



South Asia Initiative To End Violence Against Children [SAIEVAC]

“In Solidarity with the Children of SAARC”



SAIEVAC Organizing SAIEVAC-MoWCSW-SAACH Consultation

The South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC), the SAARC Apex Body for children is organizing a Regional SAIEVAC-SAACH (South Asian Association of Child Helplines) Consultation in collaboration with the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW), Government of Nepal (SAIEVAC National Mechanism, Nepal) and the Missing Child Alert Project supported by PLAN ARO from 25th to 27th May 2014 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The SAIEVAC-SAACH Consultation is expected to be participated by SAACH representatives from all SAARC Member States, relevant national, regional and international actors working in the area of child protection. The Consultation will also expected to be attended by the Chairperson of the SAIEVAC Governing Board from Bangladesh and the Governing Board Members from Bhutan and Maldives.

Violence against Children (VaC), particularly, trafficking in children in South Asia is to a large extent perpetrated and compounded by both the sheer absence or limited legal and policy provisions or the lack of focus or capacity of the criminal justice system. While some countries have made efforts to introduce enabling legal reforms to address the issue of violence against children, including trafficking for different purposes (CSEC, forced/bonded labour etc), there is still tremendous scope to enhance the need to link drafting, ratifying and enforcing the laws as a regular legal and law enforcement and providing access to justice practices. SAIEVAC is mandated to provide this critical impetus and drive.

SAIEVAC's conceptualization of the problem of child trafficking is based on Articles 11, 19, 34 & 35 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Convention provides for children's right not to be subjected to trafficking and sexual abuse and exploitation and places the obligation on the state to take appropriate measures to prevent trafficking of children for any purpose. SAIEVAC's response to trafficking is built upon a child rights framework, very closely intertwined with the child's environment.

Hence SAIEVAC's child-focused protection strategies aim to facilitate regional mechanisms that address the direct protection needs of trafficked children through legal, policy, or programme responses.

Moreover, the 3rd Regional Consultation of the National Action and Coordinating Group Against Violence Against Children (NACG) held in Colombo in December 2013, also recommended to coordinate with existing mechanism at regional level to create a collaborative and consolidated effort in addressing the issue of VaC, particularly, Missing Child in the SAARC Region.

As per the SAIEVAC's mandate and also as recommended by the 4th Governing Board Meeting held in Bhutan in 2013 under Recommendation 10.2 which states 'the SRS take whatever steps essential to facilitate the Child Helpline' it was decided to hold a regional consultation with South Asian Association of Child Helplines (SAACH). SAACH is constituted by 8 country representatives from 9 child helplines in the 8 SAARC member states, the SAACH aims to establish fully institutionalized Uniform Toll Free Helplines and fully operational inter and intra country coordination and cooperation promoting effective interventions in the rescue/rehabilitation of victims, apprehend perpetrators of trafficking, and deter inter and intra country trafficking of women and children in South Asia.

The main objective of the consultation is to enhance understanding on the initiatives and interventions undertaken by SAACH and see how this can contribute to SAIEVAC's *Missing Child Alert* Project and furthermore, to build/promote regional synergy to strengthen the response system and generate appropriate data and information for more effective delivery of services.

Missing Child Alert is a sub-regional pilot project aimed at establishing a technologically equipped, institutionalized regional system of alert that can prevent, rescue and repatriate children, who are vulnerable to or/and victim of cross border trafficking from Bangladesh, Nepal to India. Currently being implemented in India, Bangladesh and Nepal, the project holds potential for expansion as a full full-fledged programme in all other SAARC countries.

DATE AND VENUE

Date: 25th - 27th May 2014

Venue: Shangri-la Hotel - Kathmandu, Nepal

For more information, please contact:

Dr. Rinchen Chopel

Director General

Telephone: +977-1-4001601 (Direct) /+ 977 - 1 - 4001685/4001602 Ext 107

Mobile: +977 9803526313

Email: rinchen.chophel@saievac.org

Mr. Roshan Lal Chitrakar

Administrative and Logistics Officer

Telephone: 977-4001685/4001602 Ext-102

Mobile: +977-9841267548

Email: roshan@saievac.org

Ms. Sulakshana Rana
MCA Coordinator
Telephone: 977-4001685/4001602 Ext-108
Mobile: - +977 9851096689
Email: sulak.rana@gmail.com

Nim Karma Sherpa
Advocacy and Communications Officer
Tel. number: PABX +977-1-4001685/4001602 Ext-104
Email: nimkarma.sherpa@saievac.org

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