



STOP CHILD CRUELTY TRUST SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Date Effective: July 2022

Date for Review: July 2025

About Stop Child Cruelty Trust: Stop Child Cruelty Trust (SCC) is a registered charitable Trust focused on ending violence against children, especially eliminating corporal punishment in schools in Sri Lanka, SDG 16.2. Since its establishment in 2018, SCC has elevated the discussion of corporal punishment to a daily topic with extensive awareness, training and advocacy campaigns. The national action plan, Pentagon Proposal can be viewed here:

https://stopchildcruelty.com/media/doc/pentagon_proposal.pdf

SCC works in partnership with internationally recognized UNICEF, End Violence Against Children and Global Initiative to End Corporal Punishment of Children. SCC's Founder Chairperson, Dr Tush Wickramanayaka is the first Sri Lankan to be recognized as the Global End Violence Champion at the Children & Youth (CY21) convened by UNICEF.

Purpose of the Policy: This policy outlines the expectations of Stop Child Cruelty Trust regarding protecting all children from harm caused by members of SCC as identified below.

Mission: Make societies safer for children and end violence against children, especially corporal punishment everywhere in Sri Lanka

Vision 2030: A country in which every child grows up safe and secure

Scope: This document applies to:

- All members of the Trust and working groups of SCC
- All SCC staff employed including paid full-time or part-time staff
- Consultants, interns and other contracted personnel at SCC

Policy Statement: Stop Child Cruelty Trust (SCC) was established primarily to focus on ending violence against children, especially corporal punishment. SCC spearheaded the formation of Sri Lanka's FIRST Child Protection Alliance (CPA), a collection of credible organizations committed to the protection and promotion of the rights of children. CPA was established in September 2021.

Children are our primary beneficiaries and, in all actions and decisions, the welfare of the child and their best interest will be the paramount interest in all that we do. We are committed to ensuring that anyone working with us in any capacity does not harm, abuse or commit any act of violence against children or take actions to place a child at risk. We are committed to taking actions in the best interest of the child as we work to secure children's rights as outlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. All who work at SCC understand our roles and responsibilities and are supported in meeting them. We recognize that all children have the equal right to protection from harm and all adults have a responsibility to respond if they suspect a child is at risk of harm.

Definition and Terms:

Child: anyone under the age of 18 years old



Child safeguarding: The responsibility that organizations have; to make sure their staff, operations and programs do not harm children and that they do not expose children to the risk of harm and abuse. Any concerns the organization has about children's safety within the communities in which they work are reported to the appropriate authorities.

Violence can take many forms and definitions will vary between contexts. The definitions provided in this framework are not exhaustive but serve as a guide for Stop Child Cruelty Trust's personnel.

Physical Violence: Physical contact that results in discomfort, pain, or injury. Fatal and non-fatal physical violence including a) all corporal punishment and all other forms of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment b) physical bullying or hazing by adults or by other children c) engaging children in physical child labor and use of child soldiers

Sexual Violence: Coercion or force to take part in sexual acts of any kind

Emotional or Psychological Violence: Action or inaction that causes mental distress

Exploitation: Misuse of power over another person for financial, social, sexual, or other benefit

Bullying and Harassment: Unwanted behavior which causes intimidates or humiliates others

Sexual Harassment: Unwanted verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature

Neglect or negligent treatment: Deliberate failure to meet children's physical and psychological needs

Roles and Responsibilities:

All Board members, staff, consultants and volunteers will:

- Comply with this policy and code of conduct – child safeguarding
- Follow the child safeguarding procedures
- Be aware of risks to children

All trustees, staff, consultants and volunteers will:

- Familiarize themselves with this policy and comply fully with Child Safeguarding Procedures
- Report any concerns about the safety of children to Safeguarding Advisor
- Participate in training in child safeguarding every two years

The Chairperson will:

- Advise and take appropriate action as the lead Safeguarding Advisor and be accountable to the Trust
- Assisted the Trustees in managing the process of implementation of the policy and associated procedures
- Report regularly to the Board of trustees on progress

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