

NATIONAL ACTION AND COORDINATION GROUP FOR ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN, INDIA

A Country Level Civil Society Forum of SAIEVAC



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Newsletter

July to December 2023

ABOUT NACG EVAC INDIA

National Action & Coordination Group for Ending Violence Against Children, India (NACG- EVAC India) is a country-level civil society forum of the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) with a vision that all children irrespective of gender, throughout South Asia enjoy their right to an environment free from all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation, neglect & discrimination. NACG EVAC India is the only network of relevant civil society organizations that represents actors from all the states and thus becomes a truly National-level network.

The NACGs are constituted by child rights organizations including entities that promote children's rights and have a pivotal role in coordinating the EVAC agenda of SAIEVAC at the National level, particularly with the SAIEVAC Government mechanisms. The NACGs have a regionally defined and customized country-specific governance structure. This network, through its long-standing expertise and experience, is in a good position to implement the planned project activity.

The four guiding principles of NACG EVAC India are non-discrimination; devotion to the best interests of the child; the right to a dignified life, survival, and development; and respect for the views of the child. Currently, NACG- EVAC India has its presence across 21 states and 4 Union Territories, accomplished through the concerted efforts of state convenors and dedicated members. They operate under the governance of the Executive Committee (See details at Page 6) and its office bearers, however the entire network functions under the leadership of its chairperson.

FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAIRPERSON



Greetings to all valued Members,

I am delighted to present the latest updates and accomplishments from the NACG EVAC India through this newsletter.

First and foremost, I extend my deepest gratitude to all our dedicated members whose tireless efforts drive our mission of preventing and addressing all forms of neglect, abuse,

exploitation, and violence against children. Your unwavering commitment and passion are the cornerstone of our success.

Over the past year, NACG EVAC India has made remarkable progress in safeguarding and empowering children nationwide. Through our diverse programs and initiatives, we have strived to create safe and nurturing environments where children can thrive and realize their full potential.

In the process of strengthening our network, we have connected with 1248 personnel, including NGOs, government officials, and policymakers across different states. Additionally, through 12 online meetings and events, we engaged with over 1025 individuals. We also successfully conducted a new membership drive, welcoming 429 new members to NACG EVAC India.

Our state chapters have been active in organizing various online and offline state chapters meetings. These gatherings saw the participation of more than 580 individuals who came together to discuss action plans for their respective states. Sincere efforts were made to work in collaboration with various renowned organizations on different themes. Through these partnerships, we have reached 14 states, including Jharkhand, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Delhi, Nagaland, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Assam, and West Bengal. We organized consultations in these states, with a total of 739 children participating both online and offline, reaching over 1850 individuals. Additionally, a National Consultation has been organized in Kolkata to share the best practices adopted in these states.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all our partners and donors whose invaluable support has been pivotal in our achievements. Together, we are effecting tangible change in the lives of countless children.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication and support.

Warm regards

संजय गुप्ता

Sanjay Gupta
Chairperson (NACG EVAC INDIA)

NACG-EVAC INDIA COLLABORATES WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TO STRENGTHEN CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM



In a concerted effort to fortify the child protection system in Haryana, the National Action Coordination Group to End Violence Against Children (NACG- EVAC) India, Haryana Chapter, joined forces with the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Haryana, for a State-Level Stakeholder Consultation held at the Haryana Institute for Public Administration on 4th of July 2023.

The consultation kicked off with a warm welcome from Ms. Gurpreet Kaur, the State Convener of NACG-EVAC India, who outlined the purpose of the event. Mr. Sanjay Gupta, chairperson NACG EVAC India, provided insights into the group's objectives, and Mr. B.K. Goel, a National Board member NACG EVAC India, addressed critical issues affecting children in Haryana.

Chief Guest Smt. Monica Malik (IAS), Director of Women and Child Development, stressed upon the need for a unanimous effort to safeguard children's rights.

Participants discussed challenges such as adoption delays, biased mindsets affecting collaboration, documentation problems for slum kids, and concerns related to Dark Net and cyber security.

The session delved into access to various schemes, providing valuable information on child-centric initiatives and education department facilities.

Key discussion included addressing the ban on NGOs' entry into schools, clarifying the age limit for specific schemes, seeking more clarity on the POCSO act, and confirming no Aadhaar card requirement for school admission. Representatives from various CSRs engaged in a discussion on CSR laws,

bridging the gap between corporates and NGOs, role of social workers and front-line workers in CSR teams.

The consultation yielded key takeaways, emphasizing the importance of generating awareness about government schemes, strengthening government systems through shared information and ideas, and providing a platform for stakeholders to discuss challenges and find solutions. Mrs. Chandralekha Mukherjee, Director General of the Haryana Institute of Public Administration, appreciated the consultation's impact, agreed to its frequency, and highlighted the importance of addressing anxiety and mental illness.

This collaborative effort between NACG EVAC and the Government of Haryana marks a significant step toward ensuring the well-being and protection of children in the state.

SUCCESSFUL STATE CHAPTER MEETING OF NACG EVAC INDIA ODISHA CHAPTER



The NACG EVAC India Odisha chapter conducted its State Chapter meeting under the leadership of its State Convener, Shri Prakash Rath. The meeting witnessed the active participation of more than 15 members who engaged in discussions regarding the state action plan. Despite geographical constraints, Shri Sanjay Gupta, Chairperson of NACG EVAC India, joined the meeting online and delivered an address to the members. This collaborative effort underscores the dedication and commitment of the NACG-EVAC INDIA towards its objectives, ensuring that important discussions and plans are carried out effectively.

MOBILIZATION OF STAKEHOLDERS TO COMBAT CHILD LABOUR THROUGH CONSULTATION ON COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN



In a landmark collaborative effort, the National Action Coordination Group to End Violence Against Children (NACG EVAC India) convened a crucial stakeholder consultation at the India International Centre (IIC) to address the pervasive issue of child labour. The meeting, held on July 26, 2023, brought together a diverse array of stakeholders, including government representatives, NGOs, legal entities, academicians, children, and the media personnel.

Mr. Sanjay Gupta, the chairperson of NACG EVAC India, set the stage by outlining the NACG EVAC India's objectives, focusing on thematic issues such as Child Labour, Child Marriage, Child Trafficking, Corporal Punishment, Child Sexual Abuse, and Exploitation. The meeting was marked by Mrs. Madhavi Kotwal Samson, State Convenor NACG EVAC Delhi Chapter, who initiated discussions referencing a recent child labour case in Dwarka, Delhi.

The stakeholders delved into crucial topics, emphasizing the need for a common National Child Protection Policy. Discussions also

revolved around the active involvement of Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) in reporting such cases to the police. The meeting underscored the vigilant role of local Child Protection Committees.

Representatives from various organizations shared valuable insights and recommendations. Mr. Varun Pathak from the Child Welfare Committee highlighted the sensitivity of the issue, while Mr. H.K. Chetty from the Ashadeep Foundation stressed the importance of amending and implementing the existing National Child Protection Policy. Mr. Vishwajeet Ghosal from Prayas NGO emphasized the need to involve RWAs and community members in raising awareness about child labour norms.

Ms. Naseem Khan from Cequin, shed light on the evolving challenges of child labour due to technological advancements and social media, stressing the importance of differentiating child labour in various contexts.

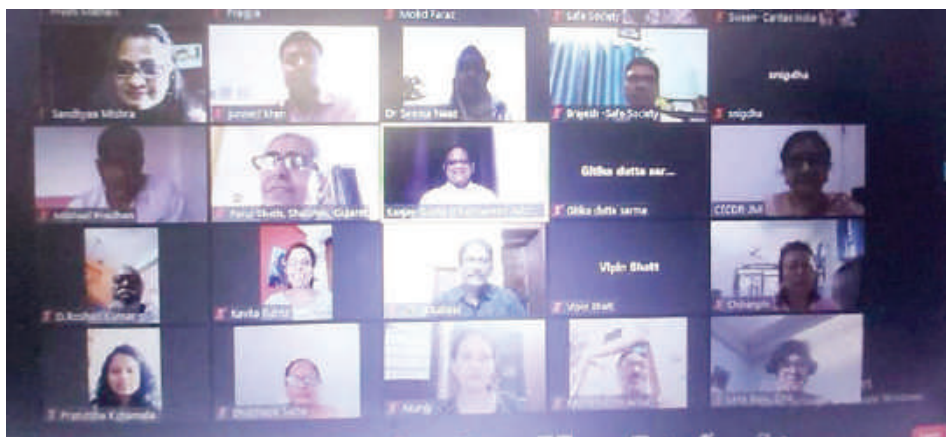
Participants discussed the need for a trade union policy, drawing inspiration from successful practices in different

countries. Ms. Itishree from the Asia Regional Child Labour Project shared insights from these countries, where scouts and RWAs actively raised awareness and identified houses without child labour. Lawyer, Mr. Anant Kumar Asthana highlighted the 2021 amendments to the labour code, suggesting specific points for discussion with the government.

Participants stressed the importance of understanding the root causes of child labour, reviewing existing policies, and bridging the gaps between policies and their implementation. The meeting emphasized the necessity of a district child protection policy, creating awareness at the ground level, and engaging RWAs in the process.

In conclusion, the stakeholder consultation underscored the urgency of addressing child labour through collaborative efforts, policy advocacy, and the active involvement of various stakeholders at different levels. The commitment of diverse stakeholders reflects a collective responsibility to end the menace of child labour and ensure a safer future for the nation's children.

"NATIONAL CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY REVITALIZED: A UNITED EFFORT FOR INCLUSIVE PROTECTION"



On August 8, 2023, in a comprehensive online meeting of the NACG EVAC India and various organizations collaboratively worked to reshape the National Child Protection Policy established in December 2018. Led by Mr. Sanjay Gupta NACG EVAC chairperson, the meeting produced a multitude of insightful suggestions aimed at enhancing the policy's efficacy. Recommendations ranged from altering the document's title to "Child Safeguarding" for greater inclusivity,

refining definitions of key terms, and expanding the policy's scope to encompass diverse institutions, including religious ones, hostels, and even restaurants. Notable additions included addressing mental and emotional issues, specifying jurisdictional extents, incorporating state commitments akin to Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh policies, and ensuring gender inclusivity throughout the document.

The vision and mission sections were emphasized for more clarity, with a call

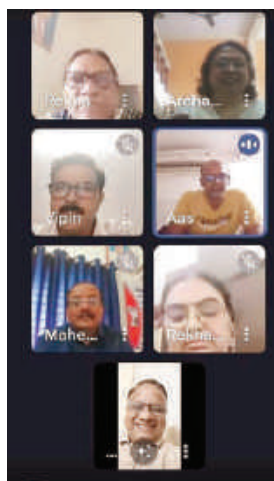
to define categories of children based on the Juvenile Justice Act and a focus on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The guidelines proposed separate documents for policy and guidelines, meticulous operationalization, clear terminology explanations, and comprehensive redressal policies. Recommendations extended to include children's voices, cyber-crime considerations, and the safeguarding of children affected by the tourism industry.

Additionally, the need for region-specific policies, implementation at various organizational levels, coherence with legislation, and detailed monitoring and evaluation processes were underscored. The annexure section saw calls for an elaborated declaration, definitions, and terms, as well as commitments from institutions and organizations. This collaborative effort signifies a significant step toward reinforcing child protection nationwide, acknowledging diverse vulnerabilities, and ensuring the policy's adaptability to evolving challenges.

NACG EVAC INDIA MADHYA PRADESH CHAPTER GOT ESTABLISHED AND CONVENED ITS FIRST MEETING

In a significant development, the National Action and Coordination Group for Ending Violence against Children (NACG EVAC), Madhya Pradesh Chapter conducted its state meeting on October 12, spearheaded by Mrs. Archana Sahay, State Convenor.

With a focus on efficiency, members discussed the need to create sub-committees to address key issues. Proactive steps were taken to ensure a strategic approach to problem-solving. Members delved into crucial topics, emphasizing the importance of addressing cross-cutting issues such as education and child sexual abuse. The discussions aimed at formulating comprehensive



strategies for effective intervention.

Acknowledging the growing interest in NACG EVAC India, it was discussed that several members have applied for membership. Their names will be shared and added to the group, fostering a more inclusive coalition. The meeting witnessed the active participation of notable individuals including Mr. Wasim Iqbal, Mr. Mahendra, Ms. Rekha Gujre, Mr. Vipin Das, Ms. Rekha Sridhar, Mr. Arun Satalkar, Ms. Preeti Nair, and Mr. Sanjay Gupta. This gathering underscored the commitment of NACG EVAC Madhya Pradesh Chapter to address critical issues impacting children and promote collaborative efforts for positive change.

RETHINKING AGE OF CONSENT FOR THE WELL-BEING OF GIRLS - A SPECIAL WEBINAR ON INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD

The webinar, "Age of Consent in the Best Interest of Children," convened on 11 October 2023, marked the occasion of International Girl Child Day. The event was organized by the Campaign against Child Marriage (CACM) in collaboration with NACG EVAC India under the aegis of SAIEVAC, reflecting a concerted effort to address legal nuances surrounding the age of consent and their impact on children.

Prof. DP Verma, Member of the Law Commission of India, delivered a compelling keynote, emphasizing the significance of the recently released Law Commission of India Report No. 283. Dr. Rinchen Chopel, Director General at SAIEVAC and a distinguished representative from the UNCRC, provided a global perspective on child rights and their intersection with the legal frameworks discussed. Mr. Sanjay Gupta, Chairperson of NACG EVAC India, and Dr. Vikram Srivastava, Advocate and Founder of



Independent Thought, moderated a dynamic discussion. The conversation delved into nuanced aspects of the Law Commission's recommendations, the interplay with existing legislations such as PCMA and POCSO, and strategies for effective implementation. The webinar provided a comprehensive platform for legal experts, scholars, practitioners, and activists to engage in a meaningful dialogue on age of

consent laws and their implications on children's well-being. As the event aligned with International Girl Child Day, it underscored the collective commitment to ensuring a secure and supportive environment for children in South Asia. The insights shared by the distinguished speakers and moderators will undoubtedly contribute to ongoing discussions and efforts aimed at ending violence against children in the region.

DEVELOPING UNDERSTANDING ON UNCRC FUNCTIONS AND SAIEVAC

On November 4th, NACG EVAC India organized a dialogue with Dr. Rinchen Chopel, Director General SAIEVAC and Vice Chair of UNCRC committee and Mr. Sanjay Gupta, discussing how both UNCRC and SAIEVAC can connect with NACG EVAC to aid at the ground level. Dr. Rinchen Chopel explained about UNCRC, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, serves as a comprehensive international treaty outlining children's civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, ensuring fair treatment and access to their entitlements. SAIEVAC, the South Asia Initiative to End Violence



Against Children, offers a platform for South Asian countries to exchange experiences and develop strategies

to combat various forms of violence faced by children in the region. He added that both frameworks are crucial in upholding children's rights, fostering collaboration between governments and organizations to create safer environments for children to thrive. It's imperative for society to uphold these commitments and work towards a world where every child can live free from violence and discrimination, recognizing the moral imperative alongside the legal framework provided by UNCRC and SAIEVAC. In last he ensured that SAIEVAC and UNCRC are keen to work in collaboration with NACG EVAC India. Dr. Chopel shared the hierarchy and making procedure of NACG EVAC .Mr. Sanjay Gupta shared NACG EVAC India workdoneand planning for the next year.

NACG EVAC INDIA PARTICIPATED IN DYNAMIC DISCUSSION AT NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON PREVENTING AND ADDRESSING ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (OCSE) IN CHENNAI



In a significant step towards combating the rising concern of Online Child Sexual Exploitation (OCSE), the Children of India Foundation orchestrated a National Consultation in Chennai on September 27th, 2023. This event brought together a diverse group of experts, stakeholders, and youth ambassadors across the nation, fostering collaboration and understanding of this pressing issue.

The primary objective of the National Consultation was to comprehensively understand the various dimensions of OCSE and its implications in different states of India. Participants shared regional insights, collectively building a holistic understanding of the problem at hand.

The event provided a platform for participants to share their experiences, best practices, and innovative approaches in addressing OCSE. Stakeholders and experts engaged in discussions, emphasizing the importance of learning from each

other's successes and challenges for collective progress.

With an ambitious goal to create a unified agenda for systemic change in addressing OCSE nationwide, the consultation aimed to lay the groundwork for collective action. The collaborative effort sought to bring about a comprehensive strategy to combat this grave issue affecting the country's youth.

Prominent members of the NACG EVAC India such as Mr. Sanjay Mishra, Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Mr. Y K Gautam, Mr. Victor Raj, and Mr. M. M Sinha shared their views at the event and lent their expertise to the discussions.

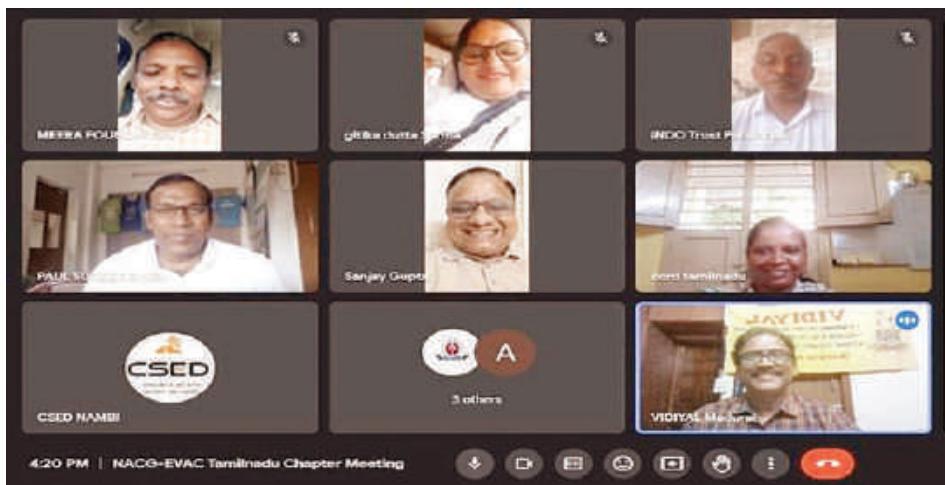
Mr. Sanjay Gupta, Chairperson of NACG EVAC India, and Mr. Vikram Srivastava, Technical Advisor at SAIEVAC, played pivotal roles in chairing different sessions. The event also witnessed a keynote address by Dr. Rinchen Chopel, Director-General of SAIEVAC, providing valuable insights into the gravity of the issue.

International organizations such as Terre des hommes, Thangaperumal Ponpandi, and UNICEF India actively participated in the discussions, highlighting the global importance of addressing OCSE and ensuring the safety of children.

Executive Body of NACG EVAC India

Sl.No.	Name	Designation	Organisation
1	Mr. Sanjay Gupta	Chairperson	Childhood Enhancement through training & Action (CHETNA)
2	Mr. P Joseph Victor Raj	Vice Chairperson	HOPE
3	Ms. Gitika Dutta Sarma	Vice Chairperson	Society for Human Development
4	Mr. D Roshan Kumar	Treasurer	Social Educational and Economic Development Society (SEEDS)
5	Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mohanty	Member	People's Cultural Centre (PECUC)
6	Mr. Manabendranath Mandal	Member	Socio Legal Aid Research & Training Centre (SLARTC)
7	Mr. Prakash Kumar Rath	Member	Open Learning Systems
8	Dr. Indrani Bhattacharyaa	Member	Child in Need Institute (CINI)
9	Ms. Parul Seth	Member	SHAIHAV
10	Ms. NK Keny	Member	LOVE CARE HOME
11	Ms. D Swarnalatha	Member	Light for Blind

TAMIL NADU CHAPTER MEETING PROPELS COMMITMENT TO ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN



In a significant virtual gathering on the Google Meet platform 12 member organizations actively participated in the meeting of the NACG - EVAC Tamil Nadu Chapter.

The meeting commenced with a warm welcome note by Dr. C. Jim Jesudoss, the State Convenor. Mr. Sanjay Gupta, Chairperson of NACG EVAC India, provided an insightful orientation on the unique aspects of NACG, highlighting its distinctive approach to collaborating with government systems

and structures. Emphasizing the potential to influence government policies through shared expertise, Mr. Gupta instilled a sense of hope among the attendees. Greetings were also shared by Ms. Gitika Dutta Sarma, and Mr. Joseph Victor Raj, who provided a brief history of NACG-EVAC India and encouraged active participation in thematic groups.

Three pivotal suggestions were presented for consideration. Firstly, a proposal was made to implement

specific Terms of Reference (TOR) for each sub-committee, aiming to augment the engagement of member organizations more effectively. Secondly, there was a recommendation to formulate a comprehensive roadmap that would establish connections between national sub-committees and state-level thematic groups, fostering seamless collaboration and information exchange. Lastly, a crucial suggestion was put forth to establish a new subcommittee dedicated to addressing concerns related to 'Online Safety,' underscoring the growing importance of tackling challenges in the digital realm.

Dr. Rinchen Chopel from SAIEVAC, representatives from Terre des hommes, and UNICEF India, extended their support to the efforts undertaken by the NACG-EVAC Tamil Nadu Chapter.

The meeting exemplified a significant stride towards fostering collaboration, sharing expertise, and collectively working towards the common goal of ending violence against children. The resolve of the NACG-EVAC Tamil Nadu Chapter reflects a united front in addressing this critical issue on both state and national levels.

NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS- SPOTLIGHTS INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS' ACCESS TO WATER & SANITATION

On 25th July Mr. Sanjay Gupta Chairperson NACG EVAC India participated in a National consultation on significant steps towards fostering dialogue on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and amplifying the voices of Indigenous Women and Girls, at Nagaland House, R.K.Puram, New Delhi. The event was organized by Sisterhood Network and supported by Ms. Azungla James, Director of Sisterhood Network and National Board Member of NACG EVAC India, Nagaland Chapter.

The consultation drew the participation of over 25 members, creating a vibrant platform for discussions on the crucial topic of water and sanitation accessibility for Indigenous Women and Girls. The event shed light on the challenges faced by these communities in achieving SDGs related to water and sanitation and emphasized the need for targeted strategies and interventions.

Ms. Azungla James, shared that her organization Sisterhood Network, played a pivotal role in orchestrating the event. Her vision for inclusivity and empowerment was

evident throughout the consultation, fostering an environment conducive to meaningful conversations and shared insights.

Various experts, activists, and community leaders engaged in fruitful discussions, sharing experiences and best practices to address the unique challenges faced by Indigenous Women and Girls in accessing water and sanitation facilities. The exchange of ideas aimed at developing and achieving sustainable solutions, and advocating for policies that prioritize the needs of these marginalized communities.

TRIPURA STATE CHAPTER UNVEILS AMBITIOUS PLANS VIA MEETING

In a proactive move towards safeguarding the rights of children, the NACG EVAC Tripura State Chapter convened a crucial meeting on October 15, 2023.

The meeting presided over by Tripura State Convener of NACG EVAC Dr. Sreelekha Ray, saw active participation not only from existing members but also welcomed representatives from various other organizations dedicated to child welfare. The meeting kicked off with a comprehensive discussion on the five thematic areas outlined by the NACG - EVAC Child Marriage, Child Labour, Corporal Punishment, Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, and Child Trafficking.

Following the in-depth deliberation on these critical themes, the NACG EVAC Tripura State Chapter unanimously decided to join forces for the "Child Marriage Free India Campaign." The campaign is set to unfold on October 16th and 18th, 2023,



across all eight districts of Tripura. Given Tripura's second position in the country regarding child marriage, the commitment extends to a year-long initiative dedicated to preventing child marriages.

Addressing the current membership scenario, with only seven organizations onboard, the meeting resolved to actively

work towards expanding the Tripura State Chapter. The ambitious target is to enlist a minimum of two members from each district, in-total at least sixteen new members within the next three months. While simultaneously addressing other thematic issues, the primary focus will remain on the "Prevention of Child Marriage."

WEST BENGAL STATE CHAPTER ORGANIZED A STATE-LEVEL SYMPOSIUM IN KOLKATA

Under the dynamic leadership of Mr. Manabendra Nath Mondal, convener NACG EVAC West Bengal state chapter, a collective effort has been initiated to address critical issues related to child welfare. The event successfully brought together 40 dedicated members from 10 districts of West Bengal. These members, equipped with in-depth knowledge on the theme of Ending Child Marriage, collaborated to establish a more structured approach in support of the national objectives set by the NACG EVAC India.

The primary focus of the event was to tackle pressing issues such as Child Marriage, Corporal Punishment, Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, Trafficking, Child Labour, and cross-cutting issues like Child Participation and Children with disability. Mr. Manabendra Nath Mondal, as the Executive Director



of SLARTC, played a pivotal role in guiding the discussions and facilitating a comprehensive approach towards addressing these challenges.

Eminent speakers, including Dr.

Samir Chaudhuri, Founder Secretary of CINI, Mr. Sarfraz Ahmed Khan, Associates Professor at NUJS, Ms. Baitali Ganguly, Secretary of Jabala, Dr. Jyotsna Jalan from CSSS, and Dr. Shubhrajyoti Mukherjee from Samikshani, shared their invaluable thoughts and guidance.

The event aimed to foster collaboration and synergy among diverse stakeholders, ultimately striving for a brighter future for children. Mr. Sanjay Gupta, the Chairperson of NACG EVAC India, addressed the members online, emphasizing the importance of collective efforts in achieving child protection goals. Child in Need Institute (CINI), as an active participant in this initiative, demonstrated its commitment to the cause. The event underscored the significance of coordinated action in addressing the multifaceted challenges affecting children and echoed the collective determination to work towards a brighter and safer future.

A SUMMIT FOR COLLABORATIVE ACTIONS FOR A SECURE FUTURE OF CHILDREN

In a significant initiative towards securing the future of children, a state-level stakeholder's consultation, titled "Samagam 23", was organized in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on 19th November 2023. This collaborative effort, spearheaded by NACG-EVAC India in collaboration with Safe Society, aimed to address crucial issues concerning child welfare. The summit provided a platform for discussing and formulating strategies for the holistic development of children, with a particular focus on child education, combating child labour and trafficking, child health and nutrition, and addressing the challenge of child marriage.

The summit's agenda encompassed several pivotal topics, reflecting the multifaceted nature of challenges faced by children. One of the core discussions centered around "Combating Child Labour and Trafficking: Strategies, Challenges, and Collaborative Solutions." Stakeholders deliberated on effective measures to eliminate child labour and trafficking, identifying challenges and formulating collaborative solutions to address these issues comprehensively.

Another crucial area of focus was "Child Health and Nutrition: Priorities,



Interventions, and Partnerships for a Brighter Future." Participants engaged in discussions to prioritize initiatives that enhance child health and nutrition, emphasizing the need for strategic interventions and collaborative partnerships to ensure a healthier and brighter future for children.

The summit also underscored the importance of empowering youth in addressing societal issues. A dedicated session titled "Empowering Youth: Addressing Child Marriage, Social Security Schemes, and Special Children's Facilities" delved into the complexities of child marriage, discussed the implementation of social security schemes, and highlighted the necessity of creating specialized



facilities for children with unique needs.

The event garnered significant attention, with a total of 220 individuals in attendance. Notable figures, including Mr. Brijesh Pathak Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh and Smt. Pratibha Shukla the Minister of State for Women Welfare and Child Development from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, actively participated in the consultation. Their presence reflected the commitment of the state government to collaborate with various stakeholders in ensuring the well-being and secure future of children.

The "Samagam23" consultation served as a valuable platform for fostering dialogue, sharing insights, and building partnerships among diverse stakeholders. By addressing key issues such as child education, child labour and trafficking, child health and nutrition, and child marriage, the summit aimed to contribute to shaping a more secure and promising future for the children of Uttar Pradesh.

"ADDRESSING CHILD WELFARE AT THE FOREFRONT: NACG EVAC INDIA PARTICIPATED IN CONSULTATION PRIORITIZING CHILDCARE BEYOND G20"

NACG EVAC India Chairperson Participated in Consultation Prioritizing Childcare Beyond G20.

On November 23, 2023, the Chairperson of NACG EVAC India actively participated in a crucial consultation on prioritizing childcare beyond the G20 framework. The event, organized by "Forces", took place at the prestigious India International Centre, fostering a platform for extensive discussions and valuable input. The consultation brought together diverse stakeholders, experts, and advocates with a shared commitment to elevating



the discourse around childcare and advancing strategies beyond the G20 context.

During the session, participants engaged in substantive discussions, sharing insights and perspectives on prioritizing childcare to ensure the well-

being and protection of children on a global scale. Mr. Sanjay Gupta Chairperson of NACG EVAC India highlighted the NACG EVAC India's unwavering commitment to ending violence against children. This commitment aligns with the broader mission, emphasizing collaborative efforts and advocating for policies that safeguard children's rights and promote a secure and nurturing environment. The consultation underscored the critical importance of collective action in shaping policies and initiatives that prioritize the well-being of children beyond the G20 agenda.

COLLABORATION WITH MIRACLE FOUNDATION: STATE LEVEL CONSULTATION ON CHILD PROTECTION WITH FOCUS ON CARE REFORMS IN JHARKHAND

The Consultation on Child Protection and Family Strengthening held in Ranchi Jharkhand on December 07, 2023 provided a platform for stakeholders to converge and address critical issues pertaining to child welfare in the state. Organized by the National Action and Coordination Group to End Violence Against Children (NACG EVAC) India, Miracle Foundation India, and the Jharkhand State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (JSCPCR), the event aimed to foster dialogue, share experiences, and identify strategies to enhance the well-being of children.

The proceedings began with a registration process facilitated by Team NACG EVAC Jharkhand, followed by a warm welcome extended by Mr. Sunil Kumar Verma, Member of JSCPCR, setting a positive tone for the discussions ahead. The ceremonial lighting of the lamp, graced by esteemed dignitaries including Smt Kajal Yadav, Chairperson of JSCPCR, and Shri Kripanand Jha, Secretary of WCD & SS, Government of Jharkhand, symbolized a commitment to enlightenment and dedication towards child protection.

Shri Sanjay Kumar Mishra, Jharkhand State Convenor of NACG EVAC India,



provided an overview of the event objectives and expected outcomes, while Shri Sanjay Gupta, Chairperson of NACG EVAC India, introduced the organizations and their initiatives in child protection. The NACG EVAC Jharkhand Team further showcased promising initiatives in child protection within the state. Insightful addresses were delivered by Smt Kajal Yadav, Chairperson of JSCPCR, and Mr. Rinchen Chopel, Director General SAIEVAC, Vice Chair UNCRC Committee, shedding light on the current scenario and future prospects of child protection. Shri Kripanand Jha, Secretary of WCD & SS, Government of Jharkhand, delivered a keynote speech highlighting key challenges and strategies in child protection.

Esteemed dignitaries felicitated changemakers and frontline workers for their commendable efforts in child protection, acknowledging their pivotal role in safeguarding children's rights.



Representatives from various divisions engaged in a fruitful discussion on family strengthening and non-institutional care practices, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange.

An interactive Q/A session allowed participants to seek clarifications and engage in further discussions, enriching the dialogue on child protection strategies. The event concluded with a group photograph capturing the collective commitment towards child protection and family strengthening in Jharkhand. Overall, the consultation served as a catalyst for collaborative action, bringing together stakeholders from diverse backgrounds to collectively work towards ensuring the well-being and rights of children in Jharkhand.

WITH THE SUPPORT OF CINI, NACG EVAC STATE CHAPTERS ORGANIZED 12 STATE CONSULTATIONS ON TOPIC ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

A collaborative initiative between NACG EVAC India and CINI (Child in Need Institute), consultations on the pivotal topic of "Environment and Climate Change" were organized across 12 states in India. These states include Delhi, Nagaland, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar, Assam, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal. The concerted effort aimed at fostering meaningful discussions and engagement among the children, empowering them to contribute actively to environmental conservation and address the challenges posed by climate change. By bringing together diverse perspectives from different regions, these consultations aspire to amplify the impact of young voices in shaping sustainable solutions and advocating for a resilient and ecologically balanced future.

Delhi witnessed a crucial State Consultation on Climate Change on



November 25, 2023. Organized by ABHAS organization and supported by CINI and NACG EVAC India, the event aimed to address the alarming environmental issues affecting children in the region. The consultation featured presentations, discussions, and activities involving 42 children from 12 NGOs who actively engaged in proposing recommendations to combat environmental degradation in Delhi, focusing on topics such as waste management, the impact of climate change

on education and health, and measures to address air pollution.

In the breakout sessions, children passionately articulated their thoughts and concerns, emphasizing the need for stricter enforcement of environmental protection laws, increased citizen participation, and inclusion in the formulation and implementation of laws addressing environmental concerns. The consultation concluded with the selection of a child representative, elected democratically by their peers, who will represent their collective voice at the National Consultation on Children's Rights to Environment and Climate Change in Kolkata. The event highlighted the significance of considering children's perspectives in addressing environmental challenges and the urgency of collaborative efforts for a cleaner and sustainable future.

CONFRONTING CHILD LABOUR: A COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW AND COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES



The Consultation on Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour in West Bengal, held at Hotel The Stadel, Kolkata, on December 20, 2023, was a significant gathering of stakeholders committed to addressing the pervasive issue of child labour. The event commenced with an inaugural session led by Mr. Meghendra Banerjee of Child in Need Institution (CINI), expressing gratitude to the NACG EVAC team. Shri Manabendra Nath Mondal, Convenor of NACG EVAC, West Bengal, outlined the current landscape of child labour, emphasizing the complexities and proposing urgent measures.

Shri Sanjay Gupta, Chairperson of NACG EVAC, India, highlighted the NACG EVAC's vision and mission, focusing on the multifaceted approach to eliminate violence against children. Dr. Rinchen Chopel, Director General of SAIEVAC, provided insights into the regional context, emphasizing the need for global collaboration.

The Technical Session featured discussions on a Regional Action Plan to eradicate child labour, addressing key

issues such as education, poverty, and multi-agency collaboration. Representatives from Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Boards shared their perspectives on enforcement mechanisms and rehabilitation methods.

A panel of media professionals discussed the role of journalism in reporting on child labour, emphasizing the importance of ethical reporting and maintaining dignity. Survivors shared their impactful experiences, showcasing the transformative impact of community efforts and support in reintegration. The panel discussion with NACG Members and NGO Representatives highlighted challenges, systemic issues, and the need for comprehensive efforts from the government. Recommendations included strengthening social security documentation, life skill generation programs, and targeted strategies for adolescents.

In the concluding remarks, Smt. Manisha Bhattacharyya, the Additional Labour Commissioner, underscored the profound impact of child labour on physical and mental well-being, calling for a nuanced, comprehensive approach.

The session concluded with gratitude expressed by Ms. Lena Dasgupta, accompanied by Rabindra Sangeet, leaving an inspirational resonance. The consultation served as a crucial platform for collaboration and discourse, fostering a collective commitment to combat child labour and ensure the well-being of every child.



EMPOWERING VOICES: "NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE"

On December 19, 2023, Mr. Sanjay Gupta, the Chairperson of NACG EVAC India, actively participated in the "National Consultation on Environment & Climate Change." This enlightening event, organized by the Child in Need Institute (CINI), served as a platform for children to express their perspectives on the profound impact of environmental changes. Jointly NACG-EVAC India, CINI and state chapters has previously conducted children consultations in 12 states, providing young minds with an opportunity to articulate their views on the environment. The National Consultation brought together the collective wisdom and insights gained from these state-level consultations. Children from diverse backgrounds and regions shared their thoughts, concerns, and aspirations regarding the changing environment. The event aimed to empower the voices of the future generation, recognizing their unique perspectives and valuable contributions to discussions on environmental sustainability. Mr. Sanjay Gupta, as the witness to this knowledgeable gathering, highlighted the significance of integrating children's viewpoints into dialogues about environmental change.

UNIFIED EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND ERADICATE CHILD LABOUR IN BIHAR

In Patna, December 18, 2023 - A landmark gathering at Chanakya National Law University (CNLU), leaders and experts convened to discuss and strategize the prevention and eradication of child labour in Bihar. The collaborative efforts of the Jan Jagran Sansthan NACG-EVAC Bihar Chapter, Child Labour Commission, International Labour Organization, Child Rights Centre, CNLU, and Jan-Jagran Sansthan, Patna, marked a significant step towards addressing this critical issue.

The program, graced by Dr. Chakrapani Himanshu, Chairman of the Child Labour Commission, witnessed comprehensive discussions led by Prof. Dr. SP Singh, Registrar CNLU. The event brought together government officials for child welfare and non-governmental organizations operating



across all 38 districts of Bihar.

Mr. Sanjay Gupta, Chairperson of NACG-EVAC India, presented an overview of the collaboration between NACG EVAC India and International Labour Organization. He also facilitated the session on SAIEVAC's perspective on sharing about regional action

plan to eradicate child labour. Dr. Rinchan Chopel, Director General SAIEVAC, participated through video call, emphasizing the importance of collaboration.

Dr. Chakrapani Himanshu, in his role as the chief guest, emphasized the shared responsibility in addressing and resolving the child labour issue, acknowledging that it is not solely the government's responsibility other stakeholder's too need to work on this issue. The workshop concluded with Mr. Chandan Kumar, the Program Coordinator of CRC, CNLU, delivering a vote of gratitude. The event marked a pivotal moment in the fight against child labour in Bihar, as stakeholders unite to address the root causes and implement effective strategies for prevention and eradication.

"INSIDE THE MEDIA SPOTLIGHT: EXPLORING STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS' EXTENSIVE COVERAGE!"

The power of media in effecting necessary changes cannot be understated. Recognizing this potential, media presence was integrated into all programs, ensuring extensive coverage of stake-

holder consultations through newspapers and digital platforms. This concerted effort aimed to raise pertinent issues within the community, directing attention to government departments and civil bodies. Moreover, proactive

measures were taken to leverage social media platforms such as Facebook and LinkedIn. Over 30 updates across these channels were executed to foster awareness and disseminate information globally. This multifaceted approach not only facilitated engagement within the local context but also amplified the reach of initiatives on a wider scale.

RWAs to help govt check child labour

Atul Mathur@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: With a number of cases of people employing children as domestic help and torturing them coming to light, the Delhi government has decided to engage with resident welfare associations to check child labour.

The labour department has issued an advisory to RWAs to sensitise people to avoid employing underage boys and girls as domestic workers. The government has also advised people to check if the placement agency through which they hire domestic help is registered.

A senior Delhi government official said employment of child labour was not only a social and economic menace but was also prohibited under Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, and Delhi Private Placement Agencies (Regulation) Order, 2014.

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"We have noticed a few cases of children being employed as domestic help. Scared of them, the employers even treat them badly. Since neighbours are the first ones to get to know if there is a case of child labour in their residential area, we have issued an advisory to the RWAs to sensitise their members," said the official.

"Our officials will get in touch with the RWA members too. We are also trying to ensure that no illegal placement agency works and that's why we have made police verification mandatory for them," the official added.

Sanjay Gupta, director of Chetna and chairperson of National Action and Coordination Group for Ending Violence Against Children, said he was happy that their recommendation to rope in RWAs to curb child labour had been considered by the labour department.

"In many prominent locations in Delhi, children can be seen working as domestic helpers, rag pickers, dog helpers, etc. RWAs can play an important role as a whistle blower. Putting up hoardings at prominent places advising people against child labour, quarterly review meetings with the labour department with RWAs and active vigilance can be helpful," Gupta said.

INSIDE THE MEDIA

How to ensure kids are protected? Forum to give suggestions

Aditi Anand@timesgroup.com

Chairman: The National Action and Coordination Group for Ending Violence Against Children (NACG-EVAC India) held a forum of the South Asian Association for Human Rights (SAAAR) in New Delhi on Tuesday to discuss the role and responsibility of RWAs in protecting children from child labour and trafficking.

NACG, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MOL) and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), organised the forum. The forum was held in the presence of the Union Minister for Labour and Employment, Shri. Anandiben Patel, and the Chairperson of NCPCR, Shri. Anandiben Patel.

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NACG-EVAC INDIA BOARD MEMBER SAYS

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RWAs asked to keep watch on child labour

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'Govt should rope in RWAs to curb child labour, amend law'

ACTIVIST SAYS

The number of cases of child labour in both brick kilns and other sectors has increased in the last few years.

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बाल श्रम उन्मूलन की निगरानी आयोग के साथ करीगा सीआरसी सीएनएलएयू

एनएचआर, एनएचआरएल और एनएचआरएलएल के अध्यक्षों का एक बैठक में बाल श्रम उन्मूलन की निगरानी आयोग के साथ करीगा सीआरसी सीएनएलएयू।

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घातमन कि रोक्थान एवं उन्मूलन पर एकदिवसीय कार्यशाला आयोजित

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झारखंड में बालकों की देखरेख संस्थान (सीसीआई) को बोर्डिंग स्कूल की तरह चलाने की है जरूरत : जिला जज

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पानीपत

बाल संरक्षण हितधारक परामर्श कार्यक्रम में शामिल सुधा झा ने पानीपत जिले में संबंधित समस्या एवं कुछ सुझाव प्रस्तुत किए