

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Module 3

Department of
Peacekeeping Operations



- 1 Know the UN Standards of Conduct applicable to all UN Personnel and guiding principles that govern interaction with children
- 2 Understand the importance of systematically reporting on misconduct and know the different channels of reporting
- 3 Know the zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, prohibition of child labor and the consequences for failing to adhere



LEARNING OUTCOMES



Guiding Principles

On Child
Protection

1. Best Interest
2. Non-discrimination
3. Do no harm
4. Confidentiality



Positive Interactions

- Child protection actions
- Outreach activities
- Daily interactions



1

Highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity

2

Zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse

3

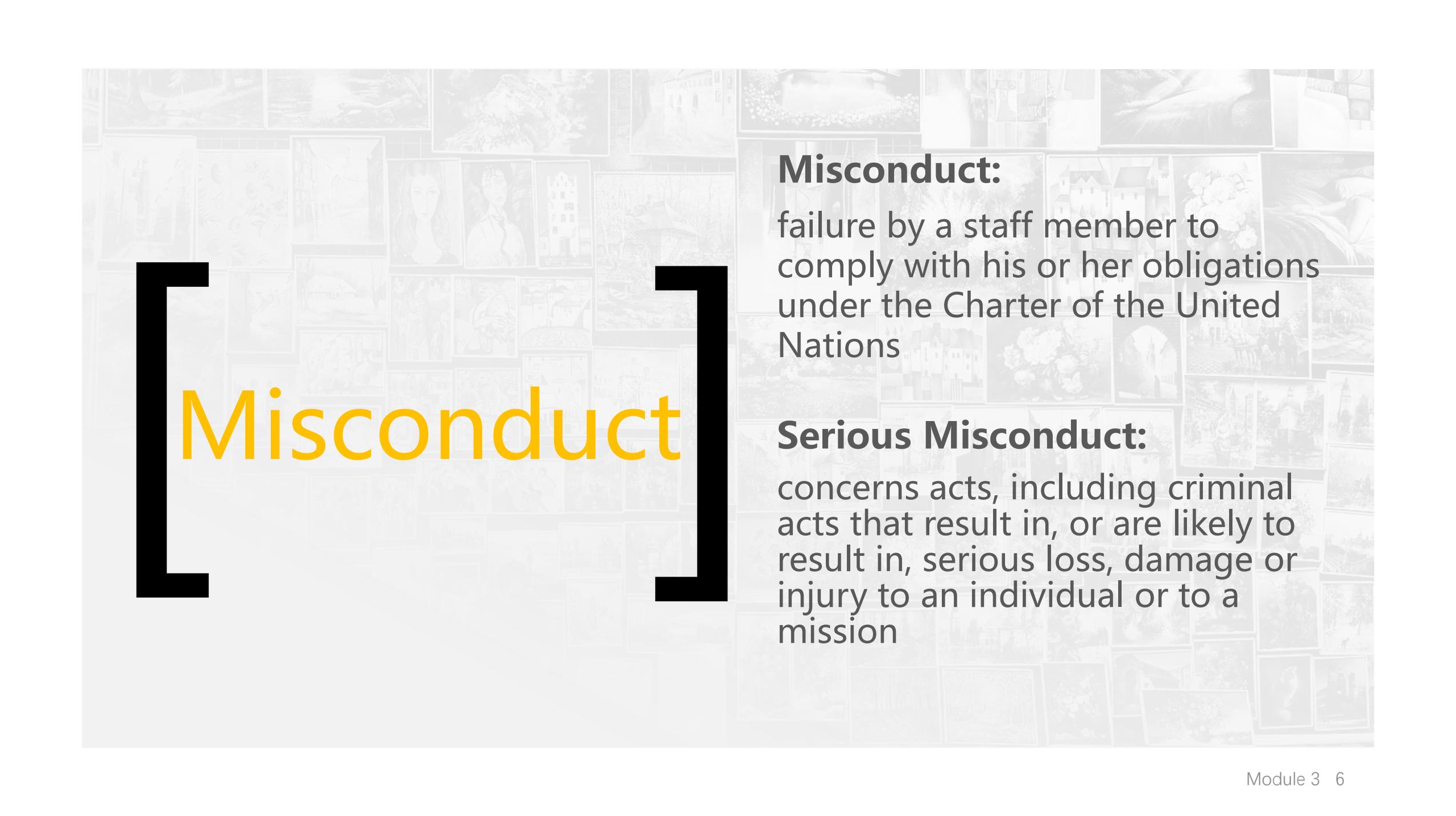
Accountability of those in command who fail to enforce the Standards of Conduct

Standards of Conduct

UN Standards of Conduct are based on three key principles:



WHAT IS MISCONDUCT?



Misconduct

Misconduct:

failure by a staff member to comply with his or her obligations under the Charter of the United Nations

Serious Misconduct:

concerns acts, including criminal acts that result in, or are likely to result in, serious loss, damage or injury to an individual or to a mission

UN Policy on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

The Policy defines **sexual exploitation** as:

“Any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.”

SEXUAL ABUSE

And **sexual abuse** as:

“the actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions.”

- 1. Sexual exploitation and sexual abuse constitute acts of serious misconduct**
- 2. Sexual activity with children (persons under the age of 18) is prohibited**
- 3. Exchange of money, employment, goods or services for sex, including sexual favors or other forms of humiliating, degrading or exploitative behavior, is prohibited.**

UN Policy on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse



No Child Labor

Prohibition of Child Labor in UN Peacekeeping Operations

The Policy on the Prohibition of Child Labor in
UN Peacekeeping Operations states that:

“The use of children **under the age of 18** for purposes of labor or other rendering of services by UN peacekeeping operations is **strictly prohibited.**”





Reporting MISCONDUCT

- UN personnel have a duty to report all concerns or suspicions of sexual exploitation and abuse. This is an obligation for all staff members.
- Missions have established a range of reporting mechanisms.
- The UN whistleblower policy protects from retaliation staff members who report in good faith.

R

eporting Misconduct



All UN personnel are duty bound to:

- Report suspected misconduct
- Report in good faith supported by evidence
- Cooperate with UN investigations
- Make reports to UN officials
- Report misconduct directly to OIOS

Consequences **OF** Misconduct

Perpetrator (UN Peacekeeping Personnel):

- Disciplinary measures
- Redeployment
- Repatriation, termination of contract
- Dismissal from command positions
- Criminal proceedings
- Financial liability

Consequences of Misconduct

The victim (child) :

- Physical trauma
- Psychological stress
- Stigmatisation from peers
- Interruption in development



Consequences of Misconduct

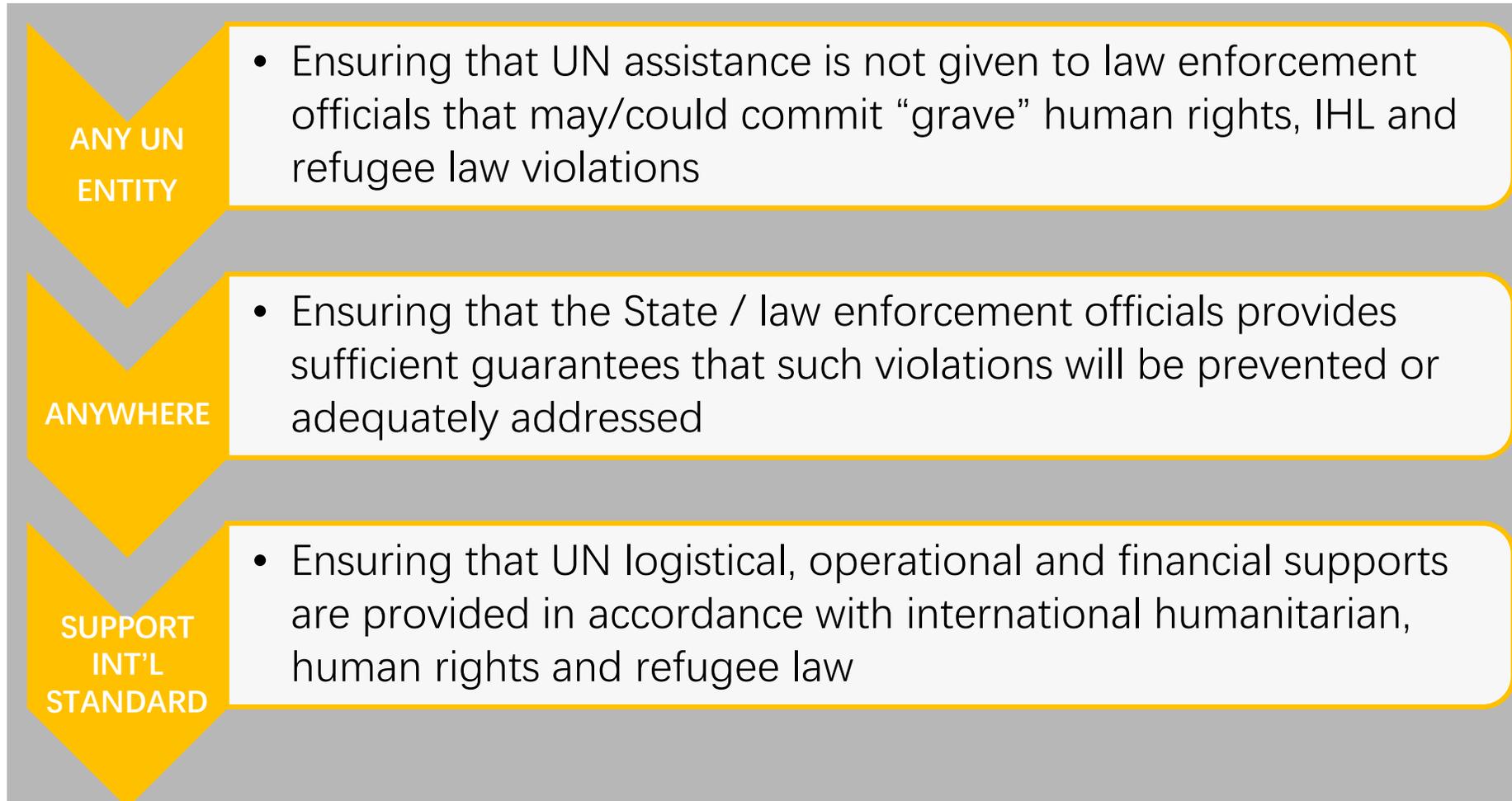


The organisation:

- Its reputation
- Effective implementation of mission mandates
- Loss of confidence amongst local community in the protective role of the United Nations



Human Rights Due Diligence Policy



Human Rights

Due

Diligence

Policy

A young child with short dark hair, wearing an orange and white striped shirt, is shown in profile from the chest up. The child is looking upwards and to the right with a thoughtful expression, their hand resting on their chin. A large, bright yellow thought bubble is positioned above and to the right of the child's head. Inside the thought bubble, the word "Questions?" is written in a large, black, sans-serif font. Three smaller yellow circles of increasing size lead from the child's head to the main thought bubble.

Questions?



What are **the key messages**
of this module **?**

1

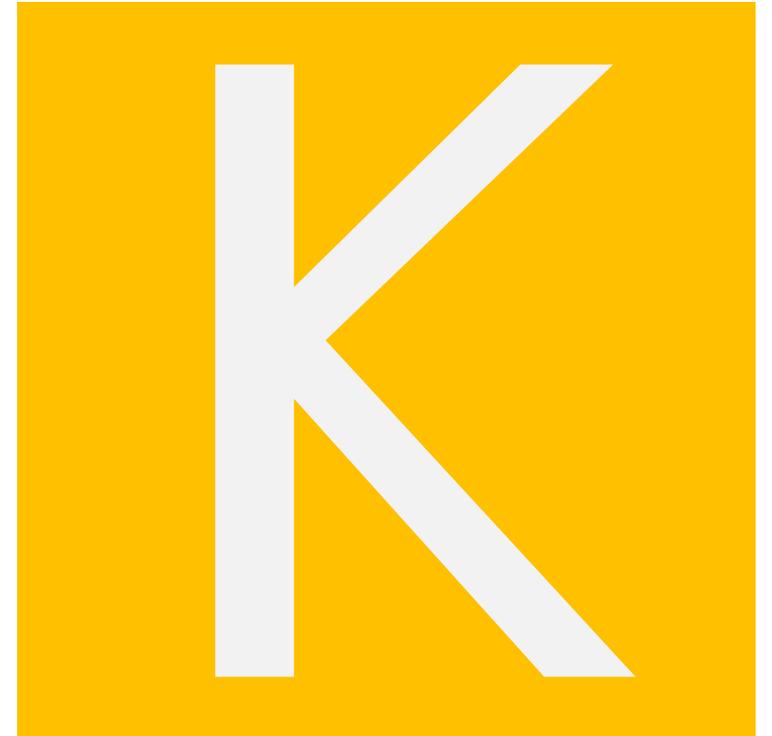
UN Police must adhere to the highest standard of behavior in practice – they are role models, mentors and good examples for the local population and host police.

2

It is important that UN personnel face consequences if misconduct has been committed, and that misconduct is properly reported.

3

UN Police have responsibility to not only promote children's rights, but also refrain from any actions that cause harm to children.



KEY

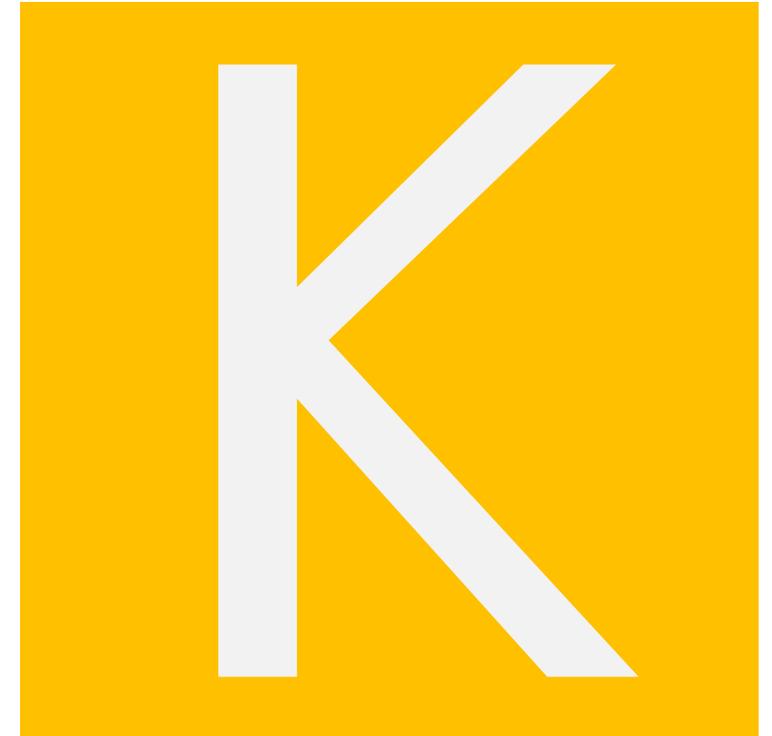
Messages

4

The zero tolerance policy prohibits all forms of sexual contact with children (boys and girls less than 18 years old).

5

The guiding principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child should guide the actions of the UN police in relation to children.



KEY

Messages