

Our Response to the Ombudsman's report on “Mechanism for Identifying and Reporting Suspected Child Abuse Cases”

On October 22, the Office of the Ombudsman Hong Kong announced a direct investigation report on “Mechanism for Identifying and Reporting Suspected Child Abuse Cases”.

Save the Children welcomes the report and the recommendations set out by the Ombudsman and believes the Government should ensure inter-departmental cooperation and improve the guidelines to schools on how to handle suspected child abuse cases as soon as possible. In particular, the Government should provide information and instructions to kindergartens on how to identify and respond to suspected child abuse cases.

We also recommend mandatory reporting be instituted, based on consultations with relevant stakeholders on how to best support proper implementation. More resources should also be allocated to promote positive parenting, to enable children to grow up in an environment without violence. We believe these steps can and should be taken in order to serve the best interests of the children.