Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

KNOW THE RULES: THERE IS NO EXCUSE!

At all times we must treat persons of concern and the local population with respect and dignity.

Sexual exploitation and abuse is unacceptable behaviour and prohibited conduct for all UNHCR and affiliated workforce.

Sexual exploitation and abuse threatens the lives of people that we are to serve and protect.

Sexual exploitation and abuse undermines discipline, and damages the reputation of UNHCR.

NO EXCUSE • ZERO TOLERANCE FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

EXPLOITATION ➔ PROSECUTION ➔ IMPRISONMENT
EVERY PERSON UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS FLAG MUST COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING PROHIBITIONS:

**It is strictly prohibited** to have any sexual activity with anyone under the age of 18 years (regardless of the age of majority or age of consent locally or in my home country). Mistaken belief as to the age of the person is no excuse.

**It is strictly prohibited** to have sex with anyone, in exchange for money, employment, preferential treatment, goods or services, whether or not prostitution is legal in my country or the host country;
It is strictly prohibited to engage in any other form of sexually humiliating, degrading or exploitative behaviour;

I fully understand that:

- Involvement in any act of sexual exploitation and abuse will be investigated and prosecuted if warranted;

- Any proven act of sexual exploitation and abuse will result in measures that can include but are not limited to: suspension, dismissal, imprisonment and a ban from future United Nations employment;

- If I witness SEA behaviour by others, regardless of their position or seniority, I have a responsibility to report the incident immediately to the Inspector General’s Office.

Failure to respond or report misconduct is a breach of the United Nations standards of conduct. There is no excuse!
Reporting in the Duty Station

**SILENCE IS NO EXCUSE!**

If you have knowledge of sexual exploitation and abuse you **must** report it to the **Inspector General’s Office.**

- Email: inspector@unhcr.org
- Web: www.unhcr.org/php/complaint.php

For additional information you may contact the Ethics Office at ethicsoffice@unhcr.org

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**VICTIM ASSISTANCE:**

- **ALL VICTIMS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE ARE ENTITLED TO SAFE AND CONFIDENTIAL ASSISTANCE**

- If the victim is a child, special considerations for the protection and support to the child are needed.

- Treat the victim with respect and dignity, and direct or assist the victim for support to the nearest UNHCR office and contact the IGO.

- Where immediate medical assistance is needed, refer the victim to the nearest medical centre, your SGBV focal point or Protection team.