

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

Aitken Spence Travels, Sri Lanka's leading Destination Management Company, is committed to uplifting local communities and inclusive tourism industry in the destination we operate. Our Community Engagement Policy focuses on supporting social development, preserving culture, preventing exploitation, and empowering communities through the active participation of our staff, partners, and customers.

### **OUR COMMITMENT**

1. As part of our Group Sustainability Strategy, we are committed to supporting the communities where we operate through partnerships with charitable organizations and other local stakeholders.
2. We actively support initiatives focused on local infrastructure and social development. These include projects related to education, training, health, sanitation, and addressing the impacts of climate change.
3. We support local entrepreneurs in the development and sale of sustainable products and services that reflect the area's nature, history, and culture.
4. When purchasing and offering goods and services, we prioritize locally owned businesses, thereby bringing additional revenue to local families and individuals involved in our itineraries and services.
5. We actively engage with communities to prevent all forms of commercial, sexual, or other exploitation or harassment, particularly of children, adolescents, women, minorities, and other vulnerable groups.
6. Our staff are trained to respect local community resources and cultural heritage.
7. We also encourage our customers and service providers to engage with local communities in ways that are mutually beneficial.

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8. We aim to make the communities in which we operate better places to live and do business. We are committed to being sensitive to the local cultural, social, and economic needs of the communities we serve.
9. We follow recognized best practices and local guidelines to ensure visits to traditionally and culturally sensitive sites minimize negative impacts while maximizing community benefits and visitor satisfaction.

*Manoj*

This policy is reviewed annually or as necessary to reflect evolving standards, stakeholder expectations, and organizational goals. It is approved by senior management and endorsed at the highest level of the ASTL.

Approved by: *Udaya Rajes*