

Messages for Communities: Child Sexual Abuse

Know your rights!

- Every child deserves to grow up in a [safe environment](#), free from all forms of physical and sexual violence, neglect, maltreatment, and abuse.
- Every child, regardless of race, gender, disability, or socio-economic background, is [entitled to free access to humanitarian services](#)

Seek help!

- Always [ask for help](#) when you are harmed. [Do not keep silent](#). It is okay to always ask for help.
- Abuse and violence are [never your fault](#). If you've experienced harm, talk to someone you trust.
- [Report](#) any forms of unacceptable behavior to authorities or trusted individuals.
- If you or any child feels unsafe or has been exposed to abuse, [contact](#) the nearest service provider for help

Drive change!

- [Child sexual abuse](#) is any sexual activity with a child by an adult or by another child who has power over the child. [This includes various forms](#) of sexual contact, forcing a child to watch sexual acts or pornography, and exploiting children for prostitution or pornography.
- Child sexual abuse thrives [in silence](#). [Speak up](#) if you suspect abuse and protect children
- Teach children about boundaries and boldly say 'No' to improper behavior and unsolicited touch;
- Encourage children to speak up if they feel [uncomfortable and report](#) any incidents where they feel unsafe.
- Children who have experienced exploitation or abuse deserve care and support; [connect](#) them to available services.
- Displacement is [not an excuse](#) for violence against children. [Avoid abusive behavior](#) and strive to create nonviolent environments and communities.
- Educate children to [identify trusted adults](#) to approach if they face inappropriate situations.
- Check on unaccompanied or separated children; [refer them to child protection](#) centers if needed
- Promptly [seek medical attention within 3 days](#) following sexual assault to reduce health related risks.