

Safeguarding in Mothers' Union

Safeguarding – it's everyone's responsibility

It's easy to think that safeguarding is something that only applies to those who run activities involving children or adults at risk, but that's not the case. Safeguarding is to do with each one of us as Mothers' Union members.

As an organisation, Mothers' Union is committed to protecting children, young people and adults who are at risk and to do everything possible to make sure they are safe when involved in Mothers' Union activities. The only way we can do this is if every member is aware of the importance of safeguarding – not just those who are beneficiaries of our projects and activities, but also for other members.

Create a safe environment for all

We can all help to create a safe environment both for ourselves, and all those we come into contact with by:

Treating everyone with respect and setting a positive example for others

Not putting anyone, including yourself, into a vulnerable or compromising situation

Not keeping allegations or suspected abuse secret

Challenging unacceptable behaviour from others

Respecting personal space and privacy

Not having inappropriate physical or verbal contact with others

Ensuring your actions cannot be misrepresented by someone else

If you suspect abuse...

Remember the four R's:

Recognise....	the signs that could indicate abuse of a child, young person or vulnerable adult
Respond....	to someone who discloses abuse to you by taking them seriously, listening carefully and not investigating yourself
Record....	what you have been told (or what you have observed) factually and accurately. Record the time, date, place and actual words used by the person disclosing
Report	Immediately to the person in charge of the activity or who you have been told to contact if you have a safeguarding concern. Don't keep it to yourself.

If there is immediate danger to a child or an adult, contact the police by dialling 999

I'm concerned that we aren't doing the right thing

If in doubt, ask! Ask your Parish Safeguarding Officer, or the Mothers' Union Diocesan Safeguarding contact. If you don't know who this is, your diocesan secretary should be able to help.

If you have any concerns about activities involving Mothers' Union members that are organised/managed by another organisation and you don't think appropriate safeguarding procedures are in place, talk to your Mothers' Union Diocesan Safeguarding contact.

And if you are involved with an activity outside Mothers' Union involving children, young people or adults at risk and don't think you have had appropriate checking or training, then ask the person responsible for managing the activity, or if it is based in church, your Parish Safeguarding Officer.