

Referral for Gender Based Violence, Children At Risk, and People Living With Disabilities | TC Donna, May 2017

Cyclone-affected people have a right to safety and dignity.

People who experience **gender based violence** (such as rape, sexual assault, domestic violence, exploitation, stalking, verbal abuse) should be referred for appropriate assistance, for their safety, health, and psychological wellbeing.

Children (people under age 18) at risk of harm should be referred for care and protection. Interviewing or documenting their situation should only be done by trained people, in the presence of an adult or caretaker chosen by the child.

After disasters, **people living with disabilities** can be extremely vulnerable, especially if they are separated from their carer. To protect their safety and dignity, a PLWD in need of urgent assistance should be referred for help.

GUIDELINES FOR RESPONDERS

- Always observe **CONFIDENTIALITY, SAFETY, RESPECT, AND DIGNITY**
- No decision is made without the **INFORMED CONSENT** of the person in need
- Have discussions in private settings with same-sex staff
- Be patient, be a good listener, and don't judge
- Don't press for information the person in need doesn't want to share
- Ask only relevant questions, don't make the person in need repeat their story
- Do not laugh, show disrespect or disbelief; **NEVER** blame the survivor
- At all times, prioritize the safety and security of the person in need as well as involved staff, volunteers and service providers

Informed content means the person agrees to seek assistance, understanding what is involved, and the benefits and risks.

Benefits in seeking assistance	Risks of seeking assistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to medical care within 5 days for emergency contraception and prevention of sexually transmitted infections, and to have injuries treated • Access to emotional and psychosocial support • Survivor can request a forensic report be made and file a case with police 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety risk from exposure to further risk of harm • Compromised privacy and confidentiality • Possible inappropriate treatment by service providers • Incident reported to others without consent (police, community leaders, etc.)

