

IPS-09 – HANDLING OF VOLUNTEER/TRAINEE ALLEGATIONS

Date: March 27, 2009

Responsible Office: Office of the General Counsel

Issuance Memo

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Interim Policy Statement is to set out explicitly Peace Corps policies for handling allegations by a Volunteer or Trainee of misconduct, mismanagement, or violations of law or policy.

2.0 POLICIES

2.1 Volunteers/Trainees (V/Ts) must be informed that they should report to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) any activity which they reasonably believe constitutes a violation of federal law, rule, or regulation; mismanagement; serious misconduct; gross waste of funds; abuse of authority; or a substantial and specific danger to the public health and safety relating to the programs and operations of the Peace Corps. *See* MS 861. Such reports will be handled by the OIG as set forth in MS 861.

- 2.2**
- (a) V/Ts may also report such allegations to senior staff at post or to the appropriate Regional Director.
 - (b) Any Peace Corps staff member receiving an allegation from a V/T must treat the information with the utmost discretion and confidentiality consistent with appropriate handling of the allegation and applicable law, including where appropriate, referral to the OIG or other legal authorities.
 - (c) No Peace Corps staff person may retaliate in any manner against a V/T because the V/T reported an allegation under this subsection. Nothing in this IPS should be construed to exempt a V/T from the requirement to behave in accordance with MS 204 *Volunteer Conduct*.
 - (d) All allegations by V/Ts will be given serious consideration and review and will be handled and resolved or disposed of, as appropriate, by management and/or the OIG.
 - (e) Based upon the nature of the allegations and the totality of available facts, appropriate measures must be taken to ensure the V/T's safety.

3.0 EFFECTIVE DATE

The effective date is the date of issuance.