



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
Cordillera Administrative Region  
**SCHOOLS DIVISION OF BAGUIO CITY**



9 July 2025

**DIVISION MEMORANDUM**

No. **401-2025**

**DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION (IEC)  
MATERIALS ON LEARNER RIGHTS AND PROTECTION**

To: Chief Education Supervisors  
All Public Schools District Supervisors  
Public & Private Elementary & Secondary School Heads  
Public & Private Learner Government Advisers and Officers  
Public & Private Child Protection Coordinators  
Others Concerned

1. Pursuant to DepEd Order No. 3, s. 2011, the Learner Rights and Protection Office (LRPO) serves as the lead office of the Department in planning, implementing, coordinating, and monitoring projects, programs, and activities relative to child protection at the different governance level of the Department.
2. In response to the mandates, all Learner Rights and Protection Coordinators/ Advocates are Advised to promote child protection by distributing Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Materials campaigns. Thus, the school LRP Coordinator shall take the lead in ensuring the effective implementation of the said activity. *(Enclosure 1. IEC on LRP)*
3. The mechanism is designed to strengthen the implementation of programs under the Learner Rights and Protection. Schools may opt to reproduce the materials that can be accessed to DepEd SDO Baguio One-Stop-Shop through <https://onestopshopbaguiolr.blogspot.com/>
4. For questions and/or concerns, kindly contact Ms. Augie Simangan, Youth Formation Coordinator through 074 442 7819.
5. Immediate wide dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

**SORAYA T. FACULO PhD, CESO VI**  
Schools Division Superintendent

For the Schools Division Superintendent:

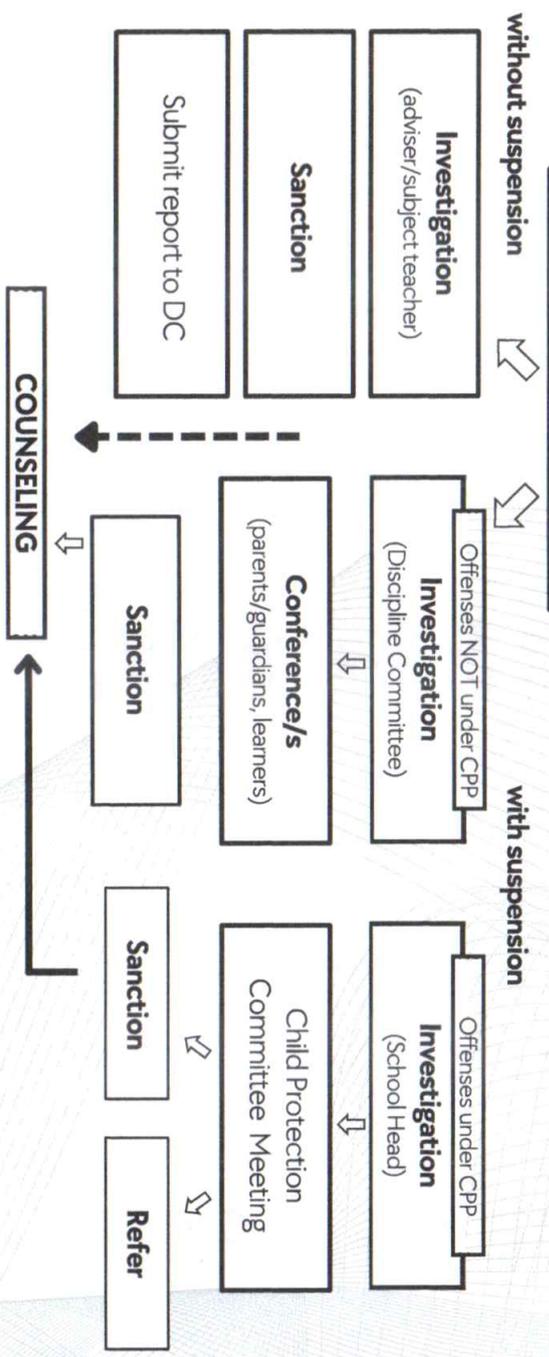
**CARMEL F. MERIS**  
OIC – Assistant Schools Division Superintendent

# CREATING A SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT: LEARNER RIGHTS & PROTECTION



**REMEMBER,  
THERE'S  
NOTHING  
WRONG  
WITH ASKING  
FOR HELP.**

## REFERRAL AND ASSESSMENT FLOWCHART



# NO MEANS NO

## HARASSMENT

Refers to acts committed by anyone that are sexual in nature, including, but not limited to, rape, sexual harassment, acts of lasciviousness, making demeaning and sexually suggestive remarks, physically attacking the sexual parts of a person's body.

## HOW CAN IT HAPPEN?



CATCALLING



INAPPROPRIATE TOUCHING



CYBERSTALKING

## IF YOU ARE BEING HARASSED... WHAT DO YOU DO?

Say NO!



Tell a trusted adult



Report them to proper authorities



## IF YOU EXPERIENCE OR WITNESS BULLYING... HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?



Report them to a TRUSTED adult



WALK AWAY from the situation if possible



Be an UPSTANDER



Treat others with KINDNESS and RESPECT

## NOT OKAY, NEVER OKAY: TAKING ACTION AGAINST HARMFUL BEHAVIOR

## BULLYING

Refers to severe or repeated student expression (written, verbal, electronic) or physical acts and gestures, directed at another student, that causes or places them in reasonable fear of physical and emotional harm or property damage.

## TYPES OF BULLYING



CYBER

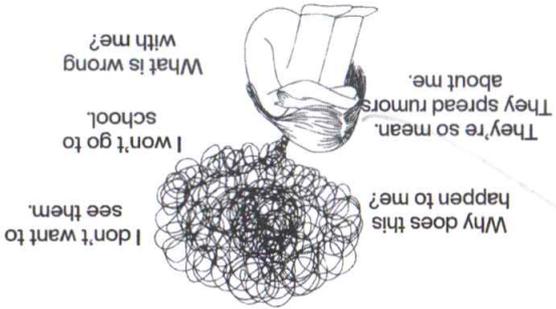


VERBAL



PHYSICAL

## IMPACTS OF BULLYING



## BE A FRIEND

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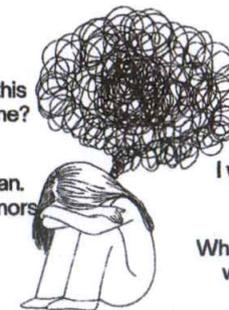
Why does this happen to me?

I don't want to see them.

They're so mean. They spread rumors about me.

I won't go to school.

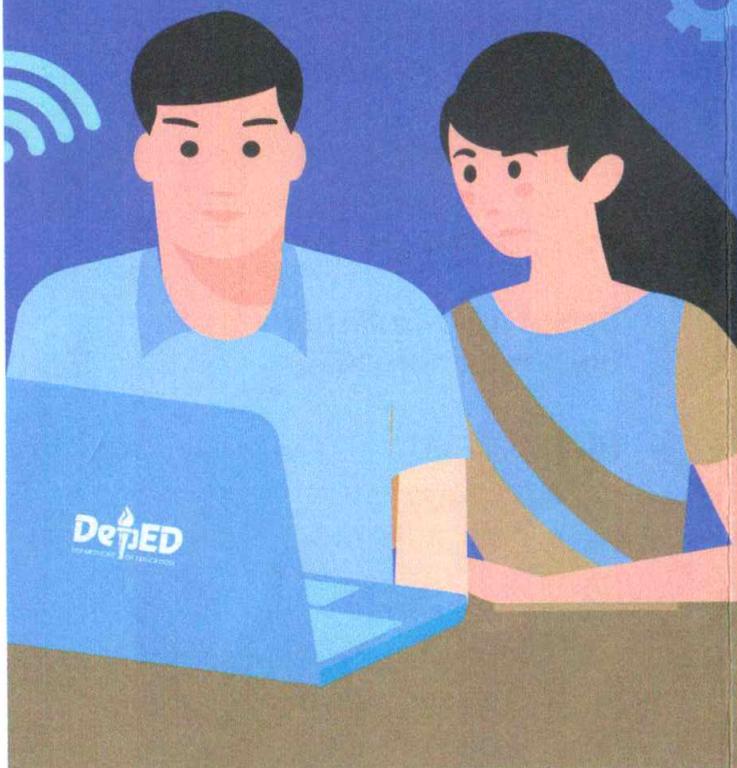
What is wrong with me?



**BE A FRIEND**

# #BECYBERSAFE:

Creating a safe space online  
for learners



## UNDERSTANDING ONLINE SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN



Detecting and identifying victims of OSAEC can be tricky as sometimes children tend to mistake it for a friendly conversation and 'friend' asking for small favors.

Children are drawn to the mystery, new person, and the endless possibilities of the online world, causing many children to embrace it fully. However, this can leave children susceptible to its danger.

As teachers, it is your duty to spot signs and help stop OSAEC before it gets dangerous for learners.

## RECOGNIZING THE SIGNS OF A TROUBLED LEARNER

Children can't tell of the true intentions of an abuser before it is too late. Here are some telltale signs of children in danger:

- Spending unusual amount of time online
- Being physically "glued" to their devices
- Highly secretive, sudden outburst when confronted about their suspicious online activities
- Mood shift after being online
- Mentions of new "friend" but refuses to tell who it is
- Failure to deliver school works, failure to participate in classrooms discussions, noticeable change in behaviour

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP THEM?

As teachers, it is your duty to protect and mitigate the effects of OSAEC. Here are some things to help your learners:

- Talk to the learner regarding their habitual change, ask the reason for these changes
- Raise the concern to their parents/guardians
- Foster a healthy communication channel between learners to earn their trust
- Lecture on the dangers of OSAEC

## INVOLVING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

One way to foster safety and wellness learners is to engage families and communities to unite and fight for the safety of the children. You and your school can be the starting point of a healthy dialogue about OSAEC and how to prevent it.



- Families must be informed on how to regulate and guide their children to using the internet at home.
- Parents should not dismiss the allegations of abuse made by their children and they should not take lightly on the subject.
- Communities should enforce laws that protect the welfare of children. They should also create helpdesks in their local units.

## PROVIDING SUPPORT TO CHILDREN

The next step is to continuously provide support to children who are abused. Apart from making sure that your schools remain a safe space for your learners, it is also important to encourage them to get proper and professional help to cope with the damage of the abuse. A visit to the school guidance counselor is the next small step toward their healing.

### LEARNERS TELESAFE CONTACT CENTER HELPLINE

 [weprotectlearners@deped.gov.ph](mailto:weprotectlearners@deped.gov.ph)

*Learner Rights and Protection Office Email.*

[lrpo@deped.gov.ph](mailto:lrpo@deped.gov.ph)

 **DepEd Learner Rights and Protection Office**

 **(02) 8632-1372**

 **0945-175-9777**

[source: <https://www.stopitnow.org/ohc-content/warning-signs-a-young-person-may-be-the-target-of-sexual-abuse-online>]  
DepEd and Stairway CyberSafe Manuals:  
<https://www.cybersafe.asia/manuals/>

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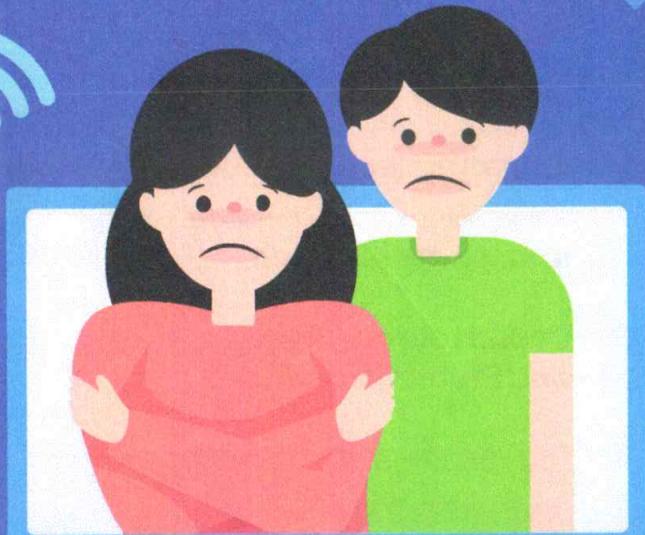
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# #BECYBERSAFE:

Children are deserving of a safe space, even online



## WHAT IS ONLINE SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN



Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) is when children are taken advantage online. It is also considered OSAEC when digital devices are used in making crimes like cellphone cameras, digital cameras, and even computer cameras.



It often starts as a friendly interaction, a harmless message but without proper supervision, these messages can turn into a dangerous connection.

## WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF OSAEC?

Cyberspace connects the world. Its advantages benefit most of the population but the internet also comes with a dark side, especially if abused. Here are some examples of OSAEC to look out for:

- Taking nude photos of children
- Requesting and forcing children to remove clothes or perform sexual acts through chat or video call
- Forcing children to view or consume sexual content online
- Stalking children online
- Persistent calling or messaging
- Selling private photos or videos of children
- Viewing private photos or videos of children
- Forcing or blackmailing children to service adults sexually

## WHAT YOU CAN DO IN CASE OF OSAEC?



If you ever find yourself in these situations, the best thing to do is turn off your devices. However, these are the next steps to ensure your safety:

- Cut communication with your abuser
- Take some time off the internet
- Change your passwords
- Tell a trusted adult about the incident

## HOW TO STAY SAFE FROM OSAEC?

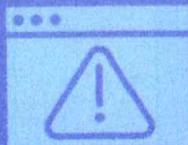
#BeCyberSafe,  
keep in mind these reminders



Be wary of strangers  
messaging/calling you online



Do not share personal/sensitive  
information



Avoid clicking suspicious links

## WHO CAN YOU TALK TO?

You can always reach out to a trusted adult like your parents and guardians. You can also tell your teachers and school officials about the incident.

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[source: <https://www.occe.gov.ph/help-and-support/what-is-online-child-exploitation/>  
DepEd and Starway CyberSafe Manuals:  
<https://www.cybersafecsa/manual/>

# BE A BUDDY, NOT A BULLY:

How to be a friend to all



# WHAT IS BULLYING?



Bullying is an aggressive act meant to hurt another person. Typically, bullying manifests in physical actions.

If you are targeted by a bully, one important thing to remember is **it is not your fault**. You do not have a quality or a situation that gives them permission to bully you.

# WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF BULLIES?

There are different types of bullies and how they harm others. Though they can be categorized, bullies always have one main goal: to hurt others and gain personal satisfaction from seeing their impact on other people.

- Bullied bullies: Like to overpower others to feel relief.
- Social bullies: Often have poor self-esteem, manipulates and bullies other through gossip.
- Detached bullies: Often play likable and play the victims. They only attack their chosen victim but play nice to everyone else.
- Hyperactive bullies: Often misbehaves and displays sudden outbursts.

# HOW TO BE SAFE?

Bullies often fixate on one person to target. They prey on children who seem easy to control and manipulate. They also tend to target high-performing children because of jealousy. Here are some tips in order to avoid being targeted:



Build your self-esteem



Surround yourself with friends



Be assertive



Ignore or do not engage when taunted by bullies



When approached, look them in the eye

# ARE YOU A BULLY?



You also need to be self-aware. Are you unconsciously teasing your friends about their personal appearance? Are you making fun of their conditions? Are you sometimes feeling jealous of their achievements? Do you feel happy whenever you make them cry?

If yes, you might have been bullying them unconsciously. Always be mindful of the things you do to your friends. A harmless joke can mean so much more to others.

# WHO CAN YOU TALK TO?

You can always talk to a trusted adult like your parents and guardians. You can also tell your teachers and school officials about the incident.

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[source: <http://www.10mpcouths.yimg.com/10mpcouths-10mpcouths/>  
DepEd and Barway Cyberbully Awareness  
<http://www.cyberbullyawareness.com/>]

# END BULLYING, ONE HELLO AT A TIME!



Childhood is the perfect time to find and make life-long friends. **It is the time you are experimenting, discovering, and choosing activities you like** and this is the time you most likely meet people with your same interests.

With a simple hello and a smile, you can end bullying.

**BE A FRIEND TO ALL. STOP BULLYING.**

**BE A BUDDY,  
NOT A BULLY.**

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# BE A BUDDY, NOT A BULLY!

Report any signs of bullying.  
Contact the Learners TeleSafe Helpline



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Child Abuse is punishable by law.

**I HAVE A VOICE.  
I WILL SPEAK UP.**

Ask for help, get help. Contact the Learners TeleSafe Helpline



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# #BECYBERSAFE:

Staying safe in the online world is just as important as staying safe in the real world



The cyber-world is full of dangers and children are often its first victims. Here are some tips to protect yourself online:

- ! Always think before you click on questionable links
- ! Do not entertain strangers online
- ! Think first before sharing your information online
- ! Stay in age-appropriate websites at all times
- ! When using public computers, be sure to log off on your accounts before leaving

Many falls victim of cyber abuse. If you have experienced or you may know someone who has been a victim of this, do not hesitate to get help.

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# #BECYBERSAFE:

I am a teacher and I will foster a healthy online space for my learners!



It is a teacher's duty to ensure that learners are safely using the internet to their advantage. Here are some reminders to ensure learners' safety:

- ! Inform them of how to be vigilant when using the internet.
- ! Educate them on withholding private information for their safety
- ! Teach them to avoid questionable adults who are trying to contact them online
- ! Foster healthy communication channels for you and your learners

Keeping learners safe in schools is one thing, protecting them from a whole another world takes bravery and commitment. Report any kind of Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children.

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To know more about Cyber Safety tips,  
visit [www.CyberSafe.Asia](http://www.CyberSafe.Asia)



#BeCyberSafe  
SA CYBERBULLYING

**DALIR-ESKWELA**

Eskwelahang tinuturuan ang mga bata  
how to #BeCyberSafe



To know more about Cyber Safety tips,  
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# #BeCyberSafe SA INTERNET CHAT

## DALIR-ESKWELA

Eskwelahang tinuturuan ang mga bata  
how to #BeCyberSafe

Ang panget mo!



Sa ngayon, ang pinakamabilis na paraan para magpadala at makatanggap ng mga mensahe ay sa pamamagitan ng cellphones at Internet.



Dahil madaling magpadala at tumanggap ng mensahe, napakaraming klaseng impormasyon ang pwede nating ipadala — pwedeng kapakipakinabang, o di kaya'y walang kwenta. Pwede ring maganda, o di kaya'y malaswa.

Ang mga anak natin, na madalas gumamit ng Internet para makipag-usap, ay pwedeng makatanggap ng mga mensahe na 'di angkop sa kanila.

### Ano ang mga dangers sa Chatting?

Ang mga anak natin ay pwedeng makatanggap ng messages na –

- Harmful o masama, tulad ng peke o hindi tamang impormasyon.
- Hateful o mga pagbabanta at pambu-bully.
- Pornographic o mga maiilalawang larawan o mga imahe ng nagtatalik.

### Ano ang dapat nilang gawin?

Para IWAS sa mga masasamang mensahe, tandaan –

- I** -block ang mga nagpapadala ng messages na nakakasakit at malaswa.
- W** - Wag magbigay ng pribadong impormasyon tulad ng pangalan, edad, pangalan ng magulang, eskwelahan, classroom, address, telephone number, atbp.
- A** - Add only friends at mga taong kilala in real life!
- S** - Sabihin sa mga magulang o sinumang nakakatanda na pinagkakatiwalaan kapag may masamang naka-chat.



### 'Pag kinausap ang anak tungkol sa chatting,



### TANDAAN...

1. Kausapin sila nang mahinahon.
2. Magkaroon ng kasunduan na hindi dapat makipag-usap sa strangers o mga hindi kilala sa Internet. Hindi dahil may 1 or 2 mutual friends na, kilala na agad. Strangers pa rin sila!
3. Payuhan sila na kung makatanggap sila ng mga mensahe mula sa hindi nila kilala, dapat sabihin sa inyo.
4. Ipaalala na hindi sila kasati sa popularity contest. Bigyang din ang "Quality over Quantity" pagdating sa online friends.
5. Kung ang anak ay teenager na, maaaring hindi mo na sila mapipigilan sa pag-add ng online strangers. Nagiging parte ito ng kanilang pakikipag-katibigan o "socialization" kung tawagin. Pero paalalahanan sila na may ligtas na paraang gawin ito, kagaya ng:
  - Pagtigil sa pag-chat kapag hindi na siya kumportable o mayroon na siyang masamang pakiramdam sa kausap.
  - Awtomatikong pagtigil sa chat kapag ang pinag-uusapan na ay tungkol sa sex, paghuhubad, o pagpapadala ng malalawang litrato.
  - Pagsabi sa iyo o sa ibang pinagkakatiwalaang nakatatanda (trusted adult) kapag nangyari ito.
6. Tulungan ang mga bata na tukuyin ang "trusted adults" nila. Ito ang mga taong nirerespeto nila at ang mga pwede nilang hingan ng tamang payo.

Trabaho natin bilang magulang na gabayan ang ating mga anak at ang kanilang mga daliring kung saan-saan punupunta sa Internet.

Trabaho natin na gawin silang responsable sa mga chat room, at sa social media.

Upang malaman ang iba pang tips o detalye para maging ligtas ang mga bata sa Internet, bisitahin ang [www.cybersafe.asia](http://www.cybersafe.asia)

# TAKE UP SPACE IN YOUR SAFE SPACE

I deserve a safe space to flourish and grow!



Every child deserves a safe school and community where they can express themselves and learn to be proactive members of society.

- ! A space **free from sexual harassment** is a safe space for me to **discover myself**
- ! A space **free from slurs** is a safe space for me to **express myself**
- ! A space **free from unwanted advances** is a safe space for me to **grow**

## NOT FEELING SAFE IN YOUR SPACE? TELL US:

### LEARNERS TELESAFE CONTACT CENTER HELPLINE

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I am a teacher and I am an advocate of

# SAFE SPACES FOR MY LEARNERS!



Children should not be caged in a limited safe space, it is our goal to make every place a safe space for them.

- ! Safe spaces are **schools** where they **learn**
- ! Safe spaces are **homes** where they **sleep**
- ! Safe spaces are **parks** where they **play**
- ! Safe spaces are **communities** where they **live**

**I AM A TEACHER AND I AM THEIR STRONGEST ADVOCATE FOR SAFE SPACES BECAUSE THEY DESERVE TO TAKE UP SPACE IN A SAFE SPACE!**

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I am a teacher and I foster a

# SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR MY LEARNERS!



Children should be able to live and learn in safe environments free from abusers. I will safeguard that safety by:

- ! Fostering open communication with my learners
- ! Engaging communities and families to take part in ensuring a holistic approach to end child abuse
- ! Allowing learners to be open and create a trusting relationship with them
- ! Keeping a keen eye on learners who might be victims of abuse

## I AM A TEACHER AND I AM THE FIRST DEFENSE OF MY LEARNERS AGAINST CHILD ABUSE

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# MY BODY, MY PROPERTY

Trespassing in properties are illegal!



Every child deserves a safe school and community where they can express themselves and learn to be proactive members of society.

- ! If you think you are being abused, **speak up!**
- ! If someone makes you uncomfortable, **leave the space and tell trusted adults.**
- ! If you know someone being abused, **stand up for them and report the abuse.**

## OUR BODIES ARE OUR PROPERTY.

We do not welcome strangers, trespassers,  
and abusers in our properties.

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# SAFE SPACE IS A MUST, SAFE SPACE FOR ALL OF US!

Report any signs of harassments.  
Contact the Learners TeleSafe Helpline



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I am a teacher. I will ensure that

# A SAFE ONLINE ENVIRONMENT IS AVAILABLE FOR MY LEARNERS.

Ask for help, get help. Contact the Learners TeleSafe Helpline



## LEARNERS TELESafe CONTACT CENTER HELPLINE

✉ [weprotectlearners@deped.gov.ph](mailto:weprotectlearners@deped.gov.ph)

*Learner Rights and Protection Office Email:*

[lrpo@deped.gov.ph](mailto:lrpo@deped.gov.ph)

📘 DepEd Learner Rights and Protection Office

☎ (02) 8632-1372

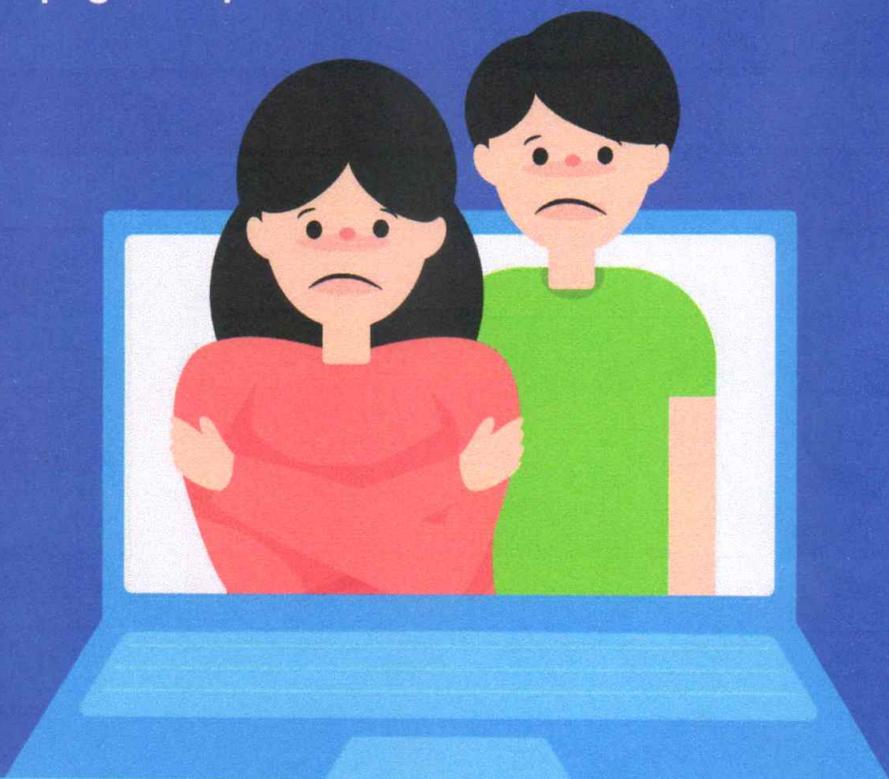
📠 0945-175-9777



Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children  
are punishable by law.

# I DESERVE A HEALTHY AND SAFE ONLINE SPACE.

Ask for help, get help. Contact the Learners TeleSafe Helpline



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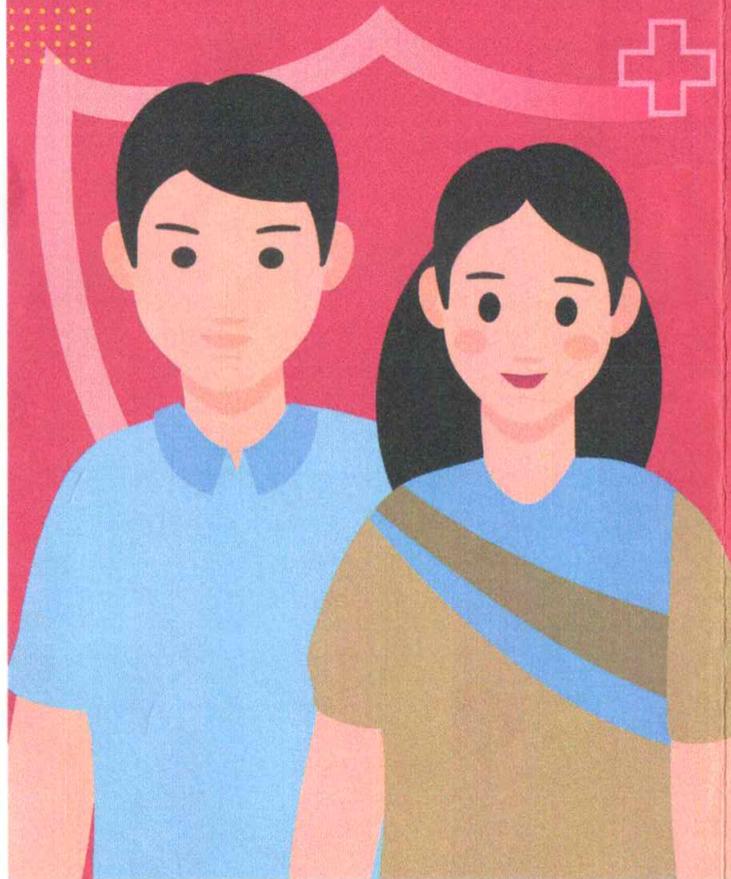
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# HOW TO FOSTER SAFE SPACES IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY



## WHY IS SAFE SPACES IMPORTANT TO YOU AS A TEACHER?



Harassment can occur anywhere. Once the children leave the four corners of your classroom, they are exposed to the world where you can't protect them anymore.

As the second parent of your learners, safe spaces are important to you, too.

## TEACHING CHILDREN THEIR RIGHTS

As a teacher, it is your role to ensure that learners are well-informed of their rights, especially the ones that would ensure their safety.

Teaching children their rights empowers them to stand up and defend themselves. Keeping them informed also gives them a boost of confidence to report crimes to the authorities.

A well-informed learner is a safe learner.

## HOW TO KEEP YOUR CLASSROOMS AND SCHOOLS A SAFE SPACE

Teaching children their rights is one thing, keeping their schools safe from these horrid acts is another. Here are tips to ensuring schools stay a safe space for all:

- Teach the principles of safe space for everyone
- Set an example on keeping classrooms a safe space
- Foster healthy communication with your learners
- Empower learners to speak up
- Foster inclusivity in your classrooms and school

## ENGAGING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

One way to foster safety and wellness learners is to engage families and communities to unite and fight for the safety of the children. You and your school can be the starting point of a healthy dialogue about harassment and safe spaces and how to prevent it.



- Families must be informed on how to combat harassment and create a safe home for their children.
- Parents should not dismiss the allegations of harassment made by their children and they should not take lightly on the subject.
- Communities should enforce laws that protect the welfare of children. They should also create helpdesks in their local units.

## PROVIDING SUPPORT TO CHILDREN

The next step is to continuously provide support to children who are harassed. Apart from making sure that your schools remain a safe space for your learners, it is also important to encourage them to get proper and professional help to cope with the damage of the harassments. A visit to the school guidance counselor is the next small step toward their healing.

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# TAKE UP SPACE IN YOUR SAFE SPACE:

Understanding safe space for  
learners



# WHAT IS A SAFE SPACE?



Safe Space is formal or informal place where a person feels comfortable, physically and emotionally safe, and enjoy the freedom of self-expression without the fear of judgment or harm.

# WHAT ARE THE FORMS OF HARASSMENT?

Harassments can come in many forms. According to the Safe Spaces Act of 2019, here are some examples:

- Stalking
- Catcalling/Wolf-whistling
- Statements of sexual comments and suggestions
- Unwanted invitations
- Jokes about gender-specific traits or sexual proportions
- Misogynistic, transphobic, homophobic, and sexist slurs
- Unwanted staring
- Public masturbation
- Intentional pinching, touching, or brushing against another's body
- Assault/ coercing sexual intercourse

## WHAT IS THE ANTI-BASTOS BILL?

Safe Spaces Act or **Republic Act No. 11313** is An Act Defining Gender-Based Sexual Harassment in Streets, Public Spaces, Online, Workplaces, and Educational or Training Institutions, Providing Protective Measures and Prescribing Penalties Therefore.

The Act serves as the **protection of the people against harassment in both private and public spaces regardless of their age and gender.** The Safe Spaces Act aims to value the dignity of every human person guarantee full respect for human rights.

## WHAT TO DO TO STAY SAFE?



Understanding Safe Spaces is the first thing to learn. All spaces must be safe for you to grow, learn, and express yourself. Learning what are your rights should be your first priority to be able to defend yourself against harassers.

## WHO CAN YOU TALK TO?

If you were harassed or you witnessed harassment, do not be embarrassed or afraid. Yes, there is something you can do, yes you can help others. Report the harassers!

You can start by telling trusted adults like your parents and guardians.

You can also tell your teachers, school counselor, and other school officials who you trust. Yes, you can tell them about your case even if it did not happen in school.

Apart from the trusted adults, you can also report abuse through these hotlines:

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I am a teacher and I will use my voice to

# HELP LEARNERS BREAK THEIR SILENCE.

Report a learner protection concern, contact the Learners TeleSafe Helpline



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# MY BODY, MY SAFETY:

How to Identify, Report, and Defend Yourself in Cases of Child Abuse



## WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?



Child abuse is when someone, most likely older than you, hurts you **physically, emotionally, sexually, or neglects your needs.**

It can happen to any child, regardless of



Age



Gender



Background

## WHAT ARE THE FORMS OF CHILD ABUSE?

Child abuse can come in many forms. Here are some examples:

### Physical Abuse

- o Beating or kicking
- o Slapping or suffocating
- o Pulling of hair
- o Pinching or biting

### Emotional Abuse

- o Name-calling
- o Shaming
- o Rejecting
- o Threatening

### Sexual Abuse

- o Forcing a child to engage in sexual acts
- o Exposing a child to sexual activities
- o Penetrating
- o Fondling

### Neglect

- o Failure to meet a child's basic needs like housing, access to clean and healthy food and water, clean and proper clothing, education, and medical care.
- o Refusal to validate the feelings of a child

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO STAY SAFE?

Oftentimes, your abuser might trick you into thinking that you are not being abused and that what you experience is normal. That is called gaslighting and you must speak up the moment you become uncomfortable.

Here are things you can do to stay safe:

- Be firm on saying NO. If someone is making you scared and uncomfortable, speak up.
- Do not keep secrets from your parents, teachers, or anyone you trust. There is no shame in telling what you experienced.
- Report your abuser to your trusted adult and express your discomfort with them.
- Remember your boundaries and remember that your body only belongs to you.

## WHO CAN YOU TALK TO?

If you felt that you are abused or witnessed someone being abused, do not hesitate to come forward and tell your story. It is not your fault, you did not let this happen, and yes, there is something you can do to stop this. Report your abusers.



- You can start by telling trusted adults like your parents and guardians.
- You can also tell your teachers, school counselor, and other school officials who you trust. Yes, you can tell them about your case even if it did not happen in school.

## WHERE TO REPORT ABUSE?

Apart from the trusted adults, you can also report abuse through these hotlines:

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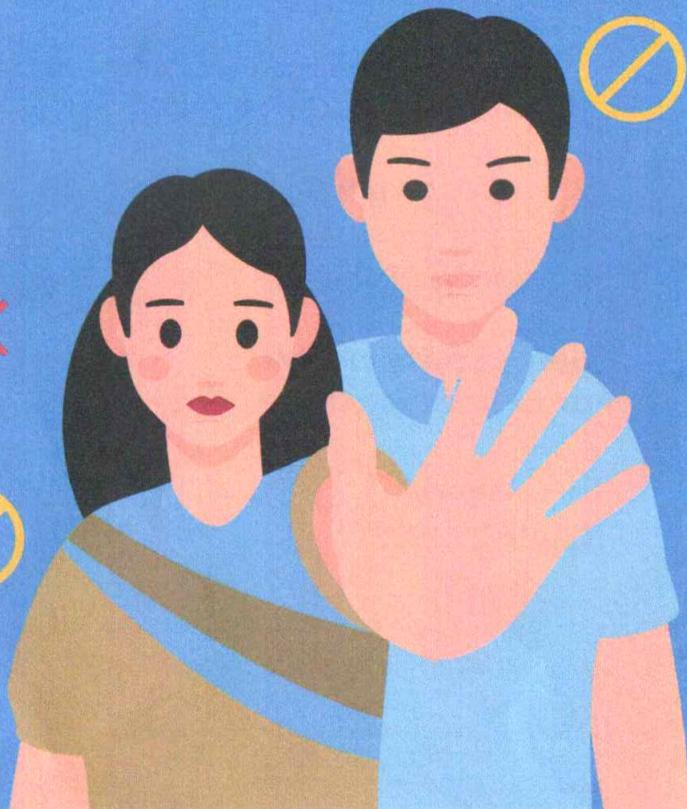
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[sources: <https://kidshelpline.com.au/parents/issues/understanding-child-physical-abuse>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/fastfact.html>  
DepEd and Stairway CyberSafe Manuals:  
<https://www.cybersafe.asia/manuals/>

# ENSURING LEARNERS SAFETY:

A Guide for School Employees for Identifying and Stopping Child Abuse of Learners



# UNDERSTANDING CHILD ABUSE



As a teacher and school personnel, it is your duty to **keep your learners safe** and to **maintain your classrooms and school a safe space**.

**Child abuse can happen to any child** no matter their age or gender and this can occur and promulgate **without proper supervision and guidance**.

This ranges from physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and even neglect. It is proven in studies that cases of abuse are under-reported by teachers because of the lack of signs manifested by children. **As personnel, it is your responsibility to understand and identify children who might be susceptible or victims of child abuse.**

# IDENTIFYING VICTIMS OF CHILD ABUSE

Helping starts with identifying who needs help. Teachers and school personnel handle hundreds of children per day. It takes a keen eye to know who needed saving. Here are some signs that your learners might be abused:

## Physical Abuse

- o Bruises, cuts, abrasions
- o Burns, scars, bite marks
- o Aggression
- o Unable to explain injuries
- o Reluctance to go home
- o Frightened or wary of caregivers

## Emotional Abuse

- o Sudden emotional outburst
- o Low self-esteem
- o Difficulty to socialize
- o Sudden change in behavior

## Sexual Abuse

- o Bruises and cuts on private parts
- o Signs of sexually transmitted diseases like difficulty urinating, itching, or swelling of private parts
- o Unusual knowledge of sexual topics
- o Flinching when being touched

## Neglect

- o Poor hygiene
- o Unattended medical and health concerns
- o Declining weight
- o Sudden clinginess
- o Sudden aggression
- o Lack of social interaction
- o Loss of concentration

## CREATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Schools are considered to be the second home of learners. Learners deserve to feel safe and secure within these walls. Here are some ways to make them safe within your supervision.

- Foster good communication between you and other learners.
- Engage your learners in positive talks about their bodies and boundaries.
- Encourage and practice the importance of standing up for yourself.
- Teach your learners the importance of speaking up when needed. Uphold DepEd Child Protection Policy.

## ENGAGING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

One way to foster safety and wellness learners is to engage families and communities to unite and fight for the safety of the children. You and your school can be the starting point of a healthy dialogue about child abuse and how to prevent it.



- Families must be informed on how to combat abuse and create a safe home for their children.
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[sources: <https://www.virtual-college.co.uk/resources/how-teachers-can-spot-signs-of-abuse-and-child-neglect/>  
DepEd and Stairway CyberSafe Manuals  
<https://www.cybersafe.asia/manuals/>]