

## Global Safeguarding Principles

<b>Contact Name and Details</b>	The Revd Conrad Hicks Director of Global Relationships hicksc@methodistchurch.org.uk
<b>Action Required</b>	The Council is asked to authorise the signing of the <i>Safeguarding Principles for the Methodist Church in Britain and International Partners</i> on its behalf
<b>Resolutions</b>	24/1. The Council receives the report.  24/2. The Council directs that the <i>Safeguarding Principles for the Methodist Church in Britain and International Partners</i> be signed on its behalf.

### Summary of Content

<b>Subject and Aims</b>	To fulfil the requirement of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee that global safeguarding principles be agreed with our global partners
<b>Main Points</b>	To outline the process behind the drafting of the <i>Safeguarding Principles for the Methodist Church in Britain and International Partners</i> and to present them

## Global Safeguarding Principles

- 1.1 Following an internal audit, the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee accepted the proposals made by the Global Relationships and Safeguarding teams on developing safeguarding principles and actions that will provide a framework for monitoring grants made from the World Mission Fund (WMF) as well as for establishing best practice across our global relationships. The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee asked for there to be globally agreed principles with our Partners, to be signed by themselves and the Methodist Council.
- 1.2 From the beginning of August, our Partners were consulted about which high-level principles they would like to see as a part of those globally agreed principles. These were formed into a draft document that was then sent to our Partners for initial approval and a chance for other comments and additions. The final draft was then presented to the Safeguarding Committee and then to the October meeting of the Global Relationships Committee (GRC). It was approved by both committees without amendment.
- 1.3 These globally agreed principles form one strand of the response to the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee's requirements. In addition, WMF grants forms will be revised to ask for examples of good practice, from which MCB and others might learn; to ask for confirmation that the globally agreed principles have been signed; and to ask for self-disclosure of any safeguarding concerns. Any safeguarding concerns relating to our Partners' or our work overseas, will be reported to the GRC anonymously and there will be an annual update to the GRC by Partnership Co-ordinators about safeguarding systemically in each region. This will include areas of mutual learning and co-operation. The Safeguarding team will produce training and guidance for members of the grants stream and any future body responsible for grants made from the WMF.
- 1.4 Agreement of the Council to the *Safeguarding Principles for the Methodist Church in Britain and International Partners* as drafted with our Partners and shown below as section 2, will show solidarity with our Partners and show MCB's commitment to these mutually agreed principles.

## 2. Safeguarding Principles for the Methodist Church in Britain and International Partners

Safeguarding is a term that is used in Britain to define the area of keeping all people safe, this includes, but is not exclusive to:

- Keeping children safe from any type of abuse, bullying or harm.
- Keeping vulnerable adults safe from any type of abuse, bullying or harm.
- How we make sure we are reporting concerns and recording actions.
- How leaders, managers and those with governance responsibility ensure concerns and reports are acted on.
- Ensuring there is a recognised complaints system and volunteers and workers are able to raise concerns about poor practice without fear of retribution.

Children are defined as persons under 18 years old.

In collaboration with its worldwide partners the Methodist Church in Britain has formed the principles below. These principles are aspirational and realistic in highlighting that safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone in our churches and communities.

Partners who receive grants are encouraged to include examples of good practice and implementation of these principles. This will aid mutual learning. Examples should be included in their annual reports.

1. The Methodist Church in Britain, and its partners, value every human being as part of God's creation and made in the image of God.
2. At the heart of the Methodist Church in Britain and its partners is a deep sense that Christian community is always a place of welcome, hospitality and openness, which demonstrates the nature of God's grace and love for all.
3. Our church communities and institutions are called to be places where the transformational love of God is embodied and God's gift of life in all its fullness is offered to all people.
4. Everyone should be treated with equal respect and dignity. This means everyone has the right to protection from abuse irrespective of any personal characteristics.
5. Safeguarding is how the Church, working with its partners, promotes a safe culture. We will:
  - a. promote the welfare of children, young people and adults
  - b. work to prevent abuse from occurring
  - c. stand in solidarity, seek to protect and respond well to those that have been abused.
  - d. strive for justice in the response to abuse.
  - e. challenge those who abuse their power and examine safe ways for them to be part of our communities.
6. We will identify those who may pose a risk and take steps to reduce such risks.
7. The Methodist Church in Britain, and its partners, affirm that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children, adults who are vulnerable, victims and survivors of abuse, has a part to play. All safeguarding policies should consistently promote good practice across the whole church or organisation.
8. The Methodist Church in Britain, its partners and individual members, will undertake appropriate steps to maintain a safe environment. We will practise fully and positively Christ's ministry towards children, and adults who are vulnerable and respond sensitively and compassionately to keep them safe from harm.

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTIONS**

**24/1. The Council receives the report.**

**24/2. The Council directs that the *Safeguarding Principles for the Methodist Church in Britain and International Partners* be signed on its behalf.**