

Module 6



How to Monitor and Report Violations of Children's Rights

Assessment – Answers

- 1) The host-State police have detained a girl suspected of terrorist activities on the grounds that she was harming herself via self-mutilation. The police say they are detaining her so that the police, social and medical support can stabilize her situation.

- d. You should report this because this is a case of a child suspected of terrorism. The detention should be monitored, but detention of children for a short period of time is allowed when it is critical for the child's own protection.



A child should be charged within 24 hours from the time of arrest/apprehension (or less, as provided for by national law) or be released. In any case, police custody of a child should only be used as a measure of last resort and for the shortest period of time with the best interests of the child as a primary consideration.

- 2) In the absence of a UNPOL Child Protection Focal Point, who should you report to, in addition to your supervisor?

- b. The UNPOL Gender Focal Point.



As seen in module 3 on How to Collaborate on and Coordinate Child Protection in a United Nations Peace Operation, UNPOL Child Protection Focal Points may also be UNPOL Gender and/or Human Rights Focal Points.

- 3) If a boy is the victim of sexual violence, what should be the priority?

- a. Ensure the child is safe and that he can access medical and psychosocial services rapidly.



As seen in module 2 on How to Adapt Justice for Children to a United Nations Peace Operation, the well-being of the child should always be the priority. Interviewing, investigating or reporting tasks should always be secondary to the mental and physical health of the child.

- 4) What would be an appropriate way to monitor and report on a case in which a child has been released after association with the armed forces?
- c. Do not report the case to the host-State police, but rather report all information on the case to the Child Protection Adviser, giving the full identity of the child and paying attention that the report is handled in a way that it cannot be circulated beyond those who have the responsibility to deal with the case.



In this case, it might not be in the best interests of the child to inform the host-State police about the situation. Reporting to the Child Protection Adviser is mandatory as recruitment and use of children by armed forces and armed groups is one of the six grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict.

- 5) A girl is accused of sexually exploiting another girl, should it be reported through the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism?
- a. It should be reported to the Child Protection Adviser, but if the case is not linked to an armed conflict, it will not be included in reports to the Security Council.



The six grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict do not represent a comprehensive list of violations against children; they constitute especially egregious violations and, as such, should receive priority attention. Other violations of the rights of the child are equally important and should also be monitored and reported (not through the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism).

- 6) How should an attack on a school be reported?
- d. UNPOL can immediately report the case orally or in writing to the UNPOL Child Protection Focal Point and the Child Protection Adviser.



UNPOL officers generally have a non-executive mandate. UNPOL should take note of contact details and as much information as possible to facilitate reporting, while ensuring that information on victims, witnesses, sources and other persons cooperating with the mission is handled in such a way that their life and/or security are not jeopardized.

- 7) If a colleague working for the United Nations is seen violating the United Nations System Code of Conduct with a child, a United Nations Police Officer should:
- b. Report the case to the Child Protection Adviser or the Office of Internal Oversight Services or the Conduct and Discipline Team.



All United Nations personnel are duty bound to report suspected misconduct through the available channels (chain of command, focal points, the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the Conduct and Discipline Team, etc.). They must report misconduct in good faith, supported by evidence. They can report misconduct directly to the Office of Internal Oversight Services without supervisory approval. Failure to report misconduct will be considered as a breach of United Nations regulations and may lead to disciplinary measures.

- 8) You are accused of having paid two adolescent boys to guard your car while you went for dinner at a restaurant the previous evening. What is your reaction?
- d. All forms of child labour are prohibited for all United Nations personnel. The policy is clear, and you violated it.



The use of children under the age of 18 for purposes of labour or other rendering of services by United Nations peace operations or their personnel is strictly prohibited.