

MADRAS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

(AUTONOMOUS)

NO. 32, CASA MAJOR ROAD, EGMORE

CHENNAI 600-008

INTERNAL COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

REPORT ON

WEBINAR ON STOPPING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

POCSO ACT, 2012



DATE:

21st November 2025

MODE:

ONLINE

TIMINGS:

12:00PM- 1:30PM

INTRODUCTION:

On 21st November 2025, an awareness session on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act was conducted in collaboration with Sakshi NGO to educate participants on the origins, objectives, and current developments within the Act. It was hosted by Ms.Hannah John, a trainer from the NGO and co-hosted by Ms. Archana from the NGO. The session also emphasized gender equality and the importance of safeguarding all children irrespective of gender. The objective was to enhance understanding of legal protections and promote a safer environment for minors.

PROCEEDINGS:

- The session began with an introduction to the Rakshin Project, and elaborating on the term “Rakshin” which means protectors. The aim was to educate students in order to create a safer environment for children and a responsible society.
- The host and co host were introduced by Ms.Harini, ICC member and Dr.P.Mohana, conveynor of ICC, MSSW.
- The session began with a brief history of the POCSO Act, enacted in 2012 to provide a robust legal framework to address sexual offences against children. The speaker highlighted how the Act was designed to ensure child-friendly procedures, mandatory reporting, and time-bound investigations.
- Real life case studies and videos were played throughout the session for better understanding.
- Recent developments were discussed, including amendments strengthening punishment for severe offences, improved reporting mechanisms, and the increased use of digital platforms for awareness and complaint registration.
- The session also mentioned the integration of POCSO guidelines within educational institutions and child-care settings, ensuring broader accountability.
- key part of the discussion focused on gender neutrality under the Act. Participants were reminded that the POCSO Act protects all children—boys, girls, and transgender minors—and that offenders can be of any gender. The importance of sensitivity, non-discrimination, and unbiased reporting was stressed.

- Interactive questions addressed common misconceptions, mandatory reporting duties, and the role of community and institutions in prevention and support.

CONCLUSION:

The session concluded by reaffirming the collective responsibility to protect children from abuse. Participants were encouraged to stay informed, promote safe practices, and uphold the principles of equality and justice. The vote of thanks was delivered by Ms. Nanthitha R, ICC member. The awareness program successfully enhanced understanding of the POCSO Act's history, ongoing improvements, and its commitment to gender-equal protection.