

SGF POSCO Policy for the Protection of Rag Picker Children

1. Preamble: [SEVA GROUP FOUNDATION], hereinafter referred to as "the NGO," is committed to the safety and well-being of rag picker children in Delhi NCR. As an organization working towards their upliftment, we recognize our responsibility to protect them from sexual offenses and abuse as mandated by the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses (POCSO) Act.

2. Policy Statement: The NGO is dedicated to creating a safe, secure, and nurturing environment for rag picker children under our care. This policy outlines our commitment to preventing, addressing, and reporting any incidents of sexual offenses against these children.

3. Definitions:

- **Rag Picker Children:** Refers to children, whether orphaned, semi-orphaned, or otherwise, engaged in rag picking activities within Delhi NCR.
- **POCSO Act:** Refers to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses Act, 2012.

4. Prevention Measures: The NGO shall:

- Conduct awareness programs for rag picker children, staff, and volunteers to educate them about the POCSO Act and the importance of reporting sexual offenses.
- Implement a strict code of conduct for all staff and volunteers, emphasizing appropriate behaviour and interactions with children.
- Regularly review and update our recruitment processes, ensuring that all staff and volunteers undergo background checks.
- Create an open and safe environment where children feel comfortable reporting any incidents of sexual offenses.

5. Reporting Procedure:

- Any staff member or volunteer who suspects or becomes aware of any incident of sexual offense involving a rag picker child must immediately report it to the designated Child Protection Officer (CPO).
- The CPO will ensure that a written report is filed, maintaining confidentiality while reporting to the appropriate legal authorities as mandated by the POCSO Act.
- The NGO will provide full cooperation during legal investigations, ensuring that the child's best interests are upheld.

6. Support for Victims:

- In case of a reported incident, the NGO will provide immediate support to the victim, including access to counselling services, medical care, and legal aid.
- The NGO will collaborate with relevant government agencies and child protection organizations to ensure the child's best interests are represented.

7. Accountability:

- The NGO will maintain records of all staff and volunteers, including their background checks.
- Non-compliance with this policy will result in disciplinary actions, including termination of employment or volunteer service.

8. Regular Review and Update: The NGO will periodically review and update this policy to align with changes in the law and evolving best practices in child protection.

9. Conclusion: This POSCO policy reflects our unwavering commitment to the safety and security of rag picker children under care of NGO. We believe that by adhering to these guidelines, we can provide a protective environment where these vulnerable children can grow, learn, and thrive.