

Hinder Not

Our mission is to promote a culture of best practice and accountability in YWAM and partnering organisations in protecting children and the vulnerable. We shall achieve this through speaking to the shame of abuse, raising awareness of abuse and empowering the vulnerable and others through trainings, resources and pastoral care.



What is Abuse?

- **Physical:** Any deliberate action occurring repeatedly that causes injury or pain such as hitting, burning, choking, shaking
- **Emotional:** Anything that would impact on the normal psychological development of a child caused by persistent or severe emotional ill-treatment or rejection
- **Sexual:** is the purposeful engagement in sexual acts with a child or in the presence of children
- **Spiritual:** is linked with other forms of abuse and could be defined as an abuse of power, often done in the name of God or religion
- **Neglect:** choosing deliberately not to give basic physical or emotional care such as food, shelter, medicine, care, clothes

What TO do if abuse is suspected or disclosed?

- Re-read the safeguarding policy prior to starting an investigation
- Review the safeguarding form along with any other evidence submitted
- Interview the person who reported the concern
- Interview other key personnel (e.g. victim, victim's parents, other witnesses, suspect etc)
- Write a report of each interview (include date, time and as close to word for word as possible)
- Assess the credibility of each report and the reliability of those interviewed
- Write a statement of findings
- Pass the statement along with all documents to the leadership team
- Respect the privacy of the person being investigated

What NOT to do if abuse is suspected or disclosed?

- Discuss the situation/case with anyone outside of the appointed team
- Talk of the situation/case in areas where others can hear
- Make a judgment on the victim or person being investigated during the investigation
- Make decisions alone without other team members present

Practical Tips

- Listen to the child and keep calm
- Show care and that you are sorry this happened
- Ask open ended questions
- Thank the child for talking with you
- Tell the child the abuse is not their fault
- Explain briefly what you will do and who you will need to tell
- Write down the conversation word for word

We are here to serve you.

For counsel, assistance or support please contact us on:

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