Safeguarding

## *Information about safeguarding issues for Mothers’ Union Diocesan Presidents in the Provinces of Canterbury, York, All Ireland, Scotland and Wales.*

The safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is of prime importance to Mothers’ Union and the central Board of Trustees have agreed the following statement of commitment:

**Mothers’ Union Statement of Commitment:**

**Safeguarding globally**

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 issued by the Anglican Church, and the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) charter for the safety of people within the churches of the Anglican Communion. 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.

**Recommendations to Diocesan Trustee Boards**

To put this Statement of Commitment into practice, it is recommended that:

1. At the beginning of each triennium, and every time national, provincial or diocesan Anglican safeguarding policies and/or procedures are significantly revised, the trustee board will accept and implement the Anglican provincial/diocesan safeguarding policies, including any specifically Mothers’ Union related procedures or guidelines that the Anglican Provincial/Diocesan Safeguarding Officer recommends. This acceptance will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting, along with any recommended action points agreed with the Provincial/Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.
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 any new activities or initiatives in the diocese; and
* to be part of the Britain & Ireland Community of Interest for Safeguarding.

1. On a regular basis, and at least once in a triennial period, the board should review the roles in Mothers’ Union activities in the diocese that include direct involvement with children, young people and vulnerable adults to ensure that those volunteers involved in the activities are appropriately recruited, have received training in line with the Anglican provincial/diocesan guidelines and are aware of the reporting procedures to deal with safeguarding concerns and allegations.

## Useful information/contact details

# Anglican provincial safeguarding policies and guidelines

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

<https://www.churchofengland.org/clergy-office-holders/safeguarding-children-vulnerable-adults/house-of-bishops-policy-practice-guidance.aspx>

### Church of Ireland

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

### Church in Wales

<http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/structure/representative-body/hr/safeguarding/>

### Scottish Episcopal Church

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

# Thirtyone:eight (formerly the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service)

<https://thirtyoneeight.org/>

Helpful information: This is provided in the Thirtyone:eight members’ only section, and includes a wide range of practice guidelines: for example, the section on Working Safely. The central Mothers’ Union are members of Thirtyone:eight and members of Mothers’ Union can email the central staff team for the password for this section. Please contact: safeguarding@mothersunion.org.

24 hr helpline**:** If for any reason Mothers’ Union members cannot reach their designated professional Anglican Safeguarding Advisers, Thirtyone:eight also offer a 24 confidential helpline 0303 003 11 11 (option2). Out of office hours it is for **urgent** matters that cannot wait until the next working day.

**Please note:**

It is important to be aware that this document is not in itself a safeguarding policy, and any recommendations contained in it should not be enacted without first seeking professional advice from the Anglican Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser/s.