



Office of the Special Coordinator
on improving the UN response to
Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

NEWSLETTER

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide informal updates on key initiatives underway system-wide to combat sexual exploitation and abuse.

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Initiatives under way:

- ✓ Mission newsletter (MINUSCA)
- ✓ Baseline survey
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- ✓ Repository
- ✓ Institutional conference

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OFFICE BACKGROUND

In February 2016, the Secretary-General appointed Jane Holl Lute as Special Coordinator on improving the United Nations response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. On behalf of the Secretary-General, the Special Coordinator is focusing efforts system-wide to align, strengthen, build on and track measures that are under way in the areas of prevention, enforcement and remedial measures. The Special Coordinator chairs the sexual exploitation and abuse working group, through which she integrates and coordinates the ongoing work, reinforcing the existing roles and responsibilities of actors in the Secretariat and across the United Nations system with regard to combatting sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA).

WHAT WE DO

The working group is carrying out a gap analysis with regard to sexual exploitation and abuse, finalizing an accountability chart to set out the roles and responsibilities of United Nations actors in preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse, developing a common incident reporting form, and drafting a comprehensive manual for leaders on prevention and response, a victim assistance protocol and an information-sharing policy. Regarding troop contributing countries (TCCs), the working group is focused on creating a repository of military legal frameworks, and a “no excuse” pocket card.

SEA prevention and response initiatives underway in the United Nations

FOCUS ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE IN MISSION NEWSLETTER

LEAD: CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE TEAM AT MINUSCA

In September 2016, the Conduct and Discipline Team (CDT) at the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) released its first newsletter, with a focus on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. Read the newsletter on the [Missions' website](#).

BASELINE SURVEY

LEAD: OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL COORDINATOR

In August 2016, the Office of the Special Coordinator conducted a survey to gather baseline information about awareness of the United Nations standards of conduct and prohibitions relating to sexual exploitation and abuse amongst United Nations personnel in specific locations. More than 6,000 responses have been received. The results are being compiled and reviewed.

BROCHURE ON REPORTING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

LEAD: OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has developed a brochure on how to report sexual exploitation and abuse in the field and at Headquarters. The brochure, available in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish, was sent to all United Nations staff this month and can be found at the [UNHCR website](#).

INFOGRAPHIC TOOL ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

LEAD: DEPARTMENT OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS & DEPARTMENT OF FIELD SUPPORT

The DPKO/DFS Public Affairs Section, in consultation with the DFS Conduct and Discipline Unit, has designed and developed an infographic tool that is now available on their [peacekeeping website](#) under the conduct and discipline page. It is aimed at visualizing the investigation process in a clear, linear and color-coded way and highlighting a victim-centered approach in its policy, signaling that it is a dynamic and circular process.

REPOSITORY OF LEGAL FRAMEWORKS OF TROOP- AND POLICE-CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES

LEAD: DEPARTMENT OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS (OFFICE OF MILITARY AFFAIRS) & OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL COORDINATOR

A website is under development to compile national policies, rules and regulations relating to military authority of troop-contributing countries to address offences of sexual exploitation and abuse. The purpose is to increase transparency and awareness with regard to how offences are approached by each TCC. As of **31 October**, following a note verbale sent to all permanent missions on 20 April 2016, **only 13 troop-contributing countries have submitted complete answers**. The Office of the Special Coordinator will continue to follow up with the relevant permanent missions on the status of this request. The information provided will be published on the [website of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations](#) not later than December 2016.

The following countries have provided complete information:

Australia, Austria, Czech Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, Guatemala, India, Malawi, Nepal, Pakistan, Slovenia & Uruguay.



LAUNCH OF AN E-LEARNING PROGRAMME

LEAD: DEPARTMENT OF FIELD SUPPORT, FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

On 13 September 2016, the Department of Field Support (DFS) launched a new online training programme on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. The programme uses scenarios based on case studies and short videos to educate personnel and raise their awareness. The purpose is to strengthen training on standards of conduct, as well as the expectations of accountability and individual responsibility. The programme will be available for all field personnel in November 2016 and for all Secretariat personnel early in 2017.



UPCOMING: CONFERENCE ON COMBATting SEA

LEAD: OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL COORDINATOR

An institutional conference on combatting sexual exploitation and abuse will be organized **in 2017**. The aim is to bring together international, regional and non-governmental organizations, governments and academics, to stand together against sexual exploitation and abuse and engage in honest dialogue on best practices for prevention, response and remedial action.

The desired outcomes are:

- ✓ to share best practices/promote ideas;
- ✓ to have troop-contributing countries pledge their commitment to addressing sexual exploitation and abuse;
- ✓ to launch a comprehensive handbook.

