

Sharmistha Ghosh,
Assistant Sessions Judge &
Secretary
DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
HOOGHLY



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No. 545(2)(CACA)/DLSA/HGY

Date:- 24.08.2023

To,
The District Inspector of Schools,
Hooghly District.

Subject: Request for your support for the upcoming online awareness programme on 14th September 2023 for school principals and heads of schools in Hooghly District on "Child safety & Well-being and Consensus Building on Project CACA" being organized by District Legal Services Authority, Hooghly (DLSA) in collaboration with NGO Social Axiom Foundation - Project CACA (Children Against Child Abuse). A need of the hour, Project CACA is an academic safety programme that aligns with the objectives of the Gazette Notification POCSO Rules 2020 and various other government guidelines.

Reference:

1. Rule 3 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Rules, 2020.
2. Request of Ms. Chandana Bhowe, Project Manager, Project CACA - Children Against Child Abuse Social Axiom Foundation (SAF).

*Respected Madam/Sir,

It is with great pleasure that I bring to your kind attention to an upcoming event of significant importance that the District Legal Services Authority, Hooghly is organizing in collaboration with NGO Social Axiom Foundation -Project CACA (Children Against Child Abuse):

A two-hour online webinar on "Child safety & Well-being and Consensus Building on Project CACA" covering Legal POCSO Act, Juvenile Justice Act, & Legal Services. It is scheduled to take place via the online platform Zoom on 14th September 2023, from 12pm to 2pm.

As a capacity-building webinar, it will help principals put together a policy framework to further define the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders at the grassroots level. The objectives of the webinar:

1. Raise legal awareness as well as sensitize the Principals and Head of Schools of Hooghly district on the POCSO Act, 2012, and JJ Act.
2. Raise legal awareness as well as sensitize about different kinds of abuses that children face and their prevention.
3. Help schools formulate a child safety and well-being committee and implement policies to ensure an enabling and empowering environment for the children.
4. Introduction of "Project CACA - A safety programme for schools to keep our students Happy, Healthy and Safe" to all the principals and heads of the schools to build consensus on its implementation under the school safety policy in accordance with the Gazette notification of POCSO Rules 2020.
5. Introduction of DLSAs and various services provided by them.

In the light of this, I request you to issue necessary instructions to the Principals and the Heads of the Schools in Hooghly District to participate in the aforesaid online webinar. We solicit the support in form of:

- a) A formal invitation letter from your office issued to the principals and the heads of the schools in Hooghly District soliciting their mandatory attendance.
- b) Providing a list of Principals, Directors, Headmasters, and Heads of Schools ICSE, CBSE, State Board affiliated schools of all types Self-financed, Government and Grant Aid in Hooghly District along with their Names, Designation, Contact number, Email address, etc. from your jurisdictional area on or before August 30, 2023.

We believe their presence and engagement in this programme will help promote a safer environment for our children and ensure that these essential laws are well understood and implemented. Furthermore, their active participation will significantly contribute to the dissemination of vital information on Children's Wellbeing and Safety, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, and the Juvenile Justice Act.

Project CACA has been actively reaching out to schools in West Bengal and has implemented the project as a pertinent step towards creating a safer environment for children -focused on empowering students, teachers, parents, and support staff and building capacity of the schools to address the critical issue of child safety and well-being effectively.

Implementation of Project CACA, the flagship school safety programme by NGO Social Axiom Foundation, carries out the pertinent objectives of various circulars, notifications, advisories, guidelines issued from time to time to schools by the Central and State Governments, The Ministry Of Women And Child Development, various School Boards, State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights, Supreme Court, Directorate of School Education, and other related organisations on Child Rights, Child Safety, Gender Sensitivity, Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA), POCSO Act 2012 - POCSO-E-Box, Gender-Equality, Gender Equity, Self Defence.

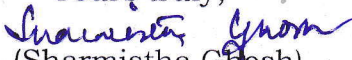
In particular: POCSO Rules, 2020 - THE GAZETTE OF INDIA: EXTRAORDINARY Notification of 9th March 2020 issued by MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT. Kindly refer to: Sub-rule (1) and (6) of Rule 3: "Awareness generation and capacity building."

The empowerment of children is the need of the hour and can be the single most impactful step that can be taken to challenge and face the issue of child abuse. We solicit our kind support in encouraging the schools to implement Project CACA in Hooghly District. It shall go a long way in ensuring an enabling and empowering environment for the children in schools.

Working on the safety of children and their well-being is a collaborative effort and will take the participation of all the stakeholders. We are confident that with your support, this event will make a positive impact in our community. We eagerly await your response and the imperative support.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,


(Sharmistha Ghosh)

Secretary

District Legal Services Authority,

Hooghly

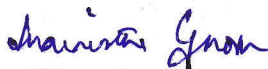
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Copy to:

- Ms. Chandana Bhose, Project Manager, Project CACA - Children Against Child Abuse), Social Axiom Foundation (SAF) -projectmanager_wb@projectcaca.org| 9289351166.


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