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*Child Rights Guaranteed  
under the Indian  
Constitution.*

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Article 15: Confers upon the State powers to make special provision for children.

Article 39: Provides that the State shall in particular direct its policy towards securing that the tender age of children are not abused and their childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and they are given facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity.

Article 39(a), (e) and (f): Specifically provide certain policies to be followed by the State for the welfare of the children.

Article 39(f): Provides that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in condition of freedom and dignity and that childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment.

Article 41: asserts the responsibility of the State to make effective provisions for securing the right to... education and to public assistance in cases of....sickness and disablement and in other cases of undeserved want, within the limits of its economic capacity and development.

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A Multi-Disciplinary National Conference  
On  
The Role of Educators in Preventing and Responding to Child  
Sexual Abuse in Institutions.  
Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

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The Constitution of India guarantees several rights to children and enables the State to make provisions to ensure that the tender age of children are not abused. India is a signatory to a host of International Covenants and Instruments focusing on Child Protection, and there are many existing domestic legal mechanisms. Nevertheless, each day, the safety and well-being of many children across the nation is threatened by child abuse which continues to be, one of the most heinous crimes designed and perpetuated by human beings against some of the most vulnerable and defenseless sections of the community. Analyses of victim accounts of institutional sexual abuse typically find that children and young people have had little collective or individual opportunity to influence the identification, prevention or responses to child sexual abuse. This absence of children's influence may have been driven by pervasive and limiting notions of children and childhood including ambivalence about children's capacity to identify and raise concerns about sexual abuse, and skepticism about the value of engaging them in such discussions. This has left children and young people particularly vulnerable to abuse and enabled abuse to go undetected.

Child Abuse consists of a labyrinth of causes, factors and myths that perpetuate the issue, especially in India. Foremost among these is the closed, shameful and fearful prevailing attitude that does not allow a victim the protected and comfortable environment required to report a case. The key therefore, lies in prevention, and equipping children and society with the necessary tools to prevent an act that has harmful, deep rooted, long term effects on the psyche of a child. Prevention

strategies are myriad and require multiple stakeholders to play a role in implementing them. The Presidency University, School of Law, Multi-Disciplinary National Conference on the ***“Role of Educators in Preventing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutions”***, offers an unequalled opportunity for learning, professional growth, networking and dissemination of the latest research findings with regard to the prevention of sexual abuse through effective interventions. Intervening effectively in the lives of these children and their families through development of "child-safe" strategies and standards to minimize the threats of child sexual abuse is not the sole responsibility of any single agency or professional group, but rather is a shared community concern.

### **Role of Educators?**

Children and adolescents spend a large portion of their time in school, which gives educators more access to students than most other professionals. The educator has a vital role in identifying, reporting, and preventing child abuse. We have used the term “educator” to encompass not only the classroom teacher, but also other school personnel involved in serving the child.

### **Objectives:**

1. Knowledge of the law pertaining to child abuse.
2. An understanding of the reporting expectations of mandated reporters. For Eg- the School authorities.
3. Knowledge of the complex interaction of biological, psychological and society factors in the causation of child abuse.
4. Relevant treatment and intervention strategies related to child abuse.
5. Recognition of community resources to aid in the prevention, intervention and treatment of child abuse.

### **Why the Presidency University Multi-Disciplinary National Conference on Child Sexual Abuse?**

The Presidency University, School of Law, has undertaken the campaign on ***‘Safe Children – Happy Childhood’*** in commemoration of Law Day- 2017, for the successful development, and, innovation in ‘continuing education for professionals’ to deal this issue. Whether you are an experienced professional or are new to the field, this Conference offers you the very latest evidence-based information on treatment, intervention, assessment, and prevention. The Conference will bring together people from every possible segment of society – government, Ministries, agencies, NGOs, educators, university students, child representatives, media practitioners, therapists, child protection workers, attorneys, law enforcement officers, medical professionals, *et al*, Including concerned parents and members of the public who can register on spot.

The Speakers at plenary sessions will be highly qualified, credentialed experts in the fields of Police Department, psychology, psychiatry, social work, law, training, and other disciplines relevant to child abuse and protection services.

At the completion of the Conference, the government will have received comprehensive information to enable it to develop criminal justice and social welfare policies and criteria for resource allocation which are finely attuned to present and future need on the Issue relating to child sexual abuse in schools. The National Policy for Children, 2013, recognizes that “childhood is an integral part of life with a value of its own”. One of the key priorities of the Policy mandates the State to “create a caring, protective and safe environment for all children, to reduce their vulnerability in all situations and to keep them safe at all places, especially public spaces” and “protect all children from all forms of violence and abuse, harm, neglect, stigma, discrimination, deprivation, exploitation including economic exploitation and sexual exploitation, abandonment, separation, abduction, sale or trafficking for any purpose or in any form, pornography, alcohol and substance abuse, or any other activity that takes undue advantage of them or harms their personhood or affects their development”

We reject as parochial and complacent, the view that, we can afford to wait any longer before attempting to identify such serious, sensitive problems and develop national approaches in this area. Therefore, this National Conference is timely as well as very important!

**Despite the best intentions and plans in place, as well as two comprehensive legislations for the protection of children, The Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2000 and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012, instances of child abuse have been known to occur in our schools, homes for children and other child care institutions as also in the child's own residence.**

LAW DAY  
26<sup>TH</sup> Nov  
2017

Presidency University Celebrates Law Day- 2017 in campaigning for  
'Safe Children – Happy Childhood'- A Constitutional Right of Every Child