

Module 3: Individual Peacekeeping Personnel

Lesson 3.4



Sexual Exploitation and Abuse



Relevance

- Allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) by UN personnel
- UN zero tolerance policy on SEA
- Obligation of ALL



Learning Outcomes

Learners will:

- Explain “zero tolerance of SEA”
- Describe SEA and uniform standards on SEA
- Describe DPKO three-pronged approach
- List actions to take to support zero tolerance of SEA



Lesson Overview

1. Duty to “Protect and Serve”
2. Zero Tolerance of SEA
3. Definition of SEA
4. Uniform Standards on SEA – Prohibited Acts
5. DPKO’s Three-Pronged Approach to SEA
6. What Individual Peacekeeping Personnel Can Do



Learning Activity

3.4.1

Film: *To Serve With Pride*

Instructions:

- How do UN personnel “abuse” power and trust?
- What are the consequences of sexual exploitation and abuse for victims?
- How does it affect the image of the UN?
- What does “zero tolerance” mean?

Time: 30 minutes

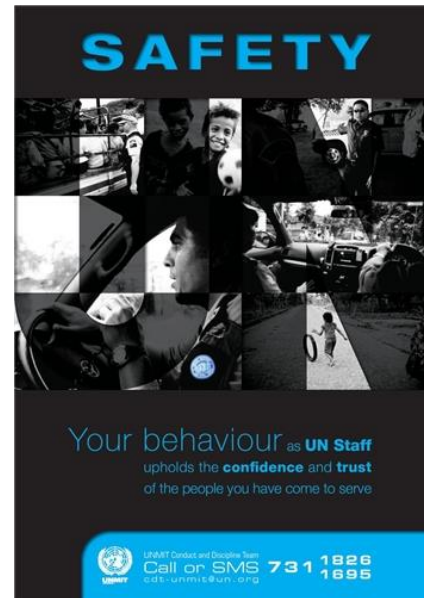
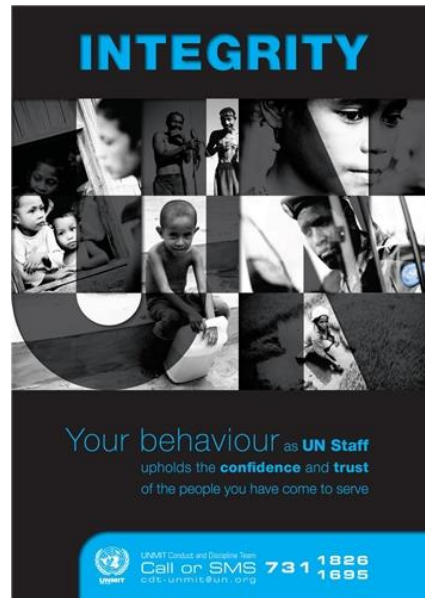
- Film: 24:24 minutes
- Discussion: 5 minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NfMKMCYFgPo>



1. Duty to “Protect and Serve”

- Your conduct as UN personnel must uphold the confidence and trust of people you serve





2. Zero Tolerance of SEA

- Impunity and complacency not tolerated
- Active measures to prevent SEA
- Action against ALL violators



3. Definition of SEA

- **Sexual exploitation:** actual or attempted abuse of a person's vulnerability, differential power or trust for sexual purposes, including profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the exploitation
- **Sexual abuse:** actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, by force or under unequal or coercive conditions
- Sexual exploitation and abuse constitute Category I serious misconduct



Interpreting Key Words

Vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Fighting for survival in desperate circumstances▪ Lack of awareness of rights and obligations, denial of human rights▪ Unequal power relations that can be exploited▪ Prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence
Differential Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ An imbalance between economic, social, education and professional status▪ A dependence by one person on another to sustain life▪ A position of authority of one person over another
Abuse of Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Further victimizes vulnerable persons▪ Violates victims' human rights▪ Disrupts families/communities and undermines peace
Beneficiaries of Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Broadly interpreted to cover the local population the UNPKO is mandated to serve



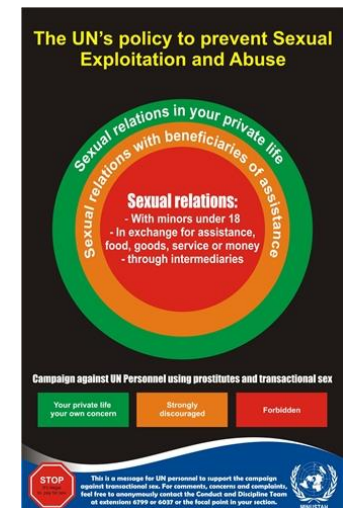
Difference with Sexual Harassment

- **Sexual harassment:** any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favour, verbal or physical conduct or gesture of a sexual nature or any other behaviour of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offence or humiliation to another, when such conduct interferes with work, is made a condition of employment or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment



4. Uniform Standards on SEA – Prohibited Acts

- Sexual activity with children (persons under the age of 18) is prohibited
- Exchange of money, employment, goods, assistance or services for sex, e.g. sex with prostitutes is prohibited
- Use of children or adults to procure sexual services for others is prohibited
- Sexual relationships with beneficiaries of assistance are strongly discouraged





Guidelines and Prohibitions on SEA

Instructions:

- Consider the scenarios
- Identify “vulnerability”, “differential power” and “trust”
- How have the Uniform Standards on SEA been violated?

Time: 10 minutes

- Group work: 5-7 minutes
- Discussion: 3 minutes



5. DPKO's Three-Pronged Approach to SEA

1. Prevention
2. Enforcement
3. Remedial action



1. Preventive Measures

- Uniform standards on SEA
- Training
- Public information
- Welfare and recreation





2. Enforcement Measures

- Complaints mechanism/reporting
- Data management
- Investigations
- Follow-up



3. Remedial Action

- Victim assistance
- Reputation repair
- Regular briefings

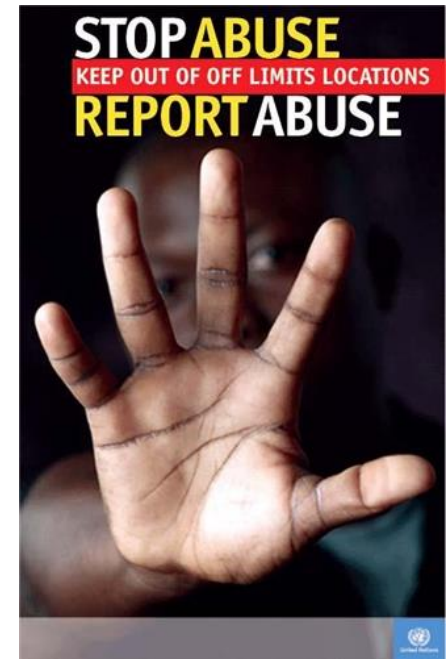




6. What Individual Peacekeeping Personnel Can Do

Individual Responsibility

- Professional and personal
- Reflect UN image
- Uniform standards on SEA
- Personal discipline
- Duty to SEA-free environment
- Duty to report SEA





Leadership and Accountability

- Implement policies
- Mandatory SEA training by ALL
- Focal Points and awareness-raising
- Welfare and recreation
- Emphasize duty to report
- Address violations
- Report all misconduct to CDU or OIOS





Summary of Key Messages

- “Zero tolerance of SEA” – impunity not tolerated, measures to prevent, disciplinary action
- Uniform standards on SEA – no sex with children, prostitutes, and beneficiaries, do not use children or adults to procure sex for others
- DPKO three-pronged approach – prevention, enforcement, remedial measures
- Take action – your duty, maintain an SEA-free environment, report SEA



Questions



Learning Activity

Learning Evaluation