

LEGAL AID OF CAMBODIA  
Child Protection Policy

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LAC aims to safeguard children from abuse and exploitation in all that we do, in line with articles 2, 3 and 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (the UNCRC).

Article 1	Introduction
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All children have a right to protection from abuse, violence and exploitation. In line with the UNCRC, LAC works to ensure that all children, particularly those that are most marginalised and vulnerable, are empowered to realise their rights through all our work. All children have a right to protection:

*“...from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s), or any other person who has the care of the child.”*

LAC works to create a safe environment for children, especially for children who benefit from LAC programs and the children of LAC representatives or share the household of LAC representatives.

This policy is approved by the Management Team and the Supervisory Board of LAC and makes clear LACs position on child protection.

Article 2	Scope and communication
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The policy applies to all LACs staff, consultants and volunteers. It is essential that all staff, consultants and volunteers are aware of its central messages and any duties/responsibilities it places on them.

Article 3	Definitions
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A Child is defined as a human being under 18 years.

Child abuse is inflicting harm on children, or by failing to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family, institution or community setting, by those known and trusted to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. With this policy LAC protects children from two categories of child abuse:

- **Physical injury:** may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child including fabricating the symptoms of, or deliberately causing, ill health to a child.
- **Sexual abuse:** involves forcing or enticing a child 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 or non-penetrative acts. This may also include involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

LAC representative is LAC staff, consultants and volunteers.

