

Women Traveller Safety and Safeguarding Standard

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This public SOP is a readiness standard for future Priyasanchari operations. It is not a safety guarantee, emergency response service, legal advice, medical advice, immigration advice, therapy, or law-enforcement support.

1. Purpose and scope

This standard operating procedure sets the minimum safeguarding baseline for women-first route planning, destination research, accompaniment concepts, and travel-preparation conversations. It applies before, during, and after any future Priyasanchari-supported travel interaction.

2. Research basis

The SOP draws from official public guidance on women travellers, destination advisories, health preparation, sexual-assault response abroad, emergency registration, and consular support. Destination-specific decisions must always be checked against current official sources close to travel.

3. Core safeguarding principles

- Agency: the traveller keeps decision-making control unless immediate emergency help is required.
- Consent: no sharing of location, health, identity, itinerary, or emergency-contact details without a clear safety reason and informed consent, except where law or imminent harm requires escalation.
- Prevention over rescue: route design prioritizes daylight arrivals, realistic pacing, reliable transfers, conservative lodging, and exit options.
- Official sources first: government advisories, local emergency services, medical providers, embassies or consulates, insurers, and accommodation operators outrank website guidance.
- Survivor-centered response: if harassment, assault, coercion, or violence is reported, the first response is belief, immediate safety, medical options, consent, privacy, and official support pathways.

4. Pre-trip risk screening

Risk area	Minimum check	Stop or review trigger
Advisories	Check official advisories, local law, entry rules, and regional warnings.	Do-not-travel warning, active unrest, unreliable evacuation route, or contradictory official guidance.
Health	Confirm travel clinic needs, medication legality, insurance, evacuation cover, and health limitations.	No suitable insurance for destination/activity, medication legality uncertainty, or unmanaged medical constraint.
Accommodation	Review location, arrival hours, reception, locks, reviews, transport access, and emergency contact options.	Remote arrival at night, unclear address, poor safety reviews, or no fallback accommodation.
Transport	Prefer licensed operators, daylight transfers, confirmed pickup points, and route visibility.	Unverified driver, isolated night transfer, unsafe road window, or pressure to change route.

5. Traveller intake and privacy

- Collect only what is needed for safety planning: destination, dates, broad health/access needs, emergency contact preference, communication rhythm, and comfort boundaries.
- Avoid collecting passport scans, medical records, identity documents, payment details, or exact live location unless a specific secure process and lawful reason exist.
- Store sensitive information only as long as needed for service, accounting, legal, or safety purposes. Delete non-essential data when it no longer has a clear purpose.
- Keep one trusted emergency contact and one local fallback contact where practical.

6. Route and accommodation safeguards

- Plan first arrivals during daylight wherever possible.
- Keep the first night simple: confirmed stay, known transfer, offline address, backup money, charged phone, and no complex social plans.
- Separate cash, cards, passport copies, and phone backups.
- Build exit options into every city: safe transport, alternate accommodation, embassy or consulate details, insurer number, and emergency services.
- Flag cultural, legal, clothing, photography, medication, alcohol, nightlife, protest, and border-area risks without shaming the traveller.

7. Communication protocol

- Green: traveller checks in as planned; no action needed.
- Amber: missed check-in, route delay, discomfort, or confusing situation; attempt contact, verify last known itinerary, and encourage a conservative next step.
- Red: credible immediate danger, assault, detention, serious illness, missing person concern, or disaster exposure; contact local emergency services, accommodation, insurer, embassy or consulate, and emergency contact as appropriate.

8. Harassment, assault, coercion, or violence response

- Ask whether the traveller is currently safe and whether urgent medical or police help is needed.
- Encourage moving to a safer public, staffed, or known location if possible.
- Share official options: local emergency number, accommodation staff, insurer emergency line, embassy or consulate, and specialist victim-support resources where available.
- Do not pressure reporting. Reporting, medical examination, forensic evidence, and legal steps can be time-sensitive and jurisdiction-specific.
- Document only factual information needed for safety support. Do not record unnecessary intimate details.

9. Accompaniment and boundaries

Any future accompaniment must be governed by written boundaries before travel: dates, hours, places, activities, costs, emergency limits, privacy, sleeping arrangements, transport rules, and termination triggers. Accompaniment is not bodyguarding, medical care, therapy, legal representation, interpretation guarantee, or rescue work.

10. Stop-work and escalation triggers

- The traveller asks for help that requires a licence, medical professional, lawyer, police, insurer, or immigration authority.
- Destination risk rises beyond the agreed comfort or advisory threshold.
- Supplier, driver, guide, accommodation, or local contact behaves coercively or inconsistently.
- The traveller appears medically unfit, unsafe, under coercion, unreachable in a red-tier context, or unable to give informed consent.
- Any request involves illegal conduct, document misuse, evading authorities, unsafe border movement, or travel against official warnings.

Official source links

U.S. State Department Women Travelers: travel.state.gov/en/international-travel/planning/personal-needs/women.html

GOV.UK Advice for women travelling abroad: gov.uk/guidance/advice-for-women-travelling-abroad

GOV.UK Rape and sexual assault abroad: gov.uk/guidance/victim-of-rape-and-sexual-assault-abroad

CDC Travelers' Health: wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel

India MEA Travel Advisories: mea.gov.in/travel-advisories

Singapore MFA eRegister guidance: mfa.gov.sg/newsroom/announcements-and-highlights/eregister-your-travels-for-peace-of-mind/