



Child Protection & Safeguarding

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1. What is the definition of a 'child'?

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989 defines the term “child” as:

“[...] a child is any human being below the age of eighteen years, unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier”.

In Malaysia, the definition of a child is governed under the Child Act 2001 and is in alignment with the above.

2. Is Child Protection and Safeguarding the same?

No.

Child protection is the term used to describe the activity that is undertaken to protect children who are suffering or likely to suffer harm. Child Protection looks at recognizing abuse and neglect and acting on it.

Safeguarding is the policies and procedures that organisations have in place to keep children safe and promote their wellbeing, everything from security of buildings to staff recruitment. Safeguarding looks at keeping children safe from a wider protection harm and delivers preventive action.

3.

Who is being Safeguarded?

Children (under 18), young people, vulnerable young people, vulnerable adults and the whole community.

4.

What is Child Abuse?

Child abuse and neglect constitutes all forms of the following resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power.

- physical abuse and/or emotional ill-treatment

- sexual abuse

- neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation

**taken from WHO Violence Injury and Prevention Team, 1999*

5.

What are the main types of abuse?

There are four broad categories of abuse:

Emotional

It usually consists of a response which may include more than one kind of abuse, which can manifest in many forms, such as verbal abuse, rejection, negative behaviour of the parents/guardian/caregivers.

Physical

Physical abuse happens when injury is inflicted by a parent or guardian, done intentionally or with conscious/unconscious intent to injure the child.

Sexual

Child sexual abuse is when an adult or older adolescent uses a child for sexual stimulation. Forms of child sexual abuse include engaging in sexual activities with a child (whether by asking or pressuring, or by other means), indecent exposure (of private body parts), child grooming, and child sexual exploitation to produce child pornography. Child sexual abuse does not need to include physical contact between a perpetrator and a child.

Neglect

Neglect can be defined as the intentional or unintentional persistent and serious failure to provide basic physical, emotional and developmental needs in terms of health, education, emotional development, nutrition, shelter and a safe life for children.

6.

What constitutes harm?

Any damage – Financial, physical, psychological, sexual, neglect – caused to a vulnerable person. This could be due to another person, or people, deliberately taking advantage of someone. But it could also be the adult or child who is unintentionally putting themselves at risk, simply because they don't have the right level of support in place.



7.

What is a Child Protection and Safeguarding policy?

This policy is put in place to ensure vulnerable people are not abused in any way. It has clear guidelines on what an organisation or group will do to keep children and adults safe. It should include a statement setting out the organisation's commitment to protecting all children and adults in its care.

8.

What are Safeguarding procedures?

Procedures and systems provide clear guidance on what to do in various circumstances; they clarify roles and responsibilities of each person.

9.

What is a Safeguarding Co-ordinator?

The designated safeguarding coordinator/lead has overarching responsibilities regarding safeguarding in an organisation. They possess in-depth knowledge of safeguarding practice, local legislation and agencies for cases to be referenced to.

10. What is the Act in Malaysia protecting children?

The Child Protection Act Malaysia 2001 (Act 611) consolidates three major statutes governing children and young persons:

The Juvenile Court Act 1947

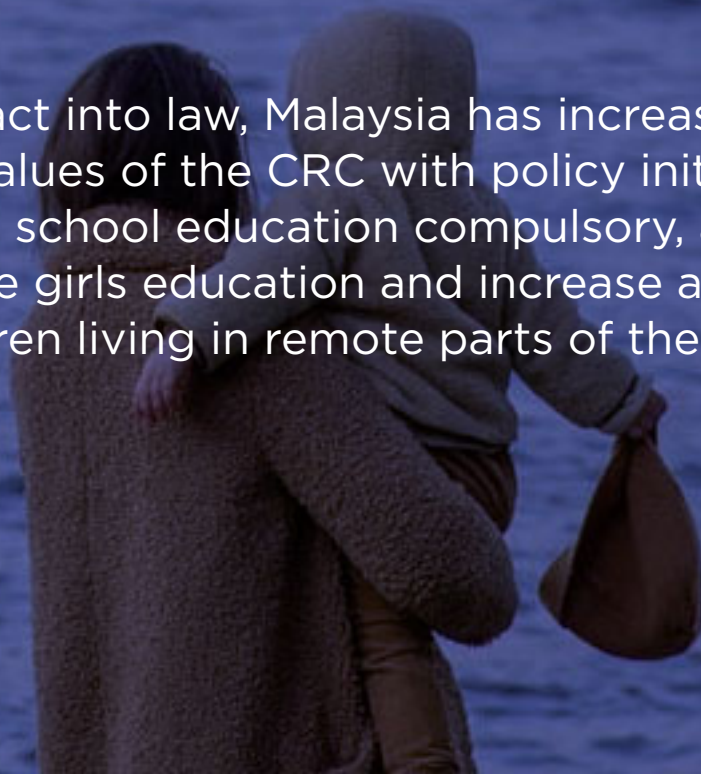
Child Protection Act 2001

Women and Girls Protection Act 1973

It defines that all persons aged below 18 as a child. This is in alignment with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1991, a child is defined as someone who is under the age of 18 (Article 1).

The Malaysian Government ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1995. In 2001, the Child Act (Act 611) ratified legislation for the protection, care, and rehabilitation of children. This Act incorporates the core principles of non-discrimination, best interests of the child, the right to life, survival, and development as well as respect for the views of the child.

Since passing this act into law, Malaysia has increased its efforts to enact the core values of the CRC with policy initiatives that have made Primary school education compulsory, and increased efforts to accelerate girls education and increase access to education for children living in remote parts of the country.



Thank You



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