**Safeguarding**

# Policy Commitment

*For dioceses in Britain & Ireland, it is recommended that the following Policy Commitment be adopted:*

As an organisation concerned with Christian principles and ministry in family life, the nurture and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults is at the heart of Mothers’ Union. Both individually as members and collectively as an organisation, Mothers’ Union has a duty to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults, doing everything possible to ensure that they are safe when involved in Mothers’ Union activities.

We will follow the safeguarding policies and practices of the Diocese/Province of ………………………………………

Mothers’ Union will promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults by aiming to prevent abuse from occurring, to protect those who are at risk of abuse and to respond well to those who have been abused. We will follow procedures to enable the identification of those who may present a risk to others and, should this occur, seek appropriate pastoral support for them.

**Guidance for Diocesan Trustee Boards**

*The Britain and Ireland Group have agreed the following guidelines for Mothers' Union diocesan Trustee Boards in Britain & Ireland:*

1. At the first Trustee meeting in each year, and every time national, provincial or diocesan Anglican safeguarding procedures are significantly revised, the trustee board will adopt the Anglican diocesan/provincial safeguarding procedures for their activities. This will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
2. The diocesan trustee board will nominate a member:
* to have an overview of the safeguarding aspects of Mothers’ Union activities across the diocese, including liaison with the Provincial/Diocesan Safeguarding Officer;
* to ensure that safeguarding requirements are met for all activities or initiatives in the diocese; and
* to be part of the Britain & Ireland Community of Interest for Safeguarding.
1. Annually, the board should review the roles in Mothers’ Union activities in the diocese that include direct involvement with children, young people and adults at risk to ensure that those volunteers involved in the activities:
* are appropriately recruited;
* receive training, either in line with the Anglican provincial/diocesan guidelines or those of a partner organisation with whom Mothers’ Union is working;
* are aware of the relevant reporting procedures to deal with safeguarding concerns and allegations.

It is expected that in most situations, Mothers' Union, at provincial, diocesan or local level, will follow the safeguarding policies and practices of the Anglican Church, or those of any other external organisation that Mothers' Union is working with.

**Guidance documents are provided to assist diocesan trustee boards in the area of safeguarding and to offer good practice guidelines to make it easier for Mothers' Union groups, branches and individual members to ‘do the right thing’ when it comes to safeguarding. These documents can be found at** <https://www.mothersunion.org/safeguarding>

Good safeguarding practice does not create barriers to our Mothers' Union outreach, but makes it possible for us to engage with vulnerable groups in our communities appropriately and safely, both for them and for our members.

## **Useful information/contact details**

### Church of England policies and guidelines (provinces of Canterbury and York)

<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/policy-and-practice-guidance>

### Church of Ireland

<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/about/safeguarding>

### Church in Wales

<https://www.churchinwales.org.uk/en/safeguarding/>

### Scottish Episcopal Church

<http://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/organisation/safeguarding/>