

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) Government of NCT of Delhi**

16th August, 2021

#### **Four children rescued from begging and street situations in South Delhi.**

New Delhi

A Rescue Operation was conducted on 03/08/2021 at Chirag Delhi flyover near Saket metro station, and 4 children were rescued from begging and street situations, including 2 girls and 2 boys. These children were found begging with no masks, while being exposed to potentially threatening situations including physical violence, sexual exploitation and emotional abuse. The circumstances were posing a serious threat to their lives especially during these times of pandemic.

The rescue operation was carried out under the supervision of SDM, Hauz Khas with the support of Delhi Police, District Child Protection Officer (South District), Butterflies Childline (South Delhi), and DCPCR Representative.

All the children rescued were minors, and aged between 8 to 16 years. Post rescue, they were provided with medical care and COVID testing under the supervision of respective CDMO. The rescue team deployed by the SDM, Hauz Khas did a splendid job in ensuring the safety measures required during the course of the operation. Additionally, they made sure that all the rescued children felt secure in the premises, and were well taken care of.

Hon'ble MLA Shri Somnath Bharti has displayed deep commitment to ensure his constituency becomes a model constituency and no child is begging on the street.

Shri Anurag Kundu, Chairperson, DCPCR highlighted that *“Such rescue and rehabilitation interventions have become the need of the hour given that children are at a higher risk of being among the pandemic’s biggest victims, and the crisis*

*magnifies further for marginalised children. Children forced into begging or in street situations have either faced or are at a much greater risk of facing traumatic situations including physical violence, emotional and sexual exploitation, substance abuse, among others. Hence, it is extremely critical that they are rescued from such vulnerable circumstances, and adequate measures undertaken to ensure their well being including providing relief such as sponsorship to families or keeping in Children Homes where there is no one to take care of the child.”*

Currently all the children are in Child Care Institutions, and will be restored in their communities after following due process. It has come to light that all children are from Rajasthan, Sawai Madhopur.

A dedicated mission mode campaign focused on rescue, relief, rehabilitation only can help secure the future of the children who are out on the streets. In its 75th independence year, we owe it to our children.