



## 9.2 Child Protection Policy

**Policy Number: YP02**

### **Vision:**

We believe that development is a continuous struggle to create a humane society, which sustains all human beings, as well as nature, where women, men and children enjoy universal human rights. As a reflection of our commitment to the vision and considering the fact that children are often vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, YUVA places highest importance to protection and safety of children in all its dealings. Protection is a right of every child.

To strengthen this process, we will take initiative for the protection of child rights by involving like minded people who are working with children, children's rights and for the wellbeing of children in society.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) shall be the guiding principle for implementing basic rights for all children below the age of 18 years. The Government of India acceded to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992.

### **Statement of Commitment:**

'A statement of intent that demonstrates a commitment to safeguard children from harm and makes clear to all what is required in relation to the protection of children. It helps to create a safe and positive environment for children and to show that the organisation is taking its duty and responsibility of care seriously.'

The Child Protection Policy deals with the protection of children as defined by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The UNCRC should be taken holistically, providing a comprehensive framework for the protection, provision and participation of all children.

All children involved in YUVA activities, projects and programmes have the right to health, safety and well-being, and their best interests should be considered as top priority.

### **What is child abuse and exploitation?**

According to the World Health Organization, 'child abuse' or 'maltreatment' constitutes 'all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power'.

Our understanding of child abuses and exploitation includes, but is not limited to:

- Physical abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing any form of physical harm to a child.



- Emotional abuse which is defined as the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless and unloved, inadequate, or valued only so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may involve age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed in children. It may involve causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill-treatment of a child, though it may occur alone.
- Neglect is defined as the persistent failure to meet the child's basic physical and/ or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's physical or cognitive development.
- Bullying may be defined as deliberately hurtful behaviour, usually repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those bullied to defend themselves. It can take many forms, but the three main types are physical (e.g. hitting, kicking, theft), verbal (e.g. racist or homophobic remarks, threats, name calling) and emotional (e.g. isolating an individual from the activities and social acceptance of their peer group).
- Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (e.g., rape) or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic materials or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways. Sexual abuse of children can also be defined as creating personal or private relationships with children or physical intimacy. It relates to any kind of sexual relationship with children and to use them to promote sexual promiscuity. These contacts or interactions are carried out against the child using force, trickery, bribes, threats or pressure. Sexual abuse can be physical, verbal or emotional.
- Commercial exploitation means exploiting a child in work or other activities for the benefit of others and to the detriment of the child's physical or mental health, education, moral or social-emotional development. It comprises sexual abuse by the adult and remuneration in cash or kind to the child or a third person or persons. It includes, but is not limited to, child labour. A child who is being abused may experience more than one type of cruelty. Discrimination, harassment, and bullying are also abusive and can harm a child, physically and emotionally. The commercial sexual exploitation of children constitutes a form of coercion and violence against children, and amounts to forced labour and a contemporary form of slavery.
- Child pornography means any representation, by whatever means, of a child engaged in real or simulated explicit sexual activities or any representation of the sexual parts of a child for primarily sexual purposes. This can include photographs, slides, magazines, books, drawings, movies, videotapes and computer disks or files. Generally speaking, there are two categories of pornography: soft-core which is not sexually explicit but involves naked and seductive images of children, and hard core which relates to images of children engaged in sexual activity. The use of children in the production of pornography is sexual exploitation.
- Violence defined as 'physical, psychological and sexual violence to children through abuse, neglect or exploitation, as acts of commission or omission in direct or indirect



forms, that endanger or harm the child's dignity, physical, psychological, or social status, or development.

### **YUVAs Child Protection Policy**

YUVA is committed to protecting children from abuse and exploitation. It will take all necessary actions to prevent and/or respond to children in such situations. YUVA will respond to all reports of actual or alleged abuse based on its Child Protection Policy, irrespective of the nature of the referral, who the allegations are about or who the referrer is or where they are from.

This policy includes guidance on ethical and proper standards of behaviour of adults towards children. It has been developed with the best interests of the child as the primary consideration and should be interpreted in a spirit of transparency and common sense. YUVA aims for everyone, children and adults, to participate in a safe and happy way in YUVA work and activities.

In accordance with the Child Protection Policy, it should be noted that if a person or employee related to the organisation violates this policy or violates child rights, action will be taken against them as per this policy and child protection laws and acts outlined below:

It is mandatory for the staff to fulfil the following guidelines:

- You need to know about child-related policies, laws and rights of children.
- In case of child sexual abuse, it is necessary to follow the guidelines mentioned in this policy
- It is very important to take care of the children coming to the Child Resource Centre.
- All communication with children should be in a gentle way and with respect for their opinion.
- Staff should take consent from children when taking photos or videos while participating in child-related procedures/programmes/workshops.
- Written consent of the concerned children and their parents is necessary if they want to travel out of the village/community for any activity, training, workshop or programme.
- There should be a notice/complaint box for submitting instructions/complaints in the Child Resource Centre and in the office of the institute where there are interventions with the children. In any of the boxes, any child/children can make a notice and a report with/without their name on it. The senior supervisor or coordinator in the organisation will open the box in front of the child/children and take a note of the information/ complaint mentioned therein.
- In your intervention area or in the Child Resource Centre, if you find any type of exploitation or abuse against children, then it should be immediately brought to the notice of a senior staff or concerned person and, a comprehensive legal process with the help of respective staff should be undertaken.
- Prompt intervention and follow-up needs to be taken for children who are in need of care and protection or in an emergency situation.



- The staff should provide information about the child protection policy and child rights to any visitor or staff of other organisations visiting the organisation/Child Resource Centre/*Balwadi*/ community where they would interact with children.
- Staff should have a strong and close relationship with children, so that they can freely express their opinion and feelings.
- Staff should organise continuous programmes for the overall development of children and to increase their participation.
- Every individual/employee of the organisation is required to behave respectfully and give equal opportunities to every child.
- An individual or employee of the organisation should not have a prejudice-related approach in respect of any child.
- First aid boxes, fire services, children's safety-related government and non-government emergency contact numbers should be available at every office of the organisation/Child Resource Centre, etc.

### **Constitutions of the Committee**

A gender-neutral investigative committee with representation from all genders comprising half of women and other gender members chaired by a woman/other gender will be formed by the management. The names and contact details of members of this committee will be displayed in all offices.

### **Members of the Child Protection Committee**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact no</b>	<b>Email-Id</b>
1	Adv. Vijay Kharat	9757249486	<a href="mailto:vijay.k@yuvaindia.org">vijay.k@yuvaindia.org</a>
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3	Mr. Nitesh Dhavade	9819753662	<a href="mailto:nitesh.d@yuiindia.org">nitesh.d@yuiindia.org</a>