

# Safeguarding Information for a Group Leader

*We are praying and reflecting for survivors and victims of abuse. Survivors are part of us, our families and communities, and may be with us in the session, unidentified. We need to be sensitive and aware.*

- **During the service or session:** Being in a situation where abuse is being addressed or talked about could be a 'trigger' for a victim or survivor or family member taking part in the session. Ensure that a support team member is observing the session, face to face or on zoom, and is available during or after the session for listening and being that 'safe place' for anyone who has been 'triggered' to a past experience, or is upset or uncomfortable for any reason.
- Ensure **safeguarding contact numbers** (diocesan representative and diocesan co-ordinator) clearly visible, in parish, and in any booklet used for the service
- Ensure **parish safeguarding policy** clearly in place.
  - It is the policy of the Catholic Church in England & Wales to report all allegations of abuse to statutory authorities, regardless of whether the abuse occurred recently or in the past, or whether the accused person is living or deceased.
  - As a leader, you may refer any concerns or allegations directly to the Safeguarding Officer for your diocese or religious congregation.
- **In an emergency** – ring the police on 999
- If you are holding this session on line, be aware of the safeguarding policies, and the need to signpost to support on screen, and in any participant handout.

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Prepared by the *Isaiah Journey* Working Group of the Bishops' Conference © 2022 Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales.  
[www.cbcew.org.uk/prayer-for-survivors-of-abuse-2022](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/prayer-for-survivors-of-abuse-2022)

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# For participants:

## **‘If you or someone you know would like support’.**

If you have been affected by anything that has been shared today, then you might like to speak to: Parish Safeguarding Representative, Parish Priest or Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator. All contact will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Alternatively there is a list of further contacts & resources on the parish noticeboard or on the back of this booklet

## Local support organisations/people:

## National organisations offering support

- <https://napac.org.uk/> National Association for People Abused in Childhood
- <https://www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk/#> Safe Spaces, supporting people abused in the Church
- NSPCC Child Protection Helpline: 0808 800 5000 (lines free and open 24 hours). Phone if you are worried about a child.
- Child-line: 0800 1111 (lines free and open 24 hours). Phone if you are a child or young person and are worried about anything.
- National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247 ((lines free and open 24 hours). Phone if you are experiencing domestic abuse.
- Samaritans Helpline: 08457 90 90 90 (open 24 hours). Phone if you feel you are struggling to cope and need someone to talk to.
- Action on Elder Abuse Helpline: 080 8808 8141 (free phone Monday to Friday 9-5pm)

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