



# Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

[http://www.un.org/en/pseataaskforce/  
tools\\_engage.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/pseataaskforce/tools_engage.shtml)

## Definition of Terms

- **Sexual Exploitation** means any *actual or attempted* abuse of 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** means the actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions.

# Principle 1

- **Sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian workers constitutes acts of gross misconduct and are therefore grounds for termination of employment.**

# Principle 2

- **Sexual activity with children (persons under the age of 18) is prohibited regardless of the age of majority or age of consent locally.**
  - **Mistaken belief in the age of a child is not a defence.**

# Principle 3

- **Exchange of money, employment, goods or services for sex, including sexual favours or other forms of humiliating, degrading or exploitative behaviour is prohibited. This includes exchange of assistance that is due to beneficiaries.**

# Principle 4

- **Sexual relationships between humanitarian workers and beneficiaries are strongly discouraged since they are based on inherently unequal power dynamics. Such relationships undermine the credibility and integrity of humanitarian aid work.**

# Principle 5

- **Where a humanitarian worker develops concerns or suspicions regarding sexual abuse or exploitation by a fellow worker, whether in the same agency or not, s/he must report such concerns via established agency reporting mechanisms.**

# Principle 6

- Humanitarian workers are obliged to **create and maintain an environment which prevents sexual exploitation and abuse** and promotes the implementation of their codes of conduct. Managers at all levels have particular responsibility to support and develop systems which maintain this environment.