



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Save the Children Fiji Condemns Disturbing Incident of Child Being Given Alcohol

Suva, Fiji – January 27, 2025 – It is with deep shock and profound concern that we at Save the Children Fiji address the deeply disturbing video circulating on social media that shows a child being given alcohol. This act of abuse is not only an egregious violation of the child's rights, but a heartbreaking display of neglect that must not be tolerated.

Shairana Ali, CEO of Save the Children Fiji, expresses her outrage and calls for urgent action:

"As a mother and as someone dedicated to protecting the most vulnerable members of our society, I am horrified by this incident. Children, particularly infants, are entirely dependent on adults for their care and protection. To expose a child to such harm is a violation of everything we stand for at Save the Children Fiji. We cannot, and must not, stand by when a child's safety is compromised in such a reckless and dangerous way."

Save the Children Fiji condemns this act in the strongest possible terms. The video circulating is not just disturbing; it represents a grave violation of a child's right to grow, thrive, and live in an environment free from harm. Children, especially infants, are incredibly vulnerable, and this act places their well-being at immediate risk.

"We demand that the authorities take swift and decisive action to investigate this incident thoroughly and ensure the safety of the child involved. Time is of the essence in cases of child abuse, and we must act now to protect this child from further harm," said Shairana Ali.

The dangers of alcohol consumption, particularly for young children, are well-documented, and it is imperative that incidents like this serve as a call to action. It is clear that stronger protections are needed for children across the country to prevent such shocking cases from occurring in the future.

"As a community, we all have a responsibility to protect our children," said Ali. *"I urge every member of the public to be vigilant and report any instance of child abuse or neglect. The safety of our children is a collective responsibility, and together, we can ensure that no child ever faces such harm again."*

Save the Children Fiji remains unwavering in its commitment to protecting every child's right and ensuring they have the opportunity to grow up in a loving, secure environment. We will continue to work alongside governments, organizations, and local communities to ensure stronger protections and advocate for laws that prevent child abuse.

"The video we have all seen may be shocking, but it is a painful reminder of the responsibility we all share in safeguarding our children. We must take action now to ensure that every child in Fiji

is given the care, safety, and love they deserve. No child should ever have to endure abuse or neglect, and we will not rest until stronger protections are in place for every child in this country."

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