IASC Senior Focal Points on Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment

IASC Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment

At the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Principals May 2018 meeting, the IASC Principals committed to a series of concrete steps to address Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (see [Chair’s statement](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/erc_usg_mark_lowcock_statement_on_sea_sha_following_iasc_principals_meeting_-_01june2018.pdf) of 1 June 2018). Their discussion set an ambitious agenda for action to strengthen the humanitarian sector’s approach to preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and sexual harassment (SH).

The IASC Principals welcomed continuous knowledge sharing of good practices to prevent, investigate and respond to SEA and SHA and committed to immediate collective action to:

-          Ensure a victim-centered approach to addressing SEA and SH;

-          Promote positive change in organizational culture through strategic communications and role modeling;

-          Improve referencing systems to stop transgressors from moving through the humanitarian sector;

-          Strengthen sector-wide investigations capacity;

-          Support collective activities of in-country networks to SEA and SH.

The IASC Principals also committed to visible leadership to address these challenges and oversee results.

IASC Champion on SEA and SH

Henrietta Fore, Executive Director of UNICEF, has taken over the role of IASC Principals’ Champion on SEA and SH for the next year after William Lacy Swing, Director General of the International Organization for Migration, Kate Gilmore, OHCHR Deputy High Commissioner, and Lindsay Coates, former President of InterAction, stepped down from their respective roles. During her tenure, she will focus on scaling up: (i) safe and accessible reporting mechanisms, (ii)quality, survivor-centered support, and (iii) accountability for every child and adult survivor in al humanitarian responses.

[Henrietta Fore](https://www.unicef.org/media/unicef-executive-director-henrietta-h-fore) will be succeeded by [Filippo Grandi](http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c8.html), United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees, in June 2019.

IASC Senior Focal Points on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment and Abuse of Aid Workers

To move forward on the IASC commitments, the IASC Champion on SEA/SH, Henrietta Fore, is preparing a system-wide plan to operationalize key priorities and commit to specific set of actions.

The Senior Focal Points meeting in early November will provide an opportunity for IASC Senior Focal Points to discuss the way forward.