

AARAMBH's Support for Child Victims of Sexual Offences

Education, Protection, Healing, Legal Support and Rehabilitation under the POCSO Framework

AARAMBH's contribution as a Support Person Organization in Bhopal and Indore since 2024

About the Initiative

Children who experience sexual abuse may require sustained support to recover, remain safe, continue their education and participate in legal processes without any distress. AARAMBH works with relevant child-protection and justice-system stakeholders to facilitate access to care, protection, education, legal information, health services, compensation, rehabilitation and reintegration, in accordance with the applicable POCSO framework and directions or orders of competent authorities.

AARAMBH's work is undertaken in Bhopal and Indore as a Support Person Organisation, with cases assigned through the competent Child Welfare Committee (CWC), and in coordination with the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), police/Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU), District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), JJB, health and education authorities, and other relevant stakeholders.

Legal and Child-Protection Framework

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 is a special law for the protection of children below 18 years from sexual offences. It provides child-friendly procedures in reporting, recording of statements and evidence, investigation and trial through designated Special Courts.

Section 39 of the POCSO Act provides guidelines for the assistance of experts, including persons with knowledge of psychology, social work, physical health, mental health and child development, to assist the child during the pre-trial and trial stages.

What Support Can a Child and Family Access?

Depending on the individual circumstances of the child and the orders or directions of competent authorities, AARAMBH facilitates the following forms of support.

Support Person Assistance

Facilitation of Support Person assistance through the CWC to help the child and family understand and navigate the investigation, court process, available services and rehabilitation pathways.

Education Continuity and School Reintegration

Support for continuation or resumption of education; liaison with schools and education authorities; assistance with school admission or transfer where required; and linkage with applicable educational schemes and entitlements.

Emotional and Psychosocial Support

Child-sensitive emotional support, counselling referrals and psychosocial support. Where specialized mental-health care is required, referral to appropriate professionals and services may be facilitated.

Safety Planning and Risk Assessment

Assessment of immediate and ongoing safety concerns, including threats, coercion, intimidation or pressure; development of appropriate safety measures; and coordination with the CWC, police and DCPU where protection measures are required.

Legal Information and Legal Aid Facilitation

Information about the investigation and court process, the child's rights and relevant entitlements, and facilitation of access to free legal aid through the DLSA where applicable including Session Court, District Court and High Court Indore and Jabalpur.

Court and Procedural Support

Child-sensitive assistance and accompaniment, where appropriate, during statement recording, medical examination and court-related processes, while respecting the roles and directions of competent authorities for MTP

Health and Medical Support

Facilitation of access to appropriate medical examination, treatment, follow-up care and specialized health services, including sexual and reproductive health referrals where required including during pregnancy/MTP

Compensation and Immediate Relief

Facilitation of information and applications concerning interim relief and compensation available under the applicable POCSO Rules and victim compensation framework, subject to the decision of the competent authority.

Care, Protection and Alternative Care

Identification of children who may be in need of care and protection and coordination with the CWC for appropriate protective measures, including alternative care or placement where ordered or considered necessary.

Relocation and Safe Accommodation

Where safety requires relocation, coordination with competent authorities to facilitate appropriate protective arrangements for the child and, where necessary, family members.

Documentation and Entitlement Facilitation

Assistance in accessing relevant identity, education, welfare and entitlement documents, and linkage with appropriate government schemes and services, while maintaining confidentiality.

Rehabilitation and Reintegration

Development and follow-up of an Individual Care Plan and rehabilitation linkages, including education, health, psychosocial support, skill-development pathways where appropriate, family support and social reintegration.

Information and Case Follow-up

Regular follow-up with relevant stakeholders and submission of required reports or updates to the CWC in accordance with applicable guidelines, orders and procedures.

Confidentiality, Privacy and Child-Sensitive Practice

Protection of the child's privacy and confidentiality, avoidance of unnecessary disclosure of personal information, and use of child-friendly and trauma-sensitive approaches throughout support services.

AARAMBH's Role as a Support Person Organisation

- Coordinate with the CWC, DCPU, police/SJPU, DLSA, health services and education authorities, as appropriate.
- Maintain case records securely and ensure information relating to the child is handled with confidentiality and appropriate safeguards.
- Assess the child's needs relating to education, safety, psychosocial well-being, health, family circumstances, legal assistance and practical barriers.
- Facilitate an Individual Care Plan and rehabilitation linkages based on the child's best interests and individual needs.
- Support continuity of education and facilitate school-related coordination where required.
- Identify safety risks and promptly bring serious protection concerns to the appropriate competent authority.
- Facilitate access to legal aid, compensation, health services, education and applicable government schemes.
- Provide information to the child and family in a child-friendly and understandable manner, without interfering with the investigation or judicial process.
- Assist with referrals and follow-up while respecting the statutory responsibilities of competent authorities.
- Maintain professional boundaries, impartiality and disclosure of any actual or potential conflict of interest.

Education Support: A Specific Area of Intervention

AARAMBH recognises education as an important part of the child's recovery, stability and long-term rehabilitation. Depending on the child's circumstances, support may include:

- Facilitating continuation or resumption of schooling.
- Liaising with the school and education authorities regarding admission, transfer or other reasonable support.
- Supporting access to applicable scholarships, sponsorships and government education schemes.
- Helping address practical barriers such as documentation or safe travel, in coordination with relevant authorities.
- Facilitating alternative education, open schooling, vocational training or skill development where appropriate and consistent with the child's age, interests, needs and applicable law.
- Supporting the child and family to understand applicable education entitlements, including rights under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, where applicable.

Five-Step Case Support and Rehabilitation Process

- **Step 1** – Secure Case Documentation: Maintain relevant case records securely, with appropriate privacy and confidentiality safeguards.
- **Step 2** – Needs and Stakeholder Assessment: Document the child’s requirements relating to Support Person assistance, interpretation or translation, education, safety, health, psychosocial support, legal services and other needs.
- **Step 3** – Individual Care Plan: Develop and follow an Individual Care Plan based on the child’s needs and best interests, in coordination with competent authorities.
- **Step 4** – Rehabilitation and Entitlement Linkages: Facilitate access to education, health, psychosocial support, compensation and appropriate government schemes and services.
- **Step 5** – Follow-up and Referral: Submit applications or requests to the CWC, DLSA or other competent authorities as appropriate and follow up on referrals, relief and rehabilitation measures.

AARAMBH Support Team – Bhopal and Indore

Sl. No.	Position	Bhopal	Indore
1	Project Coordinator	01	01
2	Trained Counsellor	01	01
3	Support Person	02	02
4	Advocate	01	01

Disclaimer

AARAMBH’s support and facilitation role should not be interpreted as legal advice, a guarantee of any particular judicial outcome, or a replacement for the statutory functions of the CWC, police, prosecution, DLSA, JJB, health authorities or Special Court. Specific services, relief, compensation, protection measures and rehabilitation arrangements depend on the child’s individual circumstances and decisions or orders of competent authorities.

For more details: www.aarambhngo.org