

Scenarios covering prohibited acts of Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse for the various categories of United Nations personnel

The following scenarios demonstrate examples of prohibited acts under the current standards of conduct expected of all categories of UN personnel (civilian, civilian police, military observers and military members of national contingents) as set out in the UN Staff Rules and Regulations and/or the DPKO Disciplinary Directives (including the Ten Rules: Code of Personal Conduct for Blue Helmets). These acts also specifically violate standards listed in: ST/SGB/2003/13 on Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse; and ST/SGB/1999/13 on Observance by United Nations Forces of International Humanitarian Law. N.B. Allegations and reports of sexual harassment are covered by separate procedures described in ST/SGB/253 and ST/AI/379 (as may be amended).

The acts described below constitute misconduct and could lead to the appropriate disciplinary and administrative measures, such as summary dismissal or recommendation to repatriate. More information on determining the relevant procedures to be followed when alleged acts of misconduct occur should be obtained from the relevant Department/Agency Headquarters.

EXAMPLE OF PROHIBITED ACT	WHY IT CONSTITUTES MISCONDUCT
<p>Betty is a 16 year old girl living in a small village. Betty has four younger brothers and sisters. Her parents do not have very much money and find it very difficult to provide the costs for education, clothing and food for all of the children. There had even been some discussion about Betty dropping out of school to assist her mother in working at the market. However, all the problems have been solved as Betty has started a sexual relationship with Johnson, a senior UNHCR officer. He has promised to pay for her school fees and help to pay for her brothers and sisters to continue with their education. Betty's parents are very relieved that this opportunity has come and encourage Betty to maintain the relationship. It has really helped the family and now all the children can continue in school.</p>	<p>Under section 3.2 (b) of the Secretary-General's Bulletin ST/SGB/2003/13, Johnson is prohibited from sexual activity with anyone under 18, regardless of the local age of consent. This encounter also constitutes sexual exploitation as defined in section 3.2 (c) of ST/SGB/2003/13: Johnson has abused a position of differential power for sexual purposes, by exchanging money for sexual access.</p>
<p>Carlos, a military commander posted in the southern district, has helped set up a boys' soccer club in the town where his national contingent is deployed. Carlos enjoys the soccer games, but he particularly enjoys the access the club gives him to local adolescents. He gives presents (magazines, candy, sodas, pens) to various boys in exchange for sexual acts. He thinks there's nothing wrong with this, since the boys like the presents he gives them.</p>	<p>Carlos' acts are in violation of the Ten Rules: Code of Personal Conduct for Blue Helmets and ST/SGB/1999/13 on Observance by UN Forces of International Humanitarian Law. He has abused a position of differential power for sexual purposes, by exchanging money and goods for sexual favours. Such acts constitute serious misconduct. In addition, Carlos is in breach of the same policy for performing sexual acts with children (anyone under 18, regardless of the local age of consent).</p>
<p>Joey is a locally-hired driver for a UN agency, who transports relief items from the warehouse to the refugee camp where the items are distributed. On one of his trips he recognized a 15-year old refugee girl walking on the side of the road and gave her a lift back to the camp. Since then, to impress her and win her over, he frequently offers to drive her wherever she is going and sometimes gives her small items from the relief packages in his truck, which he thinks she and her family could use. The last time he drove her home she asked him inside her house to meet her family. The family was pleased that she had made friends with a UN worker. Joey really likes the girl and wants to start a sexual relationship with her. He knows her family will approve.</p>	<p>Under section 3.2 (b) of the Secretary-General's Bulletin ST/SGB/2003/13, Joey is prohibited from sexual activity with anyone under 18, regardless of the local age of consent. Moreover, the rules also strongly discourage sexual relationships between UN staff and beneficiaries of assistance, since they are based on inherently unequal power dynamics and undermine the credibility and integrity of the work of the UN (see section 3.2 (d) of ST/SGB/2003/13).</p>

<p>Marie is a 30-year-old refugee whose desperate circumstances have forced her into prostitution. On Saturday night she was picked up by John, a UNICEF staff member in a UN car, as he was driving back home after dinner. John took her home and paid her for sex. As prostitution is not illegal in the country where he is posted, he figured he was doing nothing wrong.</p>	<p>The exchange of money for sexual services violates the standards of conduct expected of any category of UN personnel. In this case, (involving a civilian staff member) the act violates section 3.2 (c) of the Secretary-General’s Bulletin ST/SGB/2003/13.</p>
<p>Josie is an adolescent refugee girl in one of the camps. Pieter, one of the food distribution staff, who works for WFP, has offered to give her a little extra during the distribution if she will be his “special friend”. She agrees willingly. Both of them agree that they should start a sexual relationship and neither one of them think that anything is wrong. Josie hopes that the relationship will be a passport to a new life in another country, and Pieter does nothing to discourage these hopes.</p>	<p>Pieter’s relationship with Josie constitutes sexual exploitation: exchange of goods for sex or sexual favours is explicitly prohibited under section 3.2 (c) of ST/SGB/2003/13. This includes any exchange of assistance that is due to beneficiaries of assistance. Moreover (and irrespective of the local age of consent) if Josie is under 18, Pieter is in violation of section 3.2 (b) of ST/SGB/2003/13.</p>
<p>Darlene is a CIVPOL. She’s always on the lookout for good business opportunities since she has to support her family back home. She’s asked by another CIVPOL, Stanislas, to contribute some of her MSA towards renovating a bar in the town, in return for a cut of the bar’s profits. Darlene soon finds she’s getting a steady income from the bar, and gives more money to hire more staff, including security, and so on. She herself doesn’t go to the bar, but she knows that there is a lot of prostitution going on there and that several peacekeepers and CIVPOLs use the bar often. However, she doesn’t think that concerns her, since she isn’t directly involved in those issues. She’s just glad of the extra money.</p>	<p>Darlene and Stanislas are aiding sexual exploitation. This violates the Ten Rules: Code of Personal Conduct for Peacekeepers.</p> <p>The peacekeepers, UNMOs and CIVPOLs who frequent the bar are engaged in sexual exploitation. For these categories of personnel, using a prostitute violates the Ten Rules: Code of Personal Conduct for Blue Helmets and the ST/SGB/1999/13 On Observance by UN Forces of International Humanitarian Law.</p>
<p>Sven is a Military Observer. He has developed a close relationship with his landlady, Amanna, who also does his cleaning. They eat meals together and talk in broken English. Amanna’s family (her husband and three young children) was killed in the violence that engulfed the country five years ago, so she is very lonely and enjoys the opportunity to talk. One night Sven returns from a reception for the Force Commander who has been visiting the district where he is deployed. Sven is drunk. He has not had sex for eight months. He presses Amanna to come to his bedroom, urging her to make love with him. Amanna looks extremely embarrassed, and tries to leave the room. Sven’s sure she likes him, but is just being shy. Then he changes tactics, and tells her he will have to think of leaving her house and finding a new home if she won’t come to bed with him. Amanna is horrified at the prospect of losing her only source of income, so she complies with his demands. After all the violence she has seen, she has come to expect this kind of behaviour from men, but she had thought that Sven would be different. She was wrong about that.</p>	<p>Sven has breached the Ten Rules: Code of Personal Conduct for Peacekeepers, by using his differential position of power to coerce Amanna into having sex with him.</p>

Produced by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Acknowledgement: A number of the scenarios above have been adapted from materials contained in the Facilitator’s Guide: *Understanding Humanitarian Aid Worker Responsibilities: Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Prevention*, produced by the Coordination Committee for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Sierra Leone.