

Policy Handbook: Advancing Institutional Child Protection: The One-Stop Centre Model as an Intervention Tool to Support Survivors of Violence

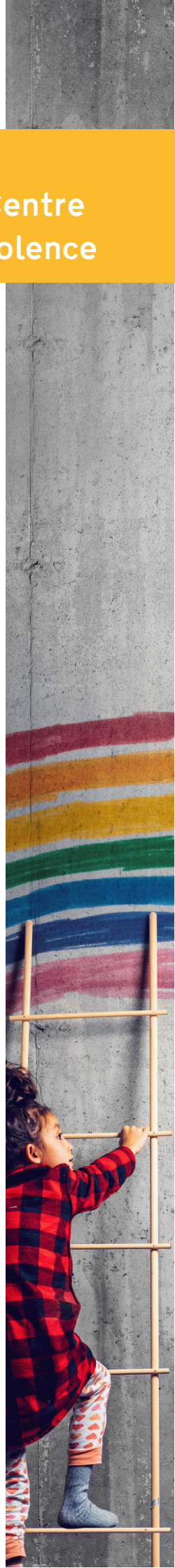
Introduction to the topic

Every child should be living free from violence!

Violence against Children (VAC) is spread worldwide, yet only a fraction is reported and investigated. This is due to a combination of issues, such as weak child protection systems, inadequate reporting systems, shame, stigma, apathy, and potential repercussions, but also simply because children, especially very young children, may lack the capacity to report. Cases of VAC often occur due to wide-range acceptance. Yet, despite these attitudes of acceptance, VAC has persistently proven to be a complex issue causing devastating, long-lasting, adverse, and multidimensional effects. Prevention is paramount and is and always should be at the forefront of ending VAC.

One-Stop Center Models as an Intervention Tool

A **One-Stop Centre (OSC)** is a good example of multisectoral and interagency collaboration responding to cases of VAC that is incorporated into a **Child Protection System (CPS)**. It provides various services under one umbrella institution to respond to both the immediate and long-term needs of victims. These services include four main elements: **social welfare services, psychological services, medical and medico-legal services, as well criminal investigation provided by law enforcement and legal services.** With all services located under one roof, it is the main goal of an OSC to **prevent the retraumatisation and revictimisation** of survivors of VAC.



International Examples

Throughout the world, OSCs have been implemented across many **different national contexts**. As there have been no uniform nor harmonised global standards, these centres have manifested in different ways and bear unique characteristics. Importantly, whilst the term 'OSC' can be considered an umbrella concept, all centres studied in this brochure have envisioned a multidisciplinary response to VAC. As such, with the aim of **preventing retraumatisation and revictimisation**, they have engaged in coordinated services from sectors such as social welfare, child protection, medicine, and more calling for institutional accountability of OSCs. The OSCs in this brochure have been selected as they explicitly target child survivors of VAC in their mandates and have been evaluated to some degree. As this model has been commonly implemented across many African and Asian countries, the majority of the examples listed in the brochure stem from these two continents, although, similar approaches have also been identified in other regions, and these are also highlighted. Additionally, it is worth bearing in mind that countries that have not implemented OSCs do have other child protection interventions in place.

Recommendations

- A children rights-based approach that recognises every child as a unique, respected, and protected rights-bearing individual with dignity and integrity, is paramount to the functioning of OSCs responding to VAC
- As VAC is a multifaceted problem, coordination and cooperation must also be safeguarded at the institutional level between ministries
- States should adopt a protocol on the minimum standards required in the multidisciplinary and interagency provision of services at OSCs
- To reduce anxiety and retraumatisation, it is fundamental that OSCs provide an environment for children to feel and be safe and secure
- OSCs must be equipped with a centralised and digitalised data management system
- It is the responsibility of the state to ensure that there is adequate infrastructure to support response services by a multidisciplinary team

How you can Help

In our brochure, you learnt about our commitment to children and future generations. Do you want to help to protect children from violence? If so, we are connected by a common goal. Bringing decision-makers together to implement the OSCs is not possible without the support of our donors. If you wish to improve the livelihood of millions of children with your donation, please donate to the World Future Council.

Donation Account:

World Future Council Foundation
GLS Bank Bochum, Germany
IBAN: DE70 4306 0967 2009 0040 00
BIC/SWIFT: GENODEM1GLS

