KANDOLHU
MALDIVES

Child-Protection-Policy
Kandolhu Maldives

We are committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people. We are committed to complying with the Government Protection of the Rights of Children in the Maldives (Act No: 19/2019) and the Child Safeguarding Policy (No: HR/2020/10).

Objective

To set out the guidelines and to actively engage employees of Kandolhu Maldives for Child protection and Child abuse, which will include Physical/Sexual/Emotional and negligence.

Definitions

Child: Anyone under the age of 18
Child Protection: refers to the actions taken in order to prevent or stop all behaviours considered dangerous for the physical and psychological health of children.
Child Abuse: is any form of physical, sexual or emotional mistreatment or lack of care that leads to injury or harm. It often occurs within a relationship of trust or responsibility and is an abuse of power or a breach of trust. Abuse can happen to a child regardless of their age, gender, race or ability. Even in situations where it may be felt that the child accepted or somehow invited the abuse, it is still abuse.

Abusers can be adults (male or female) and other children, and are usually known to and trusted by the child and family. The abuser may be a family member or they may be someone the child encounters in a residential setting or in the community, including during sports and leisure activities. An individual may abuse or neglect a child directly, or may be responsible for abuse because they fail to prevent another person from harming that child or neglecting the needs of the child.

There are four main types of child abuse: **Physical** abuse, **Sexual** abuse, **Emotional** abuse and **Neglect.** Children can suffer from one or a combination of these forms of abuse.

Emotional – The emotional mistreatment of a child, which may involve telling a child that they are worthless of unloved, inadequate, or valued only to meet the needs of another person. These may include imposing expectations or interactions that are inappropriate or beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as over protection and limiting the child's ability to explore or learn or preventing the child from participating in normal social interaction.

Physical – Causing bodily or physical harm, e.g., hitting, poisoning, burning, giving children alcohol or drugs.

Sexual – When adults use children to meet their own sexual urges; this may or may not include physical contact with the child (e.g., any sexual activity, intimate touching, sexually suggestive remarks).

Negligence - When adults fail to meet the child's basic needs to an extent that is likely to result in a serious impact on the child's health or development (e.g. failing to provide adequate food, shelter, failing to protect from physical harm or danger, failing to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

In addition, bullying is a form of child abuse, although often, but not always, the person who is the bully is also a child.

Bullying – means deliberate, hurtful behaviour towards another person that is usually repeated over a period. The outcome will always be painful and distressing for the victim. There are four main types of bullying: Physical (e.g. pushing, hitting, kicking, slapping or any use of violence): Verbal (e.g. racist or homophobic remarks, name-calling, graffiti, threats, and abusive text messages); Emotional (e.g. tormenting, ridiculing, humiliating, ignoring, isolating from the group); or, Sexual (e.g. unwanted physical contact or abusive comments).

In the case of suspected or actual child abuse, you must ensure that your first priority is always for the safety and welfare of the child and that no child is ever left in an unsafe situation. It is often very hard to admit that abuse is taking place within some place, especially to children we know and particularly by people we trust. We cannot assume that, because we work in a voluntary organisation, all individuals are caring, as this may lead us to fail to hear, recognise, or address the possibility that abuse is happening. If you have a child protection concern, it can be difficult to know what to do. You may be worried about raising your concern and think it is best to keep it to yourself, perhaps feeling it's none of your business or just a suspicion. You always take your concerns seriously, and if you have any, you should report them to the local police. – We all have a responsibility to protect the children in our care. It is important in all circumstances to

share your concern with someone who can make sure that the matter is looked at and dealt with as soon as possible

If you are concerned about child exploitation or abuse, please report it immediately to the Maldives Police Service or Child and Family Protection Service via the following contact details

- Transparency Maldives Phone: 3304017 / office@transparency.mv
- Child and Family Protection Service (Ministry of Gender and Family) Phone: 3328393
- Maldives Police Service (Family and Child Protection Department) Phone: 3000600
- Child Helpline (Ministry of Gender and Family) Hotline: 1412
- Family Protection Authority Phone: 3010551

You may also inform a senior manager at the resort, who will support reporting in line with our safeguarding procedures.