NEW!

SPEAK OUT - BE PROTECTED!
CREATING CHILD-SENSITIVE REPORTING MECHANISMS OF ALLEGED CASES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN TOOLKIT

With Foreword by Marta Santos-Pais, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children

Plan International Asia Regional Office
ABOUT SPEAK OUT – BE PROTECTED!

Violence against children occurs globally and throughout the Asia region and takes place in all settings. Despite concerted efforts by many stakeholders, much of this violence remains hidden and under-reported. The Child-Sensitive Reporting Mechanisms toolkit “Speak Out – Be Protected!” identifies simple and user-friendly processes through which children and their peers (and families) can raise child protection concerns and report to the respective mandatory child protective agencies, services or trusted community groups/institutions.

The toolkit includes:
- Development framework: Guide for practitioners
- Children’s booklet
- Protection Tree model and poster
The Development framework: Guide for practitioners is divided into four main sections:

**INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT**
Introduces the framework background and explains why and how it was developed, who it is for and how to use it.

**PART 1**
Explores the scope of child reporting mechanisms and their integration within child protection systems.

**PART 2**
Defines the seven key dimensions of an effective child-sensitive reporting mechanism.

**CONSULTATION TOOLS**
Provides practitioners with consultation tools to use with adults and with children across a range of ages. This section also provides an explanation of the Protection Tree model.
What do you think are the most common types of violence in your community?

Every child has a right to protection from all violence.

Violence can mean many different things. Physical abuse, psychological abuse, sexual abuse and neglect are the main types of violence that we should all be concerned about, because these can cause children a lot of harm.

**Physical abuse** includes hurting a child, for example by hitting or beating.

**Psychological abuse** includes telling children they are worthless or always saying bad things about them. Sometimes psychological abuse is called verbal abuse.

**Neglect** means not looking after a child properly—such as not giving them food or not providing care.

**Sexual abuse** means involving a child in a sexual act, including making sexual comments (such as talking about a girl’s appearance or eve teasing).

Welcome to this guide which has been produced to help you understand how to report concerns about violence and abuse and to know what might happen next after a report is made...

When a report is given by a child or about a child, decisions will have to be made about how to best help the child and their family. The child should always be involved in these decisions.

Imagine a situation where an 11-year-old girl has been sexually abused by a man from the community. The family are worried that if the girl stays in the community people will be unkind to her and blame her for getting the man into trouble.

They want her to go and live in a children’s home or with her aunt and uncle in another village. She says that she wants to tell people she was not abused so she can remain with her family. Her parents don’t want to do this.

The children’s booklet, designed with children as the primary users, helps children understand the dimensions of the child-sensitive reporting mechanism in a fun and engaging way.
The toolkit includes a poster that presents the Protection Tree model. It explains what the model represents and is a guide to help both children and adults understand how to build or “grow” the model themselves.

Every child has a right to protection from all violence. The first step towards protection is to be aware of the main forms and types of violence, so as to be able to recognise them and avoid them. It is extremely important that the mechanisms for reporting violence against children are set up and run properly so that timely and effective protection is provided. The roots of the mechanism must be stable so that a Protection Tree can grow strong and healthy.

It is important to remember that it is adults’ ultimate responsibility to protect children. There are people in the community who are there to provide help and assistance, particularly when it comes to reporting violence against children. The branches and leaves of the Protection Tree are there to accommodate the names of all the people that children can reach out to when they need support.

Creating Child-Sensitive Reporting Mechanisms of Alleged Cases of Violence against Children

The trunk of the Protection Tree is made up of many sections working and growing together to protect children from all forms of violence. They indicate the No-Go-Tell approach and remind us of different qualities and dimensions to ensure that the mechanisms are truly appropriate for children and are sensitive and responsive to their needs.

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The Protection Tree is an educational three-dimensional model. It is provided in the toolkit as an unconstructed set of flat parts. As it is constructed, elements of child protection rights and child-sensitive reporting mechanisms are explained and built upon until the model is complete.

When complete, the model will serve as a colorful physical reminder that children have the right and the means to speak out against violence.
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