



SAFEGUARDING GUIDELINES

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF LONDON

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PREAMBLE

For the Church, communication is a mission, characterised by the principles of participation and sharing. It is truly effective when it becomes witness to the life of Faith. Pope Francis has said that: *'I would like to encourage everyone to engage in constructive forms of communication that reject prejudice towards others and foster a culture of encounter, helping all of us to view the world around us with realism and trust.'*

INTRODUCTION

Communication is an essential element of the Church's mission, which centres on the proclamation of the Gospel. The communicating of effective safeguarding measures reflects this task in two ways:

1. promoting the inherent dignity of every person and advocating justice
2. fairness in serving the needs of the community.

This plan sets out the processes put in place to disseminate our safeguarding policy, practice, and guidance across the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the Holy Family of London. This Eparchial safeguarding policy drives and encourages a commitment to providing safe and welcoming church environments through best practice, openness, and a joint commitment to the safeguarding mission of the universal Catholic Church.

As a result of this plan, we hope it is understood that the Eparchy and those associated with it:

- Prioritises and recognises the seriousness of safeguarding and creating safer environments.
- Knows what to do and who to talk to should an issue arise.
- Would apologise to victim-survivors, acknowledging and accepting mistakes and/or failures where appropriate.
- Understands that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

AUDIENCE

The target groups with which the Eparchy needs to communicate regarding its safeguarding policy and procedures are:

Internal: Clergy, Employees, Trustees, Volunteers, Parishioners including children and their parents or carers involved in Church based activities as well as adults at risk and their carers.

External: Wider Ukrainian Community, Wider Local Community, Other Churches, Media, Victim-Survivors, Actions Groups, Partner Agencies (Police, Social Services, Local Authorities)

KEY MESSAGES

- The safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is **at the heart of the Church's mission**.
- The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the Holy Family of London is **fully committed to safeguarding in the Church**.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and is a priority in every parish.
- The Eparchy has **adopted and implemented the policies and procedures** of the Catholic Church of England and Wales, which is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of the life and ministry of the Church. Furthermore, the Eparchy is a member of the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA)
- The Eparchy will **liaise closely with statutory and non-statutory agencies** to ensure that we: promptly and properly respond to any allegations of abuse, pass on allegations to the Police; appropriately support any victims; and hold perpetrators to account.
- **Victims come first**. This has not always been the case. The Catholic Church deeply regrets all instances of sexual abuse and the abuse of minors and vulnerable adults and accepts that grave mistakes were made in the past.

AIMS/GOALS

General:

- To explain what we mean by safeguarding.
- Demonstrate our transparency and support for victims-survivors.
- Share the safeguarding journey of the Eparchy and the Catholic Church.
- Provide and make easily accessible Eparchial safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Make easily available the contact information of those with safeguarding responsibility in the Eparchy.
- Disseminate amongst parishes the Eparchial Safeguarding Resource Pack which includes safeguarding posters, role descriptions, information on safer recruitment and the procedures for reporting allegations, suspicions, and concerns.

For parishioners and the wider community, we will clarify:

- How to keep safe.
- What to do if you, or someone you know, is being harmed.
- Where to find advice and support.
- The role of agencies involved in safeguarding.
- How the referral process works.

For victim-survivors, we will provide information on:

- How to access support.
- Who to contact.
- The Eparchial Care Charter

For Church personnel, we will explain:

- What the Eparchy defines as good practice, and how we expect it to be delivered.
- What is meant by a culture of safeguarding in the Catholic Church.

- The Safeguarding Resource Pack which contains the Eparchy's safeguarding policy, practice and guidance.
- What safe recruitment is.
- How to deal with allegations.
- How to access support and advice.
- Where to access information and contact details for relevant persons/agencies.
- How to access training and other safeguarding related events.

METHODS

The Eparchy uses, and will continue to use, the following methods of communication and will, in consultation with the Trustees' Safeguarding Sub-committee, further explore and develop methods to communicate safeguarding messages.

Print:

- Posters and notices containing key safeguarding information/contacts on display in designated areas.
- Eparchial Safeguarding Resource Pack

Digital:

- Eparchial website and social media channels.
- Ukrainian Crisis Action Group website and social media channels.
- Ad Clerum, newsletters, e-bulletins, and reports.

Word of mouth / community engagement:

- Training sessions.
- Parish priest openly speaking about safeguarding issues with parishioners (e.g., safeguarding in the locality, national changes, announcements from CBCEW or CSSA, current media interest etc.)

External Media:

To promote and develop a positive understanding of safeguarding activity in the Eparchy amongst the media and general public, press releases and other means of communication, may, if deemed appropriate or necessary, accompany events such as report launches or the publication of new policies and procedures concerning the safeguarding of children, young people, and adults at risk.

Consultation and Feedback meetings:

Meetings can be organised with parishes with the aim of hearing the views and needs of parishioners on safeguarding issues.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board of Trustees, in particular the Trustees Safeguarding Sub-committee, have overall responsibility for managing all aspects of policy development for the Eparchy. However, the

responsibility for the observance of this policy “Safeguarding Guidelines - Communications Plan” belongs to the Eparchial Safeguarding Coordinator.

All clergy, PSRs, activity leaders, and relevant departments, all have responsibilities in relation to communicating the Eparchy’s safeguarding message. Nonetheless, within each parish, the overall responsibility for implementing this plan, as in all aspects of safeguarding children, young adults, and adults at risk involved in church related activities, remains with the Parish Priest.

REVIEW

The safeguarding communications plan is to be reviewed annually.

Next review date: August 2024

For more information please contact:

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