

Legacy of Hope International  
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## **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY REVIEW**

### Introduction:

This document is the Child Protection Policy for Legacy of Hope International which will be referred to as LoHI. This policy is to be followed by all members of this organization and promoted by leadership within the organization.

The purpose of this organization is to join with the global effort to end child trafficking by identifying and eradicating the root causes of abuse, poverty, and other mal-treatments of children across the world. We know that being a young person makes them vulnerable to abuse by others.

The purpose of this policy is to assure that the actions of any adult in the context of the work carried out by this organization are transparent. Our aim is to safeguard and promote the welfare of all young people.

If any parent or young person/child has concerns about the conduct of any member of the organization, this concern should be raised in the first instance with Sam Raguingan, LoHI Director, Cambodia.

#### Principles of this Child Protection Policy:

- The welfare of a child or young person will always be paramount.
- The welfare of families will be promoted.
- The rights, wishes and feelings of children, young people and their families will be heard and respected.
- Those people in positions of responsibility within this organization will work in accordance with the interests of children and young people and follow the policy outlined below.
- Those people in positions of responsibility within this organization will ensure that the same opportunities are available to everyone who participates in LoHI programs.

## **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

### 1. Immediate Action to Ensure Safety

Immediate action may be necessary at any stage in involvement with children and families. IN ALL CASES IT IS VITAL TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTION IS NEEDED TO SAFEGUARD THE CHILDREN'S WELFARE AND SAFETY.

### 2. Recognition of Abuse or Neglect

Abuse or neglect of a child is caused by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or more rarely by a stranger.

#### Physical Abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child.

#### Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may

involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only in so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature inappropriate age or developmental expectations being imposed on 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.

#### Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person 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 (rape or buggery) or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material, or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

What to do if children talk to you about abuse or neglect.

It is recognized that a child may seek you out to share information about abuse, or neglect, talk spontaneously individually or in groups when you are present. In these situations you must:

- Listen carefully to the child. DO NOT directly question the child.
- Give the child time and attention.
- Allow the child to give a spontaneous account; do not stop a child who is freely recalling significant events.

#### Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It may involve a parent or caregiver failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

The responsibility of LoHI Personnel is to be alert to the potential abuse of children both within their families and also from other sources including abuse by members of that organization. All LoHI staff should know how to recognize and act upon indicators of abuse or potential abuse involving children. There is an expected responsibility for all staff to respond promptly to any suspected or actual abuse of a child in accordance with these procedures.

It is good practice to be as open and honest as possible with parents/caregiver about any concerns. However, you must not discuss your concerns with parents/caregiver in the following circumstances:

- where sexual abuse is suspected
- where organized or multiple abuse is suspected
- where fictitious illness by proxy (also known as Munchausen Syndrome by proxy) is suspected
- where contacting parents/caregiver would place a child, yourself or others at immediate risk.
- Make an accurate record of the information you have been given. Taking care to record the timing, setting, people present, the child's presentation as

well as what was said. Do not throw this information away as it may later be needed as evidence. Use the child's own words where possible.

- Explain that you cannot promise not to speak to others about the information they have shared.
- Reassure the child that: you are glad they have told you; they have not done anything wrong; what you are going to do next.
- Explain that you will need to get help to keep the child safe.
- Do NOT ask the child to repeat his or her account of events to anyone.

### 3. Consulting about your concern

The purpose of consultation is to discuss your concerns in relation to a child and decide what action is necessary. You may become concerned about a child who has not spoken to you, because of your observations of, or information about that child. It is good practice to ask a child why they are upset or how a cut or bruise was caused, or respond to a child wanting to talk to you. This practice can help clarify vague concerns and result in appropriate action.

If you are concerned about a child you must share your concerns. Initially you should talk to one of the people designated as responsible for child protection within your organization. Director, Sam Raguingan Tel: 855-12897108

IF YOUR CONCERN IS ABOUT ABUSE OR RISK OF ABUSE FROM SOMEONE NOT KNOWN TO THE CHILD OR CHILD'S FAMILY, YOU SHOULD MAKE A TELEPHONE REFERRAL DIRECTLY TO THE POLICE AND CONSULT WITH THE PARENTS.

If your concern is about abuse or risk of abuse from a family member or someone known to the children, you should make a telephone referral to your local Director who will follow up with Social Services Agencies.

Information required: Be prepared to give as much of the following information as possible (in emergency situations all of this information may not be available). Unavailability of some information should not stop you making a referral.

- Your name, telephone number, position and request the same of the person to whom you are speaking.
- Full name and address, telephone number of family, date of birth of child and siblings.
- Gender, ethnicity, first language, any special needs.
- Names, dates of birth and relationship of household members and any significant others.
- The names of professionals known to be involved with the child/family eg: GP, Health Visitor, School.
- The nature of the concern and foundation for them.
- An opinion on whether the child may need urgent action to make them safe.
- Your view of what appears to be the needs of the child and family.
- Whether the consent of a parent with parental responsibility has been given to the referral being made.

Action to be taken following the referral

- Ensure that you keep an accurate record of your concern's made at the time.
- Put your concerns in writing to LOHI and Social Services following the referral (within 48 hours).
- Accurately record the action agreed upon or state that no further action is to be taken. List your reasons for this decision.

#### 4. Confidentiality

This organization should ensure that any records made in relation to a referral should be kept confidentially and in a secure place.

Information in relation to child protection concerns should be shared on a "need to know" basis. However, the sharing of information is vital to child protection and, therefore, the issue of confidentiality is secondary to a child's need for protection.

Due to the possible re-victimization of those who have been abused and subject to trafficking, LOHI does not use photos of any person/s in printed materials, website, etc. to protect their privacy and provide security for the victim. If in doubt, consult.