

The United Nations has a Zero Tolerance Policy against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (SEA)

Information Sheet

Sexual exploitation and sexual abuse violate universally recognized international legal norms and standards and have always been unacceptable behavior and prohibited conduct for personnel serving with the United Nations. All United Nations civilian and uniformed personnel must uphold the highest standards of professional and personal conduct.

The United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) is committed to ensuring the highest standards of conduct, professionalism and accountability of all its peacekeeping personnel deployed in Cyprus. UNFICYP personnel and UN contractual workers must treat the local population with respect and dignity at all times. Implicit in this is the requirement to protect civilians, in particular vulnerable groups such as women and children. Sexual exploitation and Sexual Abuse (SEA) are acts of unacceptable behavior and prohibited conduct for all UN personnel.

In October 2003, the Secretary-General of the United Nations released a bulletin on Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (ST/SGB/2003/13). The bulletin outlines the standards of conduct expected from UN personnel and emphasizes the zero tolerance policy against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

What is SEA?

Sexual exploitation means any actual or attempted abuse of position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially, or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.

Sexual abuse means the actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions.

It is strictly prohibited for all UNFICYP personnel to engage in:

- Any act of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, or any other form of sexually humiliating, degrading or exploitative behaviour.
- Any type of sexual activities with children (persons under the age of 18 years). Mistaken belief as to the age of a person is not a defence.
- Use of children or adults to procure sexual services for others.
- Exchange of money, employment, goods or services for sex with prostitutes or others.
- Visit to brothels or an establishment where prostitution and sexual exploitation takes place.

What does SEA look like?

The following film "Serve with Pride" illustrates acts of SEA prohibited by the United Nations:

To View the Trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-o07RGenWc>

To View the Film: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NfMKMCYFgPo>

Where do I report SEA involving UN personnel?

Any cases or suspicions of SEA involving UN personnel should be reported to:

Mail address:	Conduct and Discipline and SEA Team, UNFICYP Headquarters, PO Box 21642, Nicosia 1590
Telephone:	+357-22614441 / +357 99579032
E-mail:	unficyp-cdt@un.org

All allegations should be reported in good faith. All information provided will be treated confidentially, while affording due process to all parties and taking into consideration the safety, security and well-being of the parties involved.