

# Educação Protegida

*Protecting children in youth-serving environments*

## ABOUT US

Educação Protegida is a consulting company that emerged after the long journey of a **mother** working in abuse prevention with various stakeholders, target audiences, and multiple perspectives for the protection and prevention of child sexual abuse and institutional abuse.

We know the immense potential of schools in an effective, preventive response to child abuse and we recognize the enormous vulnerability of schools and youth-serving institutions to the misuse of their institutions by malicious people. As confirmed by the many tragic cases highlighted in the media, child abuse in institutions generates a loss of confidence and strong divisions in what should be a great protective environment.

Supporting trusted adults and institutions in generating a safer environment for children is the cornerstone of Educação Protegida. We are here to help further protect our children while ensuring a better work environment for schools and institutions, so your staff is protected and our children can learn, grow and develop to their full potential.

## SERVICES

Every service provided by Educação Protegida was prepared and designed based on international best practices and evidence-based research, including but not limited to the findings of the International Task Force for Child Protection, Keeping Children Safe in Education (UK) and findings from country-level commissioned studies on institutional abuse and abuse prevention. Our approach takes into account the best interest of the child and is geared to support schools and youth-serving organizations in navigating the complexity of child prevention and institutional abuse. All our services can be delivered in English, Spanish and Portuguese.



## WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOUR INSTITUTION:

### CHILD PROTECTION RESPONSE TEAMS

One of the best ways to initiate institutional abuse prevention is the creation of internal multidisciplinary teams, referred to as child protection response teams (CPRTs). At Educação Protegida we support the creation of CPRTs or support existing teams in fine-tuning your institution's abuse response, We can support you through:

- Selecting CPRT members and team formation.
- Developing or reviewing policies and procedures.
- Recommending approaches to manage cases for the final decision-maker.
- Training and tools for enhancing institutional abuse prevention.



### MENTORING FOR CHILD PROTECTION RESPONSE TEAMS

As the core team in ensuring institutional abuse prevention and response, the CPRTs need to be trained in-depth and require skills to navigate the complex world of child abuse prevention. Also offered to support developed training, the Educação Protegida team offers mentoring to the CPRTs to help on cases, individual responses, and questions that may arise in the process of developing the internal and external response. We can support you through:

- Development or improvement of internal child protection policies and procedures.
- 1-year mentoring to support response and appropriate case referral.
- Peer support for CPRT professionals with other schools (**future project**).

### INSTITUTIONAL AUDIT

Institutional abuse prevention and response requires a multitude of policies, procedures, and actions geared to reduce the likelihood of abuse happening and if it does, increase the likelihood of fast identification and appropriate response to abuse and child protection concerns. We can support your institution through:

- Auditing the institution's child protection practices, policies, and procedures, and performing an environmental audit of physical spaces.
- Preparing a report identifying gaps, good practices, and potential areas for improvement. Recommendations are included.

We are working to develop a seal or badge for schools meeting all the defined criteria for child protection, which will be valid for two years and can be renewed upon request.

### SUPPORT FOR CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION CURRICULA DEVELOPMENT

A student abuse prevention curricula should be comprehensive, age-appropriate, and touch on key aspects of child development.

Our team offers:

- Guidelines on materials and topics for inclusion in curricula.
- Recommendation of materials for the prevention of online abuse.
- Topics to be covered in the schools' existing disciplines, among others.

## STAFF TRAINING

Everyone in the institution needs to be aware of your policies, procedures, and code of conduct. But more than that, your staff need to be aware that we are all trusted adults to the children you serve. They need to recognize potential signs of abuse, know what to do, and understand a trauma-informed approach. Our training is prepared in collaboration with the CPRT and other relevant teams, and our training is personalized to better meet your needs. Training topics are flexible and can include, among others:

- Understanding child abuse, and its impacts, definitions, potential indicators, common myths, terminology, risk factors, protective and resilience factors, types of disclosure of abuse, mandatory whistleblower laws.
- Grooming, offender behavior and importance of professional boundaries.
- How to act in the face of a complaint and when to take the case forward.



## TRAININGS AND LECTURES FOR PARENTS

A safer community is one that also supports and educates parents on child protection and the risks facing our children nowadays. Our team is available for lectures and training for parents on:

- Best practices to guide and empower children against abuse (including online abuse, and the safe and responsible use of the internet).
- Recommendations on books and conversation starters for parents.
- Guidance on the risks and benefits of online presence and how to mitigate risks, among others.

## CRISIS MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

We recognize that even institutions with robust policies and procedures are susceptible to facing a crisis. Recognizing this and the need to be able to count on the support of skilled professionals, we partnered with the renowned The Jane Group (TJG), which specializes in several matters, including:

- Crisis management and preparedness.
- Reputation management and school culture issues.
- Legal communications.
- Crisis communications training for boards, school leadership, and faculty and staff.
- Advice and consultation for strategic initiatives and sensitive matters.
- Governance matters.
- Media relations and media training, including social media.
- Advice and communications services for strategic initiatives and sensitive matters.
- Crisis communications plan development.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT US ON:



*Katia Dantas*

CEO & Senior Consultant, Educação Protegida  
Senior Consultant for Latin America, The Jane Group



## *International expert in child protection*

Katia Dantas is a leading international child protection specialist dedicated to the prevention of institutional abuse with a focus on youth-serving organizations. With 20 years of academic and professional experience in preventing and responding to violence against vulnerable populations, Katia comes from a long history of working with global organizations, where she led global and regional efforts to prevent and respond to missing children, and child abuse and exploitation, both online and offline.

In addition to being CEO & Senior Consultant for Protected Education, Katia has joined the renowned The Jane Group, a consulting firm specializing in crisis management, where she serves as a consultant for Latin America. Katia has served at the International Center for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC) as Director of the Global Educator Center for Excellence, where she equipped youth service organizations with tools, resources, and training to strengthen child protection. She also served as Executive Director of Monitoring and Program Evaluation, and Director of Programs and Policies for Latin America and the Caribbean. Prior to working for ICMEC, Katia worked for the International Organization for Migration, Duke University, the US Agency for International Development and the US Embassy in Brazil.

Katia earned her Master's Degree in International Development Policy from Duke University, with the financial support of a competitive scholarship, the Rotary World Peace Fellowship. Fluent in three languages, Katia brings a multidisciplinary perspective and empirical knowledge to her projects, in addition to an extensive network of contacts in different areas relevant to child protection.

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