Can our Mothers’ Union group meet at the moment?

*updated 2 November 2020*

The situation varies across the various government areas and in local areas, but in most areas, it is (or will not be) possible for Mothers’ Union groups to meet in person over the coming weeks.

Many local groups are talking the opportunity to meet on Zoom and keeping in touch by phone will continue to be important for those members who don’t have access to computers, tablets or smart phones.

**England**

From Thursday 5 November until Wednesday 2 December, the Government is to:

* require people to stay at home, except for specific purposes
* prevent gatherings with people you do not live with
* close certain businesses and venues.

Some voluntary activities in which Mothers’ Union members may be involved, such as the provision of Food Banks, will be able to continue under certain restrictions and guidance will be given in the coming days by the Government.

After 2December, it is envisaged that there will be a return to the three tier system.

For current guidance, go to: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november>

**Northern Ireland**

The current guidelines, which are in place until Friday 13 November allow for up to 15 people to meet indoors, but not in someone’s private dwelling, so it is still possible for small groups to meet in community settings with social distancing and good respiratory and hand hygiene practices.

For more guidance, visit: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-regulations-guidance-what-restrictions-mean-you>

**Republic of Ireland**

The Republic of Ireland is currently at Level 5. At Level 5, the public health risk means that everyone is asked to stay at home with certain exceptions. There will be no gatherings other than small numbers at funerals and weddings.

More detailed information can be found at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/2dc71-level-5/>

**Wales**

The firebreak lockdown in Wales continues until Monday 9 November, so:

* people must stay at home, except for very limited purposed
* people must not visit other households or meet other people they do not live with
* certain business and venues must close

After 9 November, a new set of national rules will be introduced, covering how people can meet.

For current guidance go to:

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus-firebreak-frequently-asked-questions>

**Scotland**

From Monday 2 November, the Scottish Government have introduced a five tier system of local protection levels. To find out the level applicable in you area and what you can or cannot do, visit:

<https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19>