

**CODE OF CONDUCT
FOR THE “PREPARATION FORUM” AND
THE “WORLD CONGRESS III AGAINST
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS”
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
23rd -28th November, 2008**

CODE OF CONDUCT

General Commitment:

We are committed to protecting children from abuse and exploitation and to taking necessary remedial action when children are in such situations.

We address all reports of actual or alleged abuse based on our policies and procedures, irrespective of the nature of the referral, who the allegations are about or who the referrer is or where she/he is from.

Overarching principles:

As a staff member or participant at the “Preparation Forum” and the “World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents” in Rio de Janeiro on 23rd -28th November, 2008. I will observe the highest level of ethical and proper behaviour including:

- Being aware of what constitutes child abuse and exploitation by having access to, and receiving a copy of the Child Protection Policy and the Code of Conduct.
- Knowing signs of abuse and to report any suspicious observations immediately to the Child Protection Focal Person(s) or Facilitators or the Organizers.
- Respecting lines of authority and reporting procedures.
- Respecting the basic rights of others by acting fairly, honestly, and tactfully, and by treating people with dignity and respect; including respecting national law and local culture, traditions, customs, and practices that are in line with UN conventions.
- Working actively to ensure highest levels of respect toward attendees by venue staff.
- Maintaining high standards of personal and professional conduct both personally and in others.
- Protecting the health, safety and well-being of myself and others.

All Participants:

- Never engage in sexual activity with any participant.
- Never engage in fondling, kissing, hugging, or other inappropriate touching of participants.
- Ensure that all participants are either in their rooms or designated areas after 10 PM.
- Avoid any action or behaviour that could be construed as poor practice or potentially abusive. For example never behave physically in any manner which is inappropriate or sexually provocative.
- Be concerned about perception and appearance in their language, actions, and relationships with children and/or adolescents.

- Ensure the confidentiality of each participant's personal information is observed and respected.
- Never sleep in the same bed with children and/or adolescents**.
- Do not perform activities for children and/or adolescents that they can do themselves.
- Do not discriminate, shame, humiliate, belittle, or degrade children and/or adolescents. This includes anything that may be considered emotional abuse, and must be similarly maintained and observed between all participants, staff and youth representatives.
- Do not hit or otherwise physically assault participants.
- Do not act in any way that may be abusive or place others at risk of abuse.
- Do not condone violations of this code by others, both staff and participants.
- Do not expose children and adolescents to any inappropriate electronic material

Protection from harmful information: Guidelines for adults (*Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 17e*)

Children and adolescents have the right to be protected from any information they do not need to know and for which they may not have the understanding and maturity to cope. This is especially true if the information deals with sexual matters. All adults at the World Congress have a duty to ensure that no child is harmed as a result of information from presentations and discussions whether in spoken, written or visual form or any other kind of communication.

This means:

- No shocking/offensive stories or case studies
- No shocking images
- No emotional personal testimony of abuse and exploitation
- No role play or drama depicting rape or other sexual or violent acts
- Sensitivity to other cultures
- No 'bad' (improper/offensive) language

All adults should be alert to such situations and are responsible for protecting all children and adolescents attending the WC III. Facilitators in particular must be prepared to stop discussions or presentations that are inappropriate and remind participants that;

- Child protection is mandatory
- Activities must remain within professional limits
- Time out may be necessary.

Anyone (child or adult) who feels uncomfortable or needs a break from a presentation or discussion can leave. There will be a quiet place for reflection available at the meeting venue with a supportive counsellor if needed.

*** The Children and Adolescent Participation Commission, comprising ECPAT, Plan International, Save the Children, UNICEF and the government of Brazil, strongly advises that adults are not permitted to sleep in the same room or bed as a young person. We understand that in some cases young people may agree to share a room with their Accompanying Adult. In such cases we strongly recommend that, prior to travelling, the supporting organisation ensures that written and signed agreement from the child/adolescent and his/her guardian(s) is obtained. With the previously agreed*

permission of children and adolescents and their guardians/parents/carers children and adolescents may share rooms with other children and adolescents of the same gender.