

GUIDELINES FOR WISTLEBLOWING

<i>Type of document:</i>	Guidelines
<i>Adopted by:</i>	Secretary General 2020-12-07
<i>Responsible for document:</i>	Chief of Staff
<i>Latest update:</i>	2026-06-04
<i>Latest review:</i>	2026-06-04

1. INTRODUCTION – WHAT IS WHISTLEBLOWING, AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Olof Palme's International Center (the Palme Center) strives to be an open and transparent organisation. For us, it is important that our basic values and principles permeate all our work, both in Sweden and in our international operations with partner organisations. It is also of great importance that we maintain our good reputation and confidence in our operations, especially since we are an organisation that handles tax funds.

Our whistleblowing service offers a possibility to alert the organisation about suspicions of misconduct in confidence. It is an important tool for reducing risks and maintaining trust in our operations by enabling us to detect and act on possible misconduct at an early stage. Whistleblowing can be done by any person openly or anonymously.

The purpose of these guidelines is to encourage employees, partners and the general public to communicate suspected irregularities without risk of retaliation, and to ensure a safe investigation process. This policy is based on the EU General Data Protection Regulation, EU Directive on whistleblower protection and national legislation on whistleblowing. The whistleblower service is part of our work with anti-corruption. More about this work can be read in our anti-corruption policy.

2. WHEN TO BLOW THE WHISTLE?

The whistleblower service is used to draw our attention to any irregularities and risks that could harm individuals, the Palme Center as an organisation,

society, or the environment. The service can also be used to draw our attention to suspicions that our internal policies and guidelines are not being complied with.

Examples of irregularities or risks may be linked to accounting, internal accounting controls, auditing matters, fight against bribery, banking- and financial crime, breaches of the Palme Center's Code of Conduct, or other serious irregularities affecting the organisation's vital interests or the lives and health of individuals, such as serious environmental crimes, major workplace safety deficiencies and very serious forms of discrimination and harassment.

Employees are asked to contact their supervisor or manager for issues relating to dissatisfaction in the workplace or related matters, as these issues cannot be investigated in the scope of the whistleblowing.

A person who blows the whistle does not need to have firm evidence for expressing a suspicion. However, deliberate reporting of false or malicious information is forbidden. Abuse of the whistleblowing service is a serious disciplinary offence. A whistleblower is protected against reprisals even if the suspicion turns out to be incorrect, provided that the whistleblower acts in good faith.

Please note there could be restrictions on the use of a whistleblowing service in certain countries.

3. HOW TO BLOW THE WHISTLE?

There are different ways to raise a concern:

Alternative 1: Contact a supervisor or manager within our organisation. Employees are encouraged to report to their immediate superior or someone in the management team in the first instance.

Alternative 2: Contact the responsible for the whistleblower service: Chief of Staff, contact information is available on our website: <https://www.palmecenter.se/eng/about-palme-center/staff/>

Alternative 3 Anonymous or confidential messaging through the whistleblower communication channel to the whistleblowing team: palmecenter.whistlelink.com/

We encourage anybody who shares their suspicions to be open with their identity. All messages received will be handled confidentially. For those wishing to remain anonymous, we offer a channel for anonymous reporting (alternative 3).

The whistleblowing channel enabling anonymous messaging is administrated by Whistlelink, an external service provider. All messages are encrypted. To ensure the anonymity of the person sending a message, Whistlelink deletes all meta data, including IP addresses. The person

sending the message also remains anonymous in the subsequent dialogue with responsible receivers of report.

4. THE INVESTIGATION PROCESS

THE WHISTLEBLOWING TEAM

Access to messages received through our whistleblowing channel is restricted to appointed individuals with the authority to handle whistleblowing cases. These persons are the Chief of Staff, Compliance and Risk Manager and HR. Their actions are logged and handling is confidential. When needed, individuals who can add expertise may be included in the investigation process. These people can access relevant data and are also bound to confidentiality.

If a person raises a concern directly to a supervisor, manager or by contacting the whistleblowing team in person the message is treated according to these guidelines.

RECEIVING A MESSAGE

Upon receiving a message, the whistleblowing team decides whether to accept or decline the message. If the message is accepted, appropriate measures for investigation will be taken, please see Investigation below.

The whistleblowing team may decline to accept a message if:

- the alleged conduct is not reportable conduct under these Whistleblowing guidelines
- the message has not been made in good faith or is malicious
- there is insufficient information to allow for further investigation
- the subject of the message has already been solved

If a message includes issues not covered by the scope of these Whistleblowing guidelines, the whistleblowing team should take appropriate actions to get the issue solved.

The individuals responsible for the whistleblower service will confirm receipt of the case within 7 days, and the case will be handled within 3 months.

Do not include sensitive personal information about anybody mentioned in your message if it is not necessary for describing your concern.

INVESTIGATION

All messages are treated seriously and in accordance with these Whistleblowing guidelines.

- No one from the whistleblowing team, or anyone taking part in the investigation process, will attempt to identify the whistleblower.

The whistleblowing team can, when needed, submit follow-up questions via the channel for anonymous communication.

A message will not be investigated by anyone who may be involved with or connected to the misgiving.

The whistleblowing team decides if and how a whistleblowing message should be escalated.

Whistleblowing messages are handled confidentially by the parties involved.

WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION IN THE CASE OF NON-ANONYMOUS WHISTLEBLOWING

A person expressing genuine suspicion or misgiving according to these guidelines will not be at risk of losing their job or suffering any form sanctions or personal disadvantages as a result. It does not matter if the whistleblower is mistaken, provided that he or she is acting in good faith.

Subject to considerations of the privacy of those against whom allegations have been made, and any other issues of confidentiality, a non-anonymous whistleblower will be kept informed of the outcomes of the investigation into the allegations.

In cases of alleged criminal offences, the whistleblower will be informed that his/her identity may need to be disclosed during judicial proceedings.

PROTECTION OF, AND INFORMATION TO, A PERSON SPECIFIED IN A WHISTLEBLOWER MESSAGE

The rights of the individuals submitting the message or specified in a whistleblower message are subject to the relevant data protection laws. Those affected will be entitled to the right to access data relating to themselves and should the information be incorrect, incomplete or out of date to require amendments or deletion of data.

These rights are subject to any overriding safeguarding measures required to prevent the destruction of evidence or other obstructions to the processing and investigation of the case.

DELETION OF DATA

Personal data included in a whistleblowing messages and investigation documentation is deleted when the investigation is complete, with the exception of when personal data must be maintained according to other applicable laws. Investigation documentation and whistleblower messages that are archived should be anonymised under GDPR; they should not include personal data through which persons can be directly or indirectly identified.

5. TRANSFER OF PERSONAL DATA OUTSIDE THE EEA

Data is stored within the EU. There is a general prohibition on the transfer of personal data out of the European Economic Area (EEA) unless specific mechanisms are used to protect data.

NB. The scope of this Whistleblowing guideline does not include potential transfer of personal data from the EEA to affiliates located outside the EEA.