**South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children**



**3rd Technical Consultation**

**on**

**Eliminating Harmful Practices Affecting Children**

**in**

**South Asia**

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

**FOR**

**NATIONAL CHILDREN’S CONSULTATION**

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SAIEVAC

SAARC Apex Body

**24th to 29th September 2013 – Thimphu, Bhutan**

**Hosted by the Royal Government of Bhutan**

**Organized and Showcased by the SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat**

**With Support from the South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Children (SACG), the SAARC Development Fund (SDF) and in Collaboration with the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children (SRSG-VaC)**

**Selection Criteria and Process for National Children’s Consultation**

The SAIEVAC regional consultation is mainly on “Eliminating Harmful Traditional Practices Affecting Children”. Therefore, it is preferred that the national consultation be done with children from diverse strata of the overall population of a country and those who have direct experience of violence against children in various settings or have had/been contributed/ing towards prohibiting and eliminating any forms of violence in their or others’ lives. The national consultations also bring children who have been part of strengthening the national protection systems and networking processes so that they can contribute into the discussions during the national consultations.

SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat recommends the following criteria be strictly followed during the selection of children or related processes for the national consultation:

**A. Sectors/Areas from where Children preferred to be invited or included in the national consultations**

* Children living in Alternative Care Settings (institutions, foster care, kinship care, etc)
* Children with disabilities or different abilities
* Children living in the Child Care, Protection, Safety or Transit Homes
* Children from disadvantaged/marginalized group
* Children from Street Situations
* Children studying in different schools or academic institutions
* Children from Religious Schools or other vocational institutions
* Children who are out of school situations
* Children in contact with law (as survivors or conflict with law, witness, or forced due to situation to be living in such situations)
* Children from Refugee situations
* Children who are working in different institutions or settings (domestic, business sectors, and other forms of working settings)
* Children participating or involved in different community child protection committees and initiatives to strengthen social protection of children from all forms of violence
* Children participating in different child rights or protection movements and networks

**B. Consideration and to Ensure**

* Children from all or maximum area coverage
* Children within the age range of 12-18 years
* Gender balance should be maintained at all levels
* Ensure Inclusiveness (based on different variables applicable to the countries, including ethnicity, religion, geography, caste, class, marginalized situation, abilities, etc)
* Children with disabilities or different abilities
* School going and out of school
* Children who are actively involved in child clubs or networks or similar initiatives around children’s rights or protection
* Children with experience, good understanding and the willingness to work on the issue of Ending all forms of Violence Against Children in all settings
* Children who can participate without compromising their critical events such as studies and exam/training
* Children who can actively participate and contribute into the sessions in bringing learning, discussions and experiences in the forum and contribute back to the national forum by sharing their experiences and learning
* Children who have participated in similar national consultation on VAC at the national level, as is possible to invite and involve them including those who have demonstrated as child/young activists in undertaking/initiating initiatives and campaigns against VAC and are linked and/or affiliated to national government or non-government organizations
* Children who participated in previous SAIEVAC Consultations as facilitators at the national or regional level and particularly the child representatives and observers to the SAIEVAC GB from the respective countries[[1]](#footnote-2) (If applicable) who will be leading as resource persons as and experts representing still at the Regional consultation
* It should be ensured that the child who participate more and lead the session while implementing the agenda of the National Consultation be selected for the Regional Consultation. This will maximize participatory process also making the child feel the ownership of the whole process.

**C. Selection Process:**

* Indentify/map out organizations working on different relevant areas
* Request relevant organizations to select 2 children ( 1 girl & 1 boy) from all possible areas
* Provide clear selection criteria and process to concerned organizations
* Selection process should be democratic process ( through their existing child clubs or selection and nomination by children themselves based on criteria )
* Willingness to participate and contribute to the discussion during the regional consultation
* Have a good understanding and is able to share back on the regional consultation after returning back to the country – is engaged or involved in children networks/organizations or coalitions so that SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat and SAIEVAC Child Participation Advisory Group could be in close communication.

**D. Selection for the Regional Consultation (specific to countries from where children will be selected for the regional Technical Consultation:**

Priority to be given to those children and young people who are already active in advocacy work against violence against children within their communities, schools and shelters including those children from the excluded groups.

Generally, it is encouraged that the selected child participants should include:

* Children in the age range of 12-18 years of age and from marginalized background with experience and understanding on the issue of violence against children and children from alternative care who are already active in awareness raising, peer to peer programmes and on conducting advocacy on violence against children
* Children who are associated with NGOs and coalitions working against violence against children and those that commitment to supporting children in the follow-up actions.

1. So far children from Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka have participated in the capacity of observers and governing board members. So it is suggested that these young people be invited as facilitators or resource persons to lead the sessions. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)