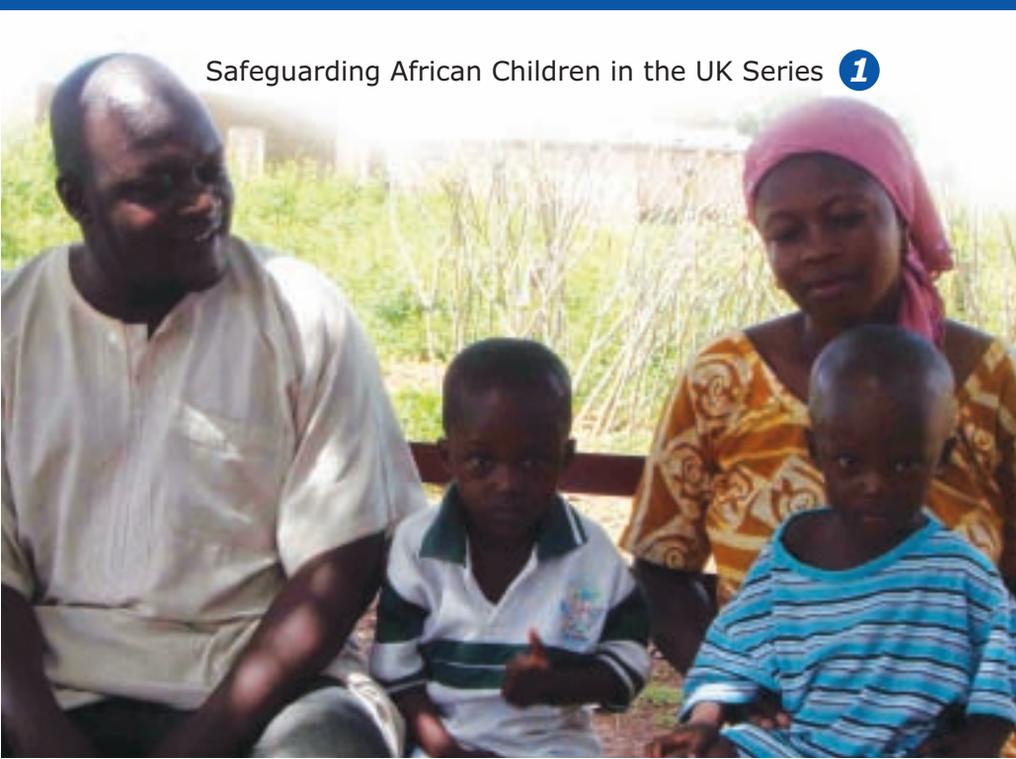


Africans Unite Against Child Abuse

Promoting the Rights and Welfare of African Children

## WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?

Safeguarding African Children in the UK Series **1**



WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?



**WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?**



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# 1 About AFRUCA



AFRUCA – Africans Unite Against Child Abuse was established in May 2001 to promote the rights and welfare of African Children in the UK. We also work in partnership with other organisations in Africa and across Europe.

With offices in London and Manchester, AFRUCA works with UK practitioners working with children and in the African community to raise awareness and educate everyone about issues affecting the welfare of children so we can all act to protect them from abuse and harm. Our work includes:

**Awareness raising** within the African community across the UK and among young Africans about children's rights as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international conventions and UK legislation promoting the rights and welfare of children.

**Information, education, and advisory services** to raise the profile of African children in the UK, increase awareness of their needs, improve policies and practices, and develop the leadership potential of young Africans. Activities include research and publishing reports; media work; conferences, seminars, workshops, and training programmes for parents, policy makers, service providers, community leaders, and young people; community meetings; advice and consultancy services.

**Advocacy and policy development:** working closely with policy makers, especially within the framework of the Government's 'Every Child Matters' agenda, to shape the development of policy and regulatory action to promote the welfare of children.

**Community and international development:** in partnership with others, establishing programmes and projects to help relieve some of the suffering and hardship that African children experience.

**For further information about our work, please visit our website at [www.afruca.org](http://www.afruca.org)**

## 2 Introduction: Africans in the UK



According to the 2001 census, there are over 587,000 Africans in the UK. This figure is way underrepresented since it excludes a number of groups, for example those who are resident in the UK illegally, or who are homeless and therefore unregistered. Of this figure, 78% of Africans live in London. Africans are the fastest growing ethnic minority in the UK, overtaking African Caribbeans and other groups. In addition to this, the number of African children in the UK grew from around 96,667 in 1992 to about 145,667 in 2000 – a phenomenal 50% increase in an eight year period. In 2003, 41% of asylum applications were from Africa, especially those from conflict zones such as Sierra Leone, Somalia, Angola, Congo, Eritrea, Zimbabwe, and Liberia.

This rapid increase in the population brings correlating social problems with significant implications for the children in the communities. As with most migrant groups, social exclusion and poverty are rife among newly arrived African communities. There is a high level of unemployment and underemployment, because new arrivals tend to find it difficult to access good quality paid jobs, despite Africans having one of the highest levels of educational qualifications as an ethnic group. Also, as many new migrants lack access to decent housing; a high proportion of Africans live in the poorest urban areas, on neglected and deprived council estates, in Britain's largest cities, including London, Liverpool, Birmingham and Manchester. In addition to this, Africans have the lowest rate of home ownership in the country. The combination of all of these problems often results in an increase in health problems, which includes high blood pressure and a range of mental health problems. To compound this, access to health and social care is also poor, partly because many people cannot access state care due to their immigration status. In some communities, substance abuse is becoming quite rampant, with a high proportion of the adult male population at risk.

Furthermore, lack of stability and uncertainty about immigration status and general dire living conditions puts pressure on many families leading to problems including domestic violence. This in turn is putting more children at risk as victims of abuse.

Despite all these difficulties and challenges facing them, Africans are one of the most hardworking and diligent groups in Britain today. It is common to see many people combining two or three jobs to make ends meet. Africans are also one of the largest ethnic groups in higher education, and many higher learning institutions have a high proportion of African students.

This aspiration for educational attainment is a tradition that is instilled in Africans from the earliest age. Regardless of socio-economic class, all Africans are raised with a hunger for achievement and a reverence for education. Unfortunately, in recent times, the idea of education as the key to a good quality adult life has been defeated by conflict, massive corruption and mismanagement in many African countries which has led to a huge levels of graduate unemployment, poverty, destitution and subsequently the urge to migrate to better climes to discover that elusive "better life".



Immigration however does not happen in a vacuum as people tend to take their practices, beliefs, customs and cultures with them when they migrate. Increasingly Local Authorities across the country are reporting cases of African families coming to the attention of Children's Services mainly due to different child rearing practices which conflict with the laws of the land. Many African children are being removed from their families because they are seen as being at risk of significant harm. Cultural practices like Female Genital Mutilation, the use of children as domestic servants as well as witchcraft branding are seen as putting children at risk of abuse. For this reason, more children are being lost to the care system, leading to more African families being broken up and fragmented.

AFRUCA has produced the "Safeguarding Africans Children in the UK" series of publications to highlight different safeguarding issues and to assist members of the African community in the UK to know more about different forms of child abuse and how to identify the signs so children can be safe and be better protected. The "What is Child Abuse?" Booklet is the first in the series.



## 3 What is Child Abuse?



Child abuse is any form of cruelty to a child. It is any behaviour that causes harm to a child. It can be physical, emotional, sexual, or in the form of neglect.

There are a number of things that we do to our children or fail to do for them, that can cause lasting pain and suffering. We will explore some of them in this booklet.

**“Children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence. They must be kept safe from harm. They must be given proper care by those looking after them”**

*Article 19, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990)*

All forms of cruelty to children are damaging. Of all cases of child abuse, only a small number involve total strangers. Children are far more likely to be abused by someone they know and trust, such as a parent, carer, other family members or family friend. Children from all walks of life suffer abuse; however some children are more at risk than others. These include children who are living away from home with other family members or strangers, children with disability as well as orphans who are living on the streets. African children can suffer additional risk because of many cultural and traditional practices which are harmful. Examples of such cultural practices include Female Genital Mutilation, using children as Domestic Servants, Widowhood and Inheritance rites, Child Marriages, reliance on extreme forms of Physical Punishments as ways of disciplining children as well as the belief in and practice of Witchcraft and the accompanying branding of children as witches or as possessed by evil spirits.

The UK government has issued a guidance document for those working with children called: **“What to do if you are worried a child is being abused”**, you can download a copy of this booklet from [www.everychildmatters.gov.uk](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk). In it the government defines Child Abuse as:

**“... Forms of maltreatment by inflicting harm or failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused by those who know them, in a family setting, or in an institution or community setting or more rarely by a stranger.”**

### Significant Harm

The government uses what it calls “significant harm” to decide at what point to intervene in a family to safeguard a child believed to be at risk of abuse or harm. In the UK, when a local authority has reasons to believe a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm, it has a legal duty to make enquiries to assess what is happening to that child. Although this sort of activity can be regarded by parents or carers as interfering in their family, it is usually seen by the law to be done in “the best interests of the child”.



For most African people, child-raising has always been a communal, community affair – it takes a village to raise a child. However, in the UK, the state takes over that role; its position largely strengthened by a wide array of laws that are complex, difficult to understand, and not well publicised. Many of our parents, mainly out of ignorance, although there are other reasons, are guilty of breaching these laws, thereby causing “significant harm”. The consequences of breaching these laws can be as dire and permanent for many parents such as losing their child by having it removed and placed into the care of the local authority.

With this booklet, we want to help parents and others gain a better knowledge of what it means for children in our community to suffer from “significant harm” and what they can do to help address it.



## 4 What are the forms of Child Abuse?



The UK government have identified four main categories of child abuse. These are:

- Physical
- Emotional
- Sexual
- Neglect

Although there are other categories and sub-categories, most forms of child abuse will fall under one or more of these.

Form of Child Abuse	Examples
PHYSICAL ABUSE	Any intentional physical contact resulting in injury, pain or discomfort. It may include inflicting pain through beating, hitting, punching, kicking, putting pepper in the eyes or private parts, pouring hot oil on the body, forcing a child to take a cold shower in freezing weather, or to dip his hands in hot water, force-feeding a child by holding him down and forcing food into his mouth, refusing a child food as a form of punishment. It also includes forcing a child to undertake strenuous and excessive physical punishment like kneeling down straight, raising up the arms, bending over, carrying a heavy object - all for long periods of time.
EMOTIONAL ABUSE	The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child leading to severe effects on the child's emotional well being and development. This includes verbally abusing or cursing a child, telling a child they are worthless or useless, shouting at, rejecting or withholding love and affection from a child, humiliating, degrading or denying a child their worth and rights as human beings. The deliberate absence of a parent in a child's life or preventing a child from having access to his or her parents is a form of emotional abuse. Forcing a naturally left-handed child to use their right hand is emotional abuse. It may also include preventing a child from participating in normal social interaction, like not going out to play, forcing children to study non stop, without any form of recreation as well as witnessing other people being abused – especially in the case of domestic violence.



SEXUAL ABUSE	<p>Having inappropriate sexual relationships with children. This happens when an adult pressurises, forces or tricks a child into taking part in any sexual activity. Such activities might include kissing, touching the young person’s genitals, or breasts, having full sexual intercourse with a child (rape), performing oral sex on a child or forcing a child to perform oral sex, encouraging a child to take part in the production of or to look at pornographic materials, sending letters, emails or text messages of a sexual nature to a child and encouraging a child to behave in sexually inappropriate manners. Children married off at an early age are also victims of sexual abuse as their roles as “wives” include having unprotected sex with their “husbands”. Female Genital Mutilation is also a form of sexual abuse as it involves mutilating a girl’s sexual organs.</p>
NEGLECT	<p>A persistent lack of proper care of children, the failure to provide them with proper nourishment, warmth, medical care, education, a safe environment and housing. It is the failure to act to protect a child from danger or risk of significant harm as described above. Adults who notice that children are being abused and neither say, nor do anything about it, are guilty of neglect. It is also when children are left without appropriate care and supervision.</p>

A child can experience each of the above forms of abuse in isolation. However, many children also experience many forms of abuse at the same time. For example, a child victim of domestic servitude who is locked up in someone’s home can be repeatedly raped, not provided with any proper medical care when she is ill, prevented from going to school and made to do excessive work in the home. She may also be severely beaten for making mistakes or for disobeying orders. She may be subjected to verbal abuse and name calling, being told she is worthless and will not amount to much in her life.

Many vulnerable African children in the UK experience different forms of abuse. As members of the community, it is our duty to be able to identify when abuse is taking place and act to protect children who are at risk.

## 5 What are the signs of Child Abuse?



Whether it is physical, emotional, sexual abuse or neglect, a child who is being abused may suffer more than one form of abuse at the same time. It is important for us as adults to be vigilant about the welfare of children in our community; in our families, our churches, our mosques, and in our friends' homes, at weddings, naming ceremonies, funerals, parties, at all our gatherings and on the streets. There are children around us everywhere, suffering in silence and hoping someone will notice their plight and be bold enough to intervene. It is important for us to know what to look out for and to be able to identify a child who is suffering from or at risk of abuse.

Form of Child Abuse	Signs or Indicators
<p><b>PHYSICAL ABUSE</b></p> <p>Due to the texture and colour of the skin, many bruises and other injuries to an African child might not be so apparent. In that regard it is important to be vigilant and be able to identify other signs of physical abuse including:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Black, swollen eyes, broken bones</li><li>• Injuries that the child or their parent or carer cannot explain or explain unconvincingly</li><li>• Untreated or inadequately treated injuries</li><li>• Injuries to parts of the body where accidents are unlikely, such as thighs, back, abdomen</li><li>• Bruising which looks like hand or finger marks</li><li>• Cigarette burns, human bites</li><li>• Scalds and burns</li></ul>
<p><b>EMOTIONAL ABUSE</b></p> <p>Is more difficult to detect because there are no visible signs on the body. However, there other signs to look out for, including:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hyperactive or disruptive behaviour</li><li>• Extreme behaviour patterns - withdrawn/ aggressive/demanding</li><li>• Over adaptive behaviour, i.e.being too well mannered</li><li>• Inhibited play</li><li>• Unusually fearful of consequences of actions resulting in lying</li><li>• Threatening or attempting suicide</li><li>• Running away from home</li><li>• Usually the scapegoat of the family</li><li>• Anorexic or bulimic, insomnia</li><li>• Low self esteem</li><li>• Poor peer relations</li></ul>



## SEXUAL ABUSE

Children who are being sexually abused may show a number of physical and emotional changes. But remember that these signs do not always mean that a child is being abused - there may be other explanations. Signs of sexual abuse can include:

- Pain, itching, bruising or bleeding in the genital or anal areas
- Genital discharge or urinary tract infections
- Stomach pains or discomfort walking or sitting
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Pregnancy
- Vaginal/penile discharge
- Displaying sexualised behaviour, knowledge or interests
- Insomnia, fear of the opposite sex, anxiety, regressive behaviour (eg. bedwetting)

## NEGLECT

There are occasions when parents find it difficult to cope with the many demands of caring for children. This is especially so for many African parents in the UK today with little or no access to friends and families who can provide support with child rearing. However, this does not necessarily mean that their children are being neglected. Neglect involves ongoing, severe failure to meet a child's needs. Here are some signs of possible neglect:

- The child seems underweight and is very small for their age
- They are often dirty, are unwashed and have uncut and uncombed hair
- They have skin rashes, body odour and dirty thick nails
- They are poorly clothed, with inadequate protection from the weather
- They are always tired and lethargic and often doze off in class
- They are often absent from school for no apparent reason
- They are regularly left alone, or in charge of younger children
- They are not in school and there is no evidence of home-schooling arranged for them
- They are not registered with a GP or they are ill and are not taken to hospital
- The child is always hungry or steals food

## 6 What are the effects of Child Abuse?



Form of Child Abuse	Effects on Children
PHYSICAL ABUSE	<p>Can have long-term effects on a child's health and development. It can cause physical injury, brain damage or disability and may lead to children developing emotional, behavioural or educational problems. For some children, these difficulties can continue to adulthood. For example, people who were physically abused as children may have problems with personal relationships, and are more likely to abuse their own children. The child's age, the frequency of the abuse, and how much it has been going on, all influence how much the child will be affected by it. But sometimes a severe isolated incident can affect a child as badly as prolonged abuse.</p>
EMOTIONAL ABUSE	<p>Leads to serious behavioural problems. All children need acceptance, love, encouragement, consistency and positive attention from their parents or carers. Children who are denied these often grow up thinking they are deficient in some way and that they somehow deserved to be treated badly. A child who is constantly shouted at, threatened, humiliated or insulted will feel worthless and develop a poor self-image and self esteem. The deliberate absence of a parent in a child's life might lead to them believing they are worthless, unwanted and unloved. Over a period of time they may internalise negative comments about themselves and begin to lack confidence in their own abilities. Sadly, when they become parents themselves they may emotionally deprive their own children because they don't have a positive model of parenting to draw on.</p>



<p>SEXUAL ABUSE</p>	<p>Leads to adverse psychological and behavioural problem in victims – in many cases into adulthood. These can include depression, insomnia, low self esteem, sexual dysfunction as an adult, regressive behaviours like bedwetting or thumb-sucking. Depending on the severity, victims may develop fear and anxiety which can lead to self destructive behaviour including drug and alcohol abuse, problems with relationships, fear (or hatred) of the opposite sex as well as anxiety over sexual issues. Young children may display inappropriate sexual behaviour or sexual knowledge. Young victims of early marriage may develop fistula – a terrible condition in which they constantly leak urine. Pregnancy and exposure to sexually transmitted diseases are some short term effects of child sexual abuse. For many victims, the loss of their childhood and innocence is a huge price to pay for their terrible experiences.</p>
<p>NEGLECT</p>	<p>Can have a serious effect on a child's long term physical, mental and emotional development. For babies and very young children, these effects can be life-threatening. Children deprived of access to medical care might end up with severe disability or physical impairment. Children provided with inappropriate nutrition can become obese as adults or end up with eating disorders. Children who are deprived of access to education might end up with poor outcomes and quality of life as adults.</p>



## 7 Why are children abused?



Many children in our community experience abuse and harm for a variety of reasons:

### Some Cultural and Religious Practices

“It is our culture; that is how we bring up our children”. Many harmful cultural practices are sustained because many people believe this is the best thing for their children. An example of this is Child Marriages, in which young girls are married off early because it is believed it will bring honour to them and their families. Another example is Female Genital Mutilation in which girls are mutilated in the belief that it will stop them from sleeping around with different men thereby making them more marriageable. In addition, religion can sometimes be used to justify child abuse. Many phrases from the Holy Books, including: “Spare the Rod, Spoil the Child”, are used to excuse excessive discipline and harm even though there are many other child-friendly phrases in the same Holy Books which promote love and affection towards children.

### Ignorance and illiteracy

Many people may not be aware of the negative effects of some of the cultural and religious practices they engage in because this has not been made apparent to them. An example of this is Female Genital Mutilation. While families and communities steeped in the practice continue to see FGM as an important rite of passage for their children on the path to womanhood, many victims are horrified to discover that a serious, recurrent physical ailment they experience as adults is directly linked to the mutilation performed on them when they were little girls.

### Poverty

Many parents are unable to provide adequately for their children and therefore expose them to abuse and exploitation in order to earn some family income. An example is when parents give their children away to strangers in the belief that the children can work to earn money, thereby exposing the children to danger, exploitation and abuse. Many young victims of domestic servitude are given away by their own parents so they are able to provide for their families. However, many of these young people are terribly abused by their employers because there is no one to protect them. In many cases, the children and their families are not paid for the child’s labour which is the main reason her parents have given her away.

### Vulnerability

Many children become victims of different forms of abuse because they are vulnerable. The abuser knows they can easily harm a child because there is no one who can protect him or her. Some of the most vulnerable children around us are those with some form of disability or another, children living with other people who are not their real parents as well as children living on the streets. In many African cultures, girls are also very vulnerable due to the secondary roles ascribed to them in society and the caring roles expected of them as young women.



## Wickedness

In most cases, the child abuser is purely evil and wicked and his or her actions cannot be justified in any other way. Many child abusers harm children for their own sick and perverse gratification. They derive a sense of joy and happiness from harming others, in this case children. Sometimes these are very mentally unstable people although their actions cannot be excused.

## Personal Gain

Some negative harmful practices are promoted because some people stand to gain either financially or in other ways. An example is when children are falsely accused of being witches or as possessed by evil spirits. In certain communities, it is customary for misfortunes, bad turns and social failures to be attributed to the work of an evil-doer or a witch. Unfortunately, for a number of reasons, children are increasingly scapegoat as victims of this practice, more so if the child is living with people who are not his or her parents. There are many false faith leaders who claim to be able to exorcise such children – in exchange for a fee. Many children therefore suffer needlessly because other people stand to gain financially from their terrible experiences.

## “I don’t care” attitude

Lastly, many acts of abuse go unnoticed and unreported in our community because those who know what is going on, who are witnesses to the abuse are not interested in doing anything about it. This is what we call the: “I don’t care” attitude. Either because of their immigration status or due to other personal problems, many people do not want to get involved with the authorities. When they see abuse going on, they close their eyes to it and fail to act.



## 8 Child Abuse - Why children don't tell?



There are many reasons why children keep the fact that they are victims of abuse to themselves. The most common of these reasons are:

- They might not understand that they have been abused. For many children the abuse they suffer is perceived by them as normal, especially if it is the only treatment they have ever known.
- If they are aware that the abuse they are suffering is not normal, then they may fear the consequences of disclosure, or exposing the abuse. Many abusers make the children they are abusing believe that they are the ones who will be punished if the abuse is discovered. Sometimes, children are threatened that someone close to them will be hurt if they disclose abuse.
- A child may feel that they are to blame for the abuse, or feel ashamed.
- They may not have the language or the ability to describe what is happening to them. This is even more serious in the case of children with disability who might not be capable of communicating what has happened to others who are in a position to help them
- They may feel that they will not be believed, or that they cannot trust any adults to keep them safe.

## 9 Every Child Matters

In 2003 the Government asked children, young people and adults in England for their views on how children and young people should be treated and helped. The Government wanted to find out how it could improve things like health, education, social care and justice. The document that asked these questions was called **Every Child Matters**.

Children and young people told the Government that they wanted support to:

- **Be healthy:** keeping children and young people physically, mentally, emotionally and sexually healthy.
- **Stay safe:** keeping children and young people safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence, sexual exploitation, accidental injury, death, anti-social behaviour; giving them security, stability and care.
- **Enjoy and achieve:** ensuring children and young people attend, enjoy and achieve national standards at school, achieve personal and social development and enjoy recreation.
- **Make a positive contribution:** ensuring children and young people are active and positive citizens, develop positive relationships, self-confidence and enterprising behaviour.
- **Achieve economic well-being:** ensuring children and young people engage in education or employment after leaving school, are ready for employment, live in decent homes, have access to transport and material goods, and live in higher income households.

These five aims are at the heart of the Children Act 2004. This means that it is a law that everyone must make these aims top priorities for all children and young people. This also includes the children in our communities. Every African Child Must Matter and it is our role as members of the African community to ensure this is the case.

## 10 Reporting Child Abuse



It is the duty of every local authority to promote and safeguard the welfare of all children living in their area. If you suspect a child is at risk of abuse or is experiencing abuse, you should:

- In the first instance contact your local authority children's services department. You can reach them by calling the Local Authority switchboard number which is on your Council Tax bill or in Yellow Pages.
- When you are put through to Children's Services, state that you want to make a Child Abuse "referral". This simply means you want to report a case of child abuse.
- You will be asked to provide further details about the case you are reporting. Please note that you do not have to provide your personal details.
- The local authority is obliged to make an investigation. If you do not see any changes in the case you have reported. Please follow up with another phone call.
- You can also call the police on 999 to report a case of child abuse.
- If nothing happens, you can contact AFRUCA and we will pursue the case until action is taken. Our contact details are at the back of this publication.

## 11 Working as a community to protect vulnerable children

As more Africans and their children come to live in the UK, we also have more cases of child abuse occurring in our community. In most cities, figures from children's services show they are dealing with more cases of African children who are victims of abuse and neglect. In many instances, children are temporarily removed from their families and taken into care to prevent them from further abuse. In other cases, those children end up permanently lost to their families as they are given up for adoption. Many children's lives are ruined as a result of their experience of different forms of abuse.

Everyone in our community must know when they see a child being abused. They must know the different forms of child abuse and the effects of abuse. They must know what to do to protect children they see being abused.

Based on what you have read in this booklet, on the next page is summary of how to ensure you know what to do to protect a child you know is being abused.

## 12 Protecting Children: What to do?



### STEP ONE - Know the Different Forms of Child Abuse

- Ensure you know the meaning of “Child Abuse”
- Know the difference between physical, emotional, sexual abuse and neglect

### STEP TWO - Know the Indicators of Child Abuse

- Ensure you can tell the different signs of physical, emotional, sexual abuse and neglect
- If you see a child who has the signs of abuse, ensure you are able to identify them
- Ensure you can tell if a child you know demonstrates the effects of child abuse

### STEP THREE - Know what to do if a child is at risk

- Know who to contact to report cases of child abuse.
- Know how to contact your local authority children’s services or the police on 999
- Know how to contact AFRUCA for help. Our contact details are at the back of this booklet

### STEP FOUR - Engage others to speak out against child abuse

- Ensure you speak with your Pastor or Imam about child abuse so they can help to raise the issue and speak out against it in the community



## 13 AFRUCA: Our work to protect children



### CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING AND AWARENESS FOR AFRICAN PARENTS PROJECT

At AFRUCA, we are very concerned about the number of African children being removed from their families due to allegations of significant harm. We work with parents to overcome the problems they are facing in bringing up their children and give them the knowledge to protect their children from abuse and harm. The Child Protection Training and Awareness for African Parents Project has been established to work with African parents in London and in three cities in the North of England – Manchester, Liverpool and Newcastle. We want to help improve the quality of life of African families in these cities. We do this by promoting positive parenting skills, providing knowledge regarding child protection, offering support to parents with children in care and providing information about various issues that affect African communities in the UK.

#### **Our project works with parents in four ways:**

**Training Courses:** We hold informative workshops to equip parents with a basic knowledge of child protection and related rules and regulations. Cultural practices, religious beliefs and other issues in relation to child protection are also covered.

**Advice Road Shows:** We run local advice surgeries to enable parents who need one-to-one advice on child protection or parenting to come to us for advice and help. We will also signpost parents to other sources of assistance if needed.

**Support:** We work with parents who have children presently in the care system or have a child protection plan to ensure they can get the best outcomes for their children.

**Information:** We produce and disseminate publications that deal with different aspects of safeguarding children in the African community and provide useful information about child protection.



## Other publications in this series



1. What is Child Abuse?
2. What is Child Trafficking?
3. What is Private Fostering?
4. What is Female Genital Mutilation?
5. What is Witchcraft Abuse?
6. What is Physical Abuse?
7. What is Sexual Abuse?

Our safeguarding African Children in the UK series of publications are produced to help raise awareness among the UK African community about different forms of child abuse and what they can do to help address these.

AFRUCA wishes to acknowledge the contributions of our partners Development Support Agency for co-producing this booklet, and Youth Alive in the North of Ghana, for supplying some of the photographs used in this publication.

This publication can also be downloaded from our [website at www.afruca.org](http://www.afruca.org)



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- 6 What is Physical Abuse?
- 7 What is Sexual Abuse?

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