SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Module 3

Department of Peacekeeping Operations
1. Know the UN Standards of Conduct applicable to all UN Personnel and guiding principles that govern interaction with children.

2. Understand the importance of systematically reporting on misconduct and know the different channels of reporting.

3. Know the zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, prohibition of child labor and the consequences for failing to adhere.
Guiding Principles on Child Protection

1. Best Interest
2. Non-discrimination
3. Do no harm
4. Confidentiality
Positive Interactions

- Child protection actions
- Outreach activities
- Daily interactions
Standards of Conduct

UN Standards of Conduct are based on three key principles:

1. Highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity
2. Zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse
3. Accountability of those in command who fail to enforce the Standards of Conduct
WHAT IS MISCONDUCT?
Misconduct:
failure by a staff member to comply with his or her obligations under the Charter of the United Nations

Serious Misconduct:
concerns acts, including criminal acts that result in, or are likely to result in, serious loss, damage or injury to an individual or to a mission
UN Policy on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

**SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

The Policy defines *sexual exploitation* as:

“Any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.”

**SEXUAL ABUSE**

And *sexual abuse* as:

“the actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions.”
UN Policy on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse


2. Sexual activity with children (persons under the age of 18) is prohibited.

3. Exchange of money, employment, goods or services for sex, including sexual favors or other forms of humiliating, degrading or exploitative behavior, is prohibited.
Prohibition of Child Labor in UN Peacekeeping Operations

The Policy on the Prohibition of Child Labor in UN Peacekeeping Operations states that:

“The use of children under the age of 18 for purposes of labor or other rendering of services by UN peacekeeping operations is strictly prohibited.”
UN personnel have a duty to report all concerns or suspicions of sexual exploitation and abuse. This is an obligation for all staff members.

Missions have established a range of reporting mechanisms.

The UN whistleblower policy protects from retaliation staff members who report in good faith.
Reporting Misconduct

All UN personnel are duty bound to:

- Report suspected misconduct
- Report in good faith supported by evidence
- Cooperate with UN investigations
- Make reports to UN officials
- Report misconduct directly to OIOS
Consequences OF Misconduct

Perpetrator (UN Peacekeeping Personnel):

- Disciplinary measures
- Redeployment
- Repatriation, termination of contract

- Dismissal from command positions
- Criminal proceedings
- Financial liability
Consequences of Misconduct

The victim (child):

- Physical trauma
- Psychological stress
- Stigmatisation from peers
- Interruption in development
Consequences of Misconduct

The organisation:

- Its reputation
- Effective implementation of mission mandates
- Loss of confidence amongst local community in the protective role of the United Nations
Human Rights Due Diligence Policy

ANY UN ENTITY
• Ensuring that UN assistance is not given to law enforcement officials that may/could commit “grave” human rights, IHL and refugee law violations

ANYWHERE
• Ensuring that the State / law enforcement officials provides sufficient guarantees that such violations will be prevented or adequately addressed

SUPPORT INT’L STANDARD
• Ensuring that UN logistical, operational and financial supports are provided in accordance with international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law
Questions?
What are the key messages of this module?
UN Police must adhere to the highest standard of behavior in practice – they are role models, mentors and good examples for the local population and host police.

It is important that UN personnel face consequences if misconduct has been committed, and that misconduct is properly reported.

UN Police have responsibility to not only promote children’s rights, but also refrain from any actions that cause harm to children.
The zero tolerance policy prohibits all forms of sexual contact with children (boys and girls less than 18 years old).

The guiding principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child should guide the actions of the UN police in relation to children.