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## Protecting Women and Children: Adhering to Shelter Service Standards

Safe and well-functioning shelters are crucial for the protection and well-being of women, children, and vulnerable groups in our society. This advisory aims to ensure all shelters for women, children, and vulnerable groups operate in compliance with relevant laws and regulations.

To ensure the highest standards of care for women and children in shelters, the NCWC emphasizes the following compliance requirements for all Government Agencies, NGOs, and individuals providing these services:

- **Adherence to Legal Frameworks:** All shelters must comply with the Child Care and Protection Act 2011, the Domestic Violence Prevention Act 2013, and their respective regulations.
- **Adherence to NCWC Guidelines:** Strict adherence to the NCWC "Guidelines for Accreditation and Management of Shelter Homes for Women and Children in Difficult Circumstances" is mandatory. These guidelines outline the essential legal and operational standards for safeguarding the well-being of shelter residents.
- Non-compliance with these standards may result in legal action.

The NCWC encourages all stakeholders to contact the NCWC Secretariat for guidance on registration, compliance, and best practices for operating safe and effective shelter services.

The NCWC urges all stakeholders to work together to ensure that all shelters in Bhutan provide safe, supportive, and legally compliant environments for women, children, and vulnerable groups.

  
Kesang Deki

Chairperson

National Commission for Women and Children