



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND ADULTS AT RISK POLICY

On Fire Mission takes the issue of safeguarding seriously. Ensuring that children and young people as well as adults are kept safe whilst in our care is an integral part of our commitment.

**If you have concerns our named officer for safeguarding is The Revd. Narinder Tegally.
Narinder can be contacted on: [contact details coming soon]**

1. INTRODUCTION

Purpose

On Fire Mission (OFM) Board of Trustees recognise that abuse and maltreatment in any form is entirely against Scripture and the Church's teachings. In respecting the dignity and value of every person the Trustees are committed to

- Respectful pastoral ministry with all children and adults
- The safeguarding and protection of all children and adults when they are at risk
- Establishing safe and caring environments

This policy is intended to provide a framework for achieving this.

Definitions

When is an adult vulnerable?

Government guidance describes a vulnerable adult as, any person over the age of 18 years "who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm". Within faith settings it is also recognised as a person who has recently suffered personal adversity making them in particular need of pastoral support. Some of the factors that increase vulnerability include:

- sensory or physical disability or impairment;
- learning disability;
- physical illness;
- chronic or acute mental ill health (including dementia);
- addiction to alcohol or drugs;
- failing faculties in, but not exclusive to, old age;
- spiritual and emotional abuse – coercion and harassment;
- permanent or temporary reduction in physical, mental or emotional capacity through life events such as bereavement, abuse or trauma and
- discriminatory abuse – ensure autonomy, respect and dignity for all people regardless of their condition

Mistreatment or abuse can occur in any relationship and may result in significant harm or exploitation.

Recognising mistreatment or significant harm

Abuse or mistreatment is a single or repeated act which violates an individual's human and / or civil rights. It may be physical, verbal or psychological, be an act of neglect or omission, or it may occur when a vulnerable person is persuaded to enter into a financial or sexual transaction to which they have not given, or cannot give, consent.

Someone may use their position of influence, power or authority to the detriment of the safety, welfare and general wellbeing of a vulnerable person through ignorance, or with intent and for personal gain.

2. PRINCIPLES

The OFM Board of Trustees recognise that

- Whilst OFM's annual Conference and other activities are not specifically aimed at adults who are vulnerable or 'at risk', it is recognised that such persons may be present amongst those in attendance.
- Safeguarding is a shared duty to be discharged not only by OFM Trustees, but by all those involved in the delivery of OFM activities, in particular Conference Organising Group (COG) members and prayer ministry team participants.

3. PRACTICE

All those involved in the delivery of OFM activities undertake to:

1. Treat all persons with respect and dignity, keeping language respectful. This includes
 - Keeping physical contact specific to the needs of the activity, e.g. in the administration of prayer ministry
 - Never subjecting another person to ridicule or insult.
2. Report any safeguarding concerns that may arise speedily and in confidence to the Designated Safeguarding Officer of OFM, or in his or her absence, to another member of OFM Trustee Board, who will take appropriate action.
3. OFM Board of Trustees undertake to exercise proper care when making appointments or issuing invitations to persons to be involved in OFM activities.
4. Refer to the designated safeguarding lead or Chair of OFM any instances where it is felt that the deliverance ministry of the Church may be needed.

4. PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

All those involved in the delivery of OFM activities are aware of the Promoting a Safer Church agenda and the OFM Trustees are aware of and committed to Promoting a Safer Church.

5. REVIEW DATE

This policy is to be reviewed every year.

Last Review Date for this Policy

January 2022