# SILENT CRIES: RECOGNIZING THE WARNING SIGNS OF CHILD ABUSE



## Physical Abuse:

- Unexplained bruises, burns, or welts in the shape of objects
- Wearing long sleeves even in hot weather (to hide injuries)
- Making excuses or showing fear to avoid going home
- Injuries that don't match the given explanation

## Emotional Abuse:

- Delayed physical or emotional development
- Excessive withdrawal, fearfulness, anxiety
- Aggression or overly compliant behavior
- Low self-esteem or self-worth

## Sexual Abuse:

- Avoidance of certain people or places without explanation
- Knowledge of sex inappropriate for the child's age
- Lack of eye contact, not wanting to participate
- Trouble walking or sitting

## Neglect:

- Poor hygiene or being consistently dirty
- Unattended medical or dental issues
- Frequently hungry or loss of weight
- Seeking additional attention

## Bullying/other general signs:

- ANY change in behavior (may differ from expected)
- Sensitivity to sudden noises and/or movements
- Sitting alone, avoiding friends, fearing others
- Staying behind allowing peers to leave first
- Sudden inability to focus or concentrate
- Red or puffy eyes indicative of crying
- Frequent absences from school

**Warning signs may vary and are not limited to those listed. If you suspect child abuse, it's important to report it to the appropriate authorities or child protection services without delay!**