board agrees to perform such further acts and execute such further documents as are necessary to effectuate the purposes hereof. This policy manual shall be understood and enforce in accordance with and governed by the laws of the government of Afghanistan.

The OLSIA Board Approval constitutes approval of this policy manual undersigned.

Abdul Qaum Almas

Signature

Fazal Rabani

Signature

Abdul Jabar Ameri

Signature

Farhad Naderi

Signature

Haroon Ahmadi

Signature



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Background of the Organization

The Organization of Literacy Support for Independent Afghanistan (OLSIA) was founded in 2024 with the conviction that education is the cornerstone of lasting peace, economic stability, and social inclusion in Afghanistan. Grounded in the belief that every person—regardless of age, gender or circumstance—deserves the opportunity to learn and grow, OLSIA is committed to building a brighter future for Afghan communities.

From its inception, OLSIA has positioned education as “first and for all,” directing its efforts toward increasing access to literacy, computer skills, vocational training and the English language. By mobilizing educated Afghan youth and partnering with local communities, OLSIA strives to overcome barriers that have long limited opportunities, especially among women and underserved populations.

Operating across multiple provinces, OLSIA implements projects that combine classroom learning with practical skill-building: establishing computer learning centers, delivering soft-skills training, and facilitating vocational pathways. These initiatives are designed not only to educate but to empower learners to participate meaningfully in the economy and society.

OLSIA’s vision is of a united and prosperous Afghanistan where development opportunities are accessible to all, thereby fostering social inclusion and stability. Its mission centers on building a collective movement of educated Afghan youth who champion education for all ages and all genders—with no discrimination. The ultimate goal is to enhance livelihoods, create economic opportunities, and contribute to the country’s long-term development.

Through transparent governance, community-centered design and partnerships that link education with employment, OLSIA seeks to ensure that every Afghan has a chance to unlock their potential. We believe that when people lead their own learning and development, the benefits ripple outward—strengthening families, communities and the nation.

Our Vision:

A united and prosperous Afghanistan where education and development opportunities are accessible to all, fostering social inclusion and stability.

Our Mission:

We aim to build a collective movement of educated Afghan youths to support education above all, education for all ages and all genders without any discrimination of any kind.

Goal

To improve access to education, vocational skills, and economic opportunities, enhancing the livelihoods of Afghan communities and contributing to the country’s long-term development.

Humanitarian Principles:

OLSIA is committed to the principles that are central to establishing and maintaining the provision of humanitarian response to the affected people in natural disasters and complex emergency situations
www.olsia.org Cheknawry high school Street# 1, 7rd Zone, Jalalabad-Afghanistan

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and/or implementation of human development interventions. The main humanitarian principles defined by UN have been adopted by OLSIA. The four core principles are:

- Humanity
- Neutrality
- Impartiality and,
- Independence

1. Introduction

In order to ensure OLSIA operates with the highest standards of ethics, integrity, transparency and competence it is the duty of all Stakeholders associated with OLSIA's business to report any concerns regarding malpractice or wrongdoing. It is a further duty of all Stakeholders to cooperate with a duly authorized audit or investigation into any Alleged Misconduct.

It is OLSIA's policy to ensure that there is an open and safe environment at OLSIA in which Stakeholders can report in good faith, or cooperate in a duly authorized audit or investigation into any suspicions of misconduct or wrongdoing and that any whistle-blower is protected against retaliation for reporting or providing such information within the scope of services and resources that are available.

2. Definitions

- A.** Alleged Misconduct means any report of action or inaction which might damage OLSIA's reputation or breach by OLSIA as a business or an individual OLSIA Stakeholder of:
- OLSIA's Code of Conduct, internal rules, regulations and/or SOPs; or
 - any Codes of Conduct and prevailing rules, regulations, processes and procedures of OLSIA's clients; or
 - Any laws and regulations prevailing within a country of operation; or d. any international law (including for the avoidance of doubt laws regarding Human Rights, bribery, fraud and corruption).
- a)** Ethics Committee means OLSIA's Ethics Committee - an internal body which investigates ethics issues in an impartial, confidential, considered and swift manner.
- b)** Retaliation means any direct or indirect detrimental action recommended, threatened or taken towards an individual who has reported Alleged Misconduct or provided information concerning the same. When established, retaliation in itself constitutes misconduct and appropriate action will be taken.
- c)** Stakeholder means those with an interest in OLSIA's business, including but not limited to shareholders, directors, employees, consultants, contractors, sub-contractors, agents and clients.

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3. Responsibility/ Authority

- a) It is the responsibility of all Stakeholders to report good faith concerns regarding Alleged Misconduct.
- b) It is the responsibility of all Stakeholders to comply in any investigation into any Alleged Misconduct
- c) It is the responsibility of the line manager of the individual reporting the Alleged Misconduct or the Ethics Committee, as appropriate, to fully assess and, if deemed necessary, investigate all Alleged Misconduct.
- d) It is the responsibility of all those receiving reports to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, confidentiality of those making reports of Alleged Misconduct.
- e) It is the responsibility of OLSIA to ensure that all those making reports of Alleged Misconduct or participating in investigations into Alleged Misconduct are protected from Retaliation.

4. Procedure

In order to ensure that OLSIA's policy in respect of whistleblowing is consistently achieved, the following procedure should be followed:

a) Reporting a concern/suspicion

- If a Stakeholder has reasonable suspicions or concerns, in good faith, of Alleged Misconduct it is their duty to report such.
- Stakeholders in OLSIA's business have a duty to comply with any internal investigation or audit OLSIA is conducting into any Alleged Misconduct and to report, as part of that investigation, any good faith suspicions they also have regarding the Alleged Misconduct and provide any evidence that they have into any Alleged Misconduct.
- Stakeholders must not, however, make a report or provide information that is intentionally false or misleading; doing such shall constitute gross misconduct and may result in administrative, disciplinary, or other appropriate action.
- All good faith suspicions regarding any Alleged Misconduct should be reported to OLSIA's Ethics Committee (ethics@OLSIA.org).
- Reports may be made through verbal or written means; a formal written statement will be required before the Alleged Misconduct is investigated.
- In instances where the individual does not feel comfortable raising the concern to the OLSIA's Ethics Committee, they can instead raise the concern with their line manager or a member of the ELT as they think most appropriate.
- An initial assessment into the Alleged Misconduct shall be initiated within 48 hours; should the initial assessment show that the allegation may be a credible then a full investigation shall be initiated; depending on the complexity of the Alleged Misconduct a TOR setting out the parameters of the investigation into the allegation may be created.
- Where the initial assessment or investigation shows that the report is not substantiated, the fact that the assessment/investigation has been carried out and the result of the assessment/investigation and the identity of those allegedly involved must be handled confidentially.

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- The team investigating any Alleged Misconduct must ensure (unless an applicable law requires otherwise) that any person(s) who are named as involved in the Alleged Misconduct:
 - Is informed of the substance of the allegations;
 - Is given the opportunity to answer the allegations before any investigation is finalized;
 - Is informed about the substance of any adverse comments that may be included in any report arising from the investigation before it is finalized; and
 - Has his/her justification set out fairly in any report.
- Confidential written records shall be kept at all stages of the assessment and investigation.
- On completion of the investigation (if applicable), the investigator will provide a full analysis and make recommendation for changes to practices to minimize further reoccurrence of similar issues.

- **Protection of Whistleblowers**
- ✓ It is the duty of the individual or body receiving any report of Alleged Misconduct to protect the confidentiality of the person making the report and any related communications to the greatest extent possible. The individual's identity should not be disclosed without his or her permission, and only if it is necessary for administrative, disciplinary or judicial action or in order to ensure due process in the investigation of the allegations made.

- ✓ While OLSIA will to the greatest extent possible protect the confidentiality and/or anonymity of an individual making a report, there are instances where this cannot be guaranteed. In such cases, OLSIA will inform the individual prior to pursuing an investigation into the allegation raised and will request their consent to proceed.

- ✓ If an individual has reported Alleged Misconduct, OLSIA shall do all it reasonably can within the operational context and scope of available services and resources to protect them against retaliation. The same shall apply if an individual co-operates in good faith with any audit or investigation which OLSIA management or OLSIA's Ethics Committee initiates into Alleged Misconduct.

- ✓ The transmission or dissemination of unsubstantiated rumors is not, however, a protected activity.

- ✓ Where an act of retaliation has been perpetrated by a OLSIA staff member, this will be considered an act of gross misconduct. OLSIA shall take a zero-tolerance approach to such an action and its standard disciplinary procedure will be followed.

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b) Dealing with retaliation against whistleblowers

- c) If an individual feel that they have been retaliated against because of their reporting Alleged Misconduct or compliance with an audit/investigation into Alleged Misconduct then they must make a report as soon as possible, and no later than a year from the date of the alleged retaliation to OLSIA's Ethics Committee.
- d) Individuals who believe that retaliatory action has been taken against them because they have reported Alleged Misconduct or cooperated with a duly authorized audit or investigation into Alleged Misconduct should forward all information and documentation available to them to support their complaint to the Ethics Committee (ethics@OLSIA.org).
- e) The Ethics Committee shall keep a confidential record of such complaints and shall initiate within 48 hours a review to establish if (i) the complainant was protected (in line with (b) above) and (ii) that there is a prima facie case that such protected activity was a contributing factor in the alleged retaliation or threat of retaliation.
- f) Pending the completion of the investigation the Ethics Committee may take appropriate and proportionate measures to protect the complainant.
- g) If the investigation shows that there is a credible case of retaliation or threat of retaliation, appropriate disciplinary action shall be taken up to and including summary dismissal of the retaliator.