

§ 2507b. Sexual assault policy**(a) In general**

The President shall develop and implement a comprehensive sexual assault policy that—

- (1) includes a system for restricted and unrestricted reporting of sexual assault;
- (2) mandates, for each Peace Corps country program, the designation of a Sexual Assault Response Liaison (SARL), who shall receive comprehensive training on procedures to respond to reports of sexual assault, with duties including ensuring that volunteers who are victims of sexual assault are moved to a safe environment and accompanying victims through the in-country response at the request of the victim;
- (3) requires SARLs to immediately contact a Victim Advocate upon receiving a report of sexual assault in accordance with the restricted and unrestricted reporting guidelines promulgated by the Peace Corps;
- (4) to the extent practicable, conforms to best practices in the sexual assault field;
- (5) is applicable to all posts at which volunteers serve; and
- (6) includes a guarantee that volunteers will not suffer loss of living allowances for reporting a sexual assault.

(b) Development and consultation with experts

In developing the sexual assault policy under subsection (a), the President shall consult with and incorporate, as appropriate, the recommendations and views of experts in the sexual assault field, including experts with international experience.

(c) Elements

The sexual assault policy developed under subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, the following services with respect to a volunteer who has been a victim of sexual assault:

- (1) The option of pursuing either restricted or unrestricted reporting of an assault.
- (2) Provision of a SARL and Victim's Advocate to the volunteer.
- (3) At a volunteer's discretion, provision of a sexual assault forensic exam in accordance with applicable host country law.
- (4) If necessary, the provision of emergency health care, including a mechanism for such volunteer to evaluate such provider.
- (5) If necessary, the provision of counseling and psychiatric medication.
- (6) Completion of a safety and treatment plan with the volunteer, if necessary.
- (7) Evacuation of such volunteer for medical treatment, accompanied by a Peace Corps staffer at the request of such volunteer. When evacuated to the United States, such volunteer shall be provided, to the extent practicable, a choice of medical providers including a mechanism for such volunteers to evaluate the provider.
- (8) An explanation to the volunteer of available law enforcement and prosecutorial options, and legal representation.

(d) Training

The President shall train all staff outside the United States regarding the sexual assault policy developed under subsection (a).

(Pub. L. 87-293, title I, §8B, as added Pub. L. 112-57, §2, Nov. 21, 2011, 125 Stat. 738.)

§ 2507c. Office of Victim Advocacy**(a) Establishment of Office of Victims¹ Advocacy****(1) In general**

The President shall establish an Office of Victim Advocacy in Peace Corps headquarters headed by a full-time victim advocate who shall report directly to the Director. The Office of Victim Advocacy may deploy personnel abroad when necessary to help assist victims.

(2) Prohibition

Peace Corps Medical Officers, Safety and Security Officers, and program staff may not serve as victim advocates. The victim advocate referred to in paragraph (1) may not have any other duties in the Peace Corps that are not reasonably connected to victim advocacy.

(3) Exemption

The victim advocate and any additional victim advocates shall be exempt from the limitations specified in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) and paragraph (5) under section 2506(a) of this title.

(b) Responsibilities**(1) Victims of sexual assault**

The Office of Victim Advocacy shall help develop and update the sexual assault risk-reduction and response training described in section 2507a of this title and the sexual assault policy described in section 2507b of this title, ensure that volunteers who are victims of sexual assault receive services specified in section 2507b(c) of this title, and facilitate their access to such services.

(2) Other crimes

In addition to assisting victims of sexual assault in accordance with paragraph (1), the Office of Victim Advocacy shall assist volunteers who are victims of crime by making such victims aware of the services available to them and facilitating their access to such services.

(3) Priority

The Office of Victim Advocacy shall give priority to cases involving serious crimes, including sexual assault and stalking.

(c) Status updates

The Office of Victim Advocacy shall provide to volunteers who are victims regular updates on the status of their cases if such volunteers have opted to pursue prosecution.

(d) Transition

The Office of Victim Advocacy shall assist volunteers who are victims of crime and whose service has terminated in receiving the services specified in section 2507b(c) of this title requested by such volunteer.

(e) Sunset

This section shall cease to be effective on October 1, 2018.

(Pub. L. 87-293, title I, §8C, as added Pub. L. 112-57, §2, Nov. 21, 2011, 125 Stat. 739.)

¹ So in original. Probably should be "Victim".

§ 2507d. Establishment of Sexual Assault Advisory Council

(a) Establishment

There is established a Sexual Assault Advisory Council (in this section referred to as the “Council”).

(b) Membership

The Council shall be composed of not less than 8 individuals selected by the President, not later than 180 days after November 21, 2011, who are returned volunteers (including volunteers who were victims of sexual assault and volunteers who were not victims of sexual assault) and governmental and nongovernmental experts and professionals in the sexual assault field. No Peace Corps employee shall be a member of the Council. The number of governmental experts appointed to the Council shall not exceed the number of nongovernmental experts.

(c) Functions; meetings

The Council shall meet not less often than annually to review the sexual assault risk-reduction and response training developed under section 2507a of this title, the sexual assault policy developed under section 2507b of this title, and such other matters related to sexual assault the Council views as appropriate, to ensure that such training and policy conform to the extent practicable to best practices in the sexual assault field.

(d) Reports

On an annual basis for 5 years after November 21, 2011, and at the discretion of the Council thereafter, the Council shall submit to the President and the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on its findings based on the reviews conducted pursuant to subsection (c).

(e) Employee status

Members of the Council shall not be considered employees of the United States Government for any purpose and shall not receive compensation other than reimbursement of travel expenses and per diem allowance in accordance with section 5703 of title 5.

(f) Nonapplicability of FACA

The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Council.

(g) Sunset

This section shall cease to be effective on October 1, 2018.

(Pub. L. 87-293, title I, §8D, as added Pub. L. 112-57, §2, Nov. 21, 2011, 125 Stat. 740.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Federal Advisory Committee Act, referred to in subsec. (f), is Pub. L. 92-463, Oct. 6, 1972, 86 Stat. 770, which is set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

§ 2507e. Volunteer feedback and Peace Corps review

(a) Monitoring and evaluation

Not later than 1 year after November 21, 2011, the President shall establish goals, metrics, and

monitoring and evaluation plans for all Peace Corps programs. Monitoring and evaluation plans shall incorporate best practices from monitoring and evaluation studies and analyses.

(b) Performance plans and elements

The President shall establish performance plans with performance elements and standards for Peace Corps representatives and shall review the performance of Peace Corps representatives not less than annually to determine whether they have met these performance elements and standards. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as limiting the discretion of the President to remove a Peace Corps representative.

(c) Annual volunteer surveys

Annually through September 30, 2018, the President shall conduct a confidential survey of volunteers regarding the effectiveness of Peace Corps programs and staff and the safety of volunteers. The results shall be provided in aggregate form without identifying information to the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives. Results from the annual volunteer survey shall be considered in reviewing the performance of Peace Corps representatives under subsection (a).

(d) Peace Corps Inspector General

The Inspector General of the Peace Corps shall—

(1) submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives—

(A) a report, not later than one year after November 21, 2011, and biennially through September 30, 2018, on reports received from volunteers relating to misconduct, mismanagement, or policy violations of Peace Corps staff, any breaches of the confidentiality of volunteers, and any actions taken to assure the safety of volunteers who provide such reports;

(B) a report, not later than two years and five years after November 21, 2011, evaluating the effectiveness and implementation of the sexual assault risk-reduction and response training developed under section 2507a of this title and the sexual assault policy developed under section 2507b of this title, including a case review of a statistically significant number of cases; and

(C) a report, not later than two years after November 21, 2011, describing how Peace Corps representatives are hired, how Peace Corps representatives are terminated, and how Peace Corps representatives hire staff, including an assessment of the implementation of the performance plans described in subsection (b); and

(2) when conducting audits or evaluations of Peace Corps programs overseas, notify the Director of the Peace Corps about the results of such evaluations, including concerns the Inspector General has noted, if any, about the