



Child Protection Policy

Shining Life Children's Trust (SLCT) works to improve the lives of disadvantaged children in Sri Lanka. Our focus is on the family. Through working with families and the communities in which they live we aim to build a sustainable and brighter future for the children. SLCT believes that real and sustainable development is a process in which people change their own lives by their own efforts.

SLCT primarily works with and for children in Sri Lanka and works with local organisations to implement their projects. SLCT feels it is appropriate that a comprehensive Child Protection Policy (CPP) is applied by all of our local partners to ensure that children and vulnerable adults are appropriately protected.

SLCT Values:

- Children have the same right as adults to protection from abuse
- SLCT has a commitment to protecting children whom we work with
- Our partners have a responsibility to meet our standards, values and policy.
- Children should be treated with respect regardless of ethnicity, race, religion, class, language, disability or sex

Forms of abuse:

- **Emotional** – constant and consistent emotional ill treatment e.g. degrading punishments, threats, lack of care or affection and bullying
- **Physical** – actual or likely physical injury to children
- **Neglect** – lack of provision of food, warmth or medical care
- **Sexual Abuse** – when a child is pressurised to take part in any form of sexual activity including being shown pornography

Policy implementation:

- **Raise Awareness:** SLCT will ensure that staff and volunteers are aware of the issues around child abuse and risks to children



- **Prevention:** SLCT will ensure that staff and volunteers are aware of the concerns around child protection
- **Reporting:** SLCT will ensure that staff are aware of the procedures in place for reporting abuses or allegations of abuses
- **Responding:** SLCT will ensure measures are taken to protect and support children where concerns over abuse arrive
- **Security:** All staff working for and with SLCT (who work directly with children or vulnerable adults) must undertake appropriate security and police checks.

Policy **practise** – for staff:

- All SLCT partners staff must sign up to and abide to the SLCT Child Protection Policy
- All staff and volunteers will have access to CPP
- Be aware of situations which may prevent risks
- Plan and organise work to minimise risks
- Whenever possible, another member of staff should be present when working with children

Staff and others **must never:**

- Physically assault or abuse children
- Engage or pressure a child to take part in any form of sexual activity including being shown pornography
- Use inappropriate, offensive or abusive language that is, harassing, abusive, sexually provocative, demeaning or culturally inappropriate
- Put or act in a way that will put children at risk of abuse
- Use inappropriate, offensive or abusive language
- Participate in behaviour with children which is illegal, unsafe or abusive
- Favour any child to the exclusion of others
- Invite unaccompanied children into their home, unless they are at immediate risk of injury or in physical danger
- Sleep close to unsupervised children unless absolutely necessary, in which case they must obtain their supervisor's permission, and ensure that another adult is present if possible
- Use physical punishment or discipline children (unless they are the staffs own children)



- Hire children for domestic or other labour which is inappropriate given their age or developmental stage, which interferes with their time available for education and recreational activities, or which places them at significant risk of injury

Reporting Procedure:

- Take the alleged abuse seriously
- Listen to and accept what the child says
- Do not inform or confront the alleged abuser
- Discuss any information you receive with your manager or superior
- Treat the information given to you in discreet confidence

Last reviewed: September 2012
Next review date: September 2013