

## **POLICY ON PREVENTION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF ASSOCIATES IN SPHERE GLOBAL SERVICES LIMITED**

### **1.0 POLICY**

1.1 SPHERE GLOBAL is an equal employment opportunity company and is committed to creating a healthy working environment that enables employees to work without fear of prejudice, gender bias and sexual harassment. The Company also believes that all associates of the Company, have the right to be treated with dignity.

1.2 Sexual harassment at the work place or other than work place if involving associates is a grave offence and is, therefore, punishable.

1.3 The Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, has passed the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (Act) with the avowed object of providing protection/prevention against sexual harassment of women at the workplace. The Act further provides for the redressal of complaints of sexual harassment.

1.4 This policy is in compliance with the provisions of the Act. It is also in keeping with our commitment to the adoption of best practices and our principles of Values FIRST. This will also make us compliant to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women).

### **2.0 SCOPE AND EFFECTIVE DATE**

2.1 This Policy extends to all associates of the Company and is deemed to be incorporated in the service conditions of all associates and comes into effect immediately.

2.2 Sexual harassment would mean and include any of the following (in addition to the meaning provided in section 2 (n) of the Act):

i) unwelcome sexual advances, requests or demand for sexual favours, either explicitly or implicitly, in return for employment, promotion, examination or evaluation of a person towards any company activity;

ii) unwelcome sexual advances involving verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct such as sexually coloured remarks, jokes, letters, phone calls, e-mail, gestures, showing of pornography, lurid stares, physical contact or molestation, stalking, sounds, display of pictures, signs, verbal or non-verbal communication which offends the individuals' sensibilities and affect her/his performance;

iii) eve teasing, innuendos and taunts, physical confinement against one's will and likely to intrude upon one's privacy;

iv) act or conduct by a person in authority which creates an environment at the workplace that is hostile or intimidating to a person belonging to the other sex;

v) conduct of such an act at work place or outside in relation to an associate of SPHERE GLOBAL, or vice versa during the course of employment; and

vi) any unwelcome gesture by an associate having sexual overtones

2.3 "Associate" means any person on the rolls of the Company including those on deputation, contract, temporary, part time or working as consultants.

### **3.0 INTERNAL COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE**

3.1 A Committee has been constituted by the Management to consider and redress complaints of Sexual Harassment. The Chairman and Managing Director may constitute such committees as may be required for the purposes of the Act at the various locations of the company.

3.2 A quorum of 3 members is required to be present for the proceedings to take place. The quorum shall include the Chairperson, at least two members, one of whom shall be a lady.

3.3 You may reach the committee and report the matter to the below committee ID: Anti Sexual Harassment Committee : [cs@sphereglobal.in](mailto:cs@sphereglobal.in)

### **4.0 REDRESSAL PROCESS**

4.1 Any employee who feels and is being sexually harassed directly or indirectly may submit a complaint of the alleged incident to any member of the Committee in writing with his/her signature within 10 days of occurrence of incident.

4.2 The Committee will maintain a register to endorse the complaint received by it and keep the contents confidential, if it is so desired, except to use the same for discreet investigation.

4.3 The Committee will hold a meeting with the Complainant within five days of the receipt of the complaint, but no later than a week in any case.

4.4 At the first meeting, the Committee members shall hear the Complainant and record her/his allegations. The Complainant can also submit any corroborative material with a documentary proof, oral or written material, etc., to substantiate his / her complaint. If the Complainant does not wish to depose personally due to embarrassment of narration

of event, a lady officer for lady employees involved and a male officer for male employees, involved shall meet and record the statement.

4.5 Thereafter, the person against whom complaint is made may be called for a deposition before the Committee and an opportunity will be given to him / her to give an explanation, where after, an “Enquiry” shall be conducted and concluded.

4.6 In the event, the complaint does not fall under the purview of Sexual Harassment or the complaint does not mean an offence of Sexual Harassment, the same would be dropped after recording the reasons thereof.

4.7 In case the complaint is found to be false, the Complainant shall, if deemed fit, be liable for appropriate disciplinary action by the Management.

## **5.0 ENQUIRY PROCESS**

5.1 The Committee shall immediately proceed with the Enquiry and communicate the same to the Complainant and person against whom complaint is made.

5.2 The Committee shall prepare and hand over the Statement of Allegation to the person against whom complaint is made and give him / her an opportunity to submit a written explanation if she / he so desires within 7 days of receipt of the same.

5.3 The Complainant shall be provided with a copy of the written explanation submitted by the person against whom complaint is made.

5.4 If the Complainant or the person against whom complaint is made desires any witness/es to be called, they shall communicate in writing to the Committee the names of witness/es whom they propose to call.

5.5 If the Complainant desires to tender any documents by way of evidence before the Committee, she / he shall supply originals/copies of such documents. Similarly, if the person against whom complaint is made desires to tender any documents in evidence before the Committee he / she shall supply originals/copies of such documents. Both shall affix his / her signature on the respective documents to certify these them.

5.6 The Committee shall call upon all witnesses mentioned by both the parties.

5.7 The Committee shall provide every reasonable opportunity to the Complainant and to the person against whom complaint is made, for putting forward and defending their respective cases.

5.8 The Committee shall complete the “Enquiry” within reasonable period but not beyond three months and communicate its findings and its recommendations for action to the HR. The report of the committee shall be treated as an enquiry report on the

basis of which an erring employee can be awarded appropriate punishment straightaway.

5.9 The HR & CS will direct appropriate action in accordance with the recommendation proposed by the Committee.

5.10 The Committee shall be governed by such rules as may be framed by the Supreme Court orders or any other legislation enacted later on.

## **6.0 OTHER POINTS TO BE CONSIDERED**

6.1 The Committee may recommend to the President – HR action which may include transfer or any of the other appropriate disciplinary actions.

6.2 The management shall provide all necessary assistance for the purpose of ensuring full, effective and speedy implementation of this policy.

6.3 Where sexual harassment occurs as a result of an act or omission by any third party or outsider, SPHERE GLOBAL shall take all steps necessary and reasonable to assist the affected person in terms of support and preventive action.

6.4 The Committee shall analyze and put up report on all complaints of this nature at the end of the year for submission to HR.

6.5 In case the Committee find the degree of offence coverable under the Indian Penal Code, then this fact shall be mentioned in its report and appropriate action shall be initiated by the Management, for making a Police Complaint.