#### **Background Note**

## POCSO E-box for children to file direct online complaints of sexual abuse to NCPCR

An online complaint box for reporting child sexual abuse, the POCSO e-box is being launched by Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi in New Delhi on 26.08.2016.

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) e-box is an online complaint management system for easy and direct reporting of sexual offences against children and timely action against the offenders under the POCSO Act, 2012.

The box is incorporated prominently in the home page of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) website where an user has to simply push a button named POSCO E-Box. This will navigate to a page with a window containing an animation movie. The animation movie reassures the child that whatever has happened to him/her is not hes/her fault and she/he need not feel guilty and that NCPCR is a friend which will help her. After the user presses the arrow on this page, it navigates to another page where he/ she has to select at least one picture option (describing the category of harassment) and fill the form with details such as mobile number, e-mail and description of the harassment after which click the submit button. The complaint is then registered and a unique auto-generated complaint number is flashed.

Sexual offences against children are rampant but only a small percentage gets reported. According to 'Child Abuse – India 2007', a study conducted by Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, about 53% of children surveyed, reported having faced one or the other form of sexual abuse in their lifetime. In most cases, the offender is a family member/near relative or an acquaintance. The child victim in such cases generally does not report these offences. Sexual abuse scars the psyche of the affected child for the entire life. A child who is sexually abused has to face very serious consequences such as cognitive impairment, violent and risk behaviour including depression and anxiety. Feeling shame and guilt with poor interpersonal relationship & self esteem are other consequences of sexual abuse of children.

Being concerned about such offences against children, The Union Government has enacted POCSO Act, 20012 to protect them from offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography, while safeguarding the interest of the child at every stage of the judicial process, by incorporating child friendly mechanisms for reporting, recording of evidence, investigation and speedy trial of offences through designated Special Courts. Any human being up to the age of 18 years is recognised as a child under the POCSO Act.

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#### NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS (NCPCR)

NCPCR is a statutory body constituted under the provisions of the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005 for the protection of child rights.

NCPCR has been mandated to monitor the implementation of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

POCSO Act was enacted by the Government of India to protect children from offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography; while safeguarding the interest of the child at every stage of the judicial process, by incorporating child friendly mechanisms for reporting, recording of evidence, investigation and speedy trial of offences through designated Special Courts.

According to a study, about 53% of children surveyed, reported having faced one or the other form of sexual abuse. It has been found that in most cases, the offender is a family member/near relative or an acquaintance. The child victim in such cases generally does not report these incidents which may occur repeatedly over a period of time. Sexual abuse scars the psyche of the affected child for the entire life.

POCSO e-box is a major initiative by NCPCR to help children seek help and report such crimes directly to the Commission.

## FILING COMPLAINT THROUGH

#### **POCSO E-BOX**

The POCSO e-box is an easy and direct medium for reporting any case of sexual assault under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. It is displayed prominently in the home page of NCPCR website where the user has to simply press a button named, POCSO e-box which will navigate to a page with the window having a short animation movie

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telling children/complainant that it's not their fault and they need not have to feel bad. The NCPCR is their friend and will help them. This page will have an arrow button with "Press here". When pressed it will navigate to a page asking picture options.



User has to simply select at least one picture option, fill this form and click on submit button to register the complaint.



After this an acknowledgment that the complaint has been registered along with a complaint number will be displayed.



Complaints can also be sent in person, by post, through messenger or any other means to the following address:

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS (NCPCR) 5th Floor, Chandra lok Building 36, Jan path, New Delhi-110001 India visit http://www.ncpcr.gov.in

Follow us 2 @NCPCR\_ Like us //NCPCR.Official Watch more You Tube /channel/NCPCR

NCPCR POCSO e-button on www.ncpcr.gov.in E-mail id: pocsoebox-ncpcr@gov.in Mobile No. 9868235077

In any emergency please contact: Police: 100, Childline 1098



हमने ठाना है, बच्चों को शोषण से बचाना है!



राष्ट्रीय बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

# **POCSO e-box**

When you get an unsafe touch, you may feel bad, confused and helpless You need not feel "bad" because it's not your fault

