



THE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

SECTION 1

Details of the place of worship and its main correspondence address

Prayer Power Network (PPN) currently operates on online platforms

The address provided on the application form is for correspondence purposes.

Prayer Power Network uses online platform (**Zoom**) for worship and all other meetings for now, however, this is subject to change in future after the current Covid-19 pandemic.

The charity's objectives are:

a The proclamation and furtherance of the Gospel of God concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord and the preaching and teaching of the Christian Faith in accordance with the Bible.

b The relief of persons who are in conditions of need, financial hardship or who are aged and sick and in need and to relieve the distress caused thereby in England and in other such parts of the United Kingdom and the world.

c To advance the education of the inhabitants of England and other such parts of the United Kingdom and the world by providing and assisting in the provision of educational facilities and resources and in any other way that the Trustees may from time to time consider the possibility.

d To promote and fulfil such other charitable purposes beneficial to the community in England and such other parts of the United Kingdom and the world.

Since all our services are currently hosted online platform, users are in control of their own devices. However, if any child found accessing the platform showing video the moderator will stop the video streaming from the that particular individual to avoid the infringement of individual privacy.

Whenever the church will start to operate from a physical premise, these are the measure to safeguard children and youths. As part of our Sunday gatherings there will be groups of preschools for children with different age groups such as Children from 2-5 aged group, children from 6-11 and for older children from 12-18 which are considered as youth.

Apart from Sundays, we do hold weekly meetings on Friday and Saturday's evenings and host different events from time to time. Where children, youth and adults are present, we

always advise parents to safeguard their children from accessing the platform without adult supervisions

Our commitment

At Prayer Power Network, we recognise the need to provide a safe and caring environment for children, young and adults. We acknowledge that children, young and adults can be the victims of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, and neglect. We accept the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant of Human Rights, which states that everyone is entitled to “all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status”. We also agree with the Convention on the Rights of the Child which states that children should be able to develop their full potential, free from hunger and want, neglect and abuse. They have a right to be protected from “all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s), or any other person who has care of the child.” At Prayer Power Network we have therefore adopted the procedures set out in this safeguarding policy in accordance with statutory guidance. We are committed to build practical connections with statutory and voluntary agencies involved in safeguarding.

The policy and attached practice guidelines are based on the ten Safe and Secure safeguarding standards published by Thirty-one: eight.

Prayer Power Network undertake to:

- a. endorse and follow all national and local safeguarding legislation and procedures, in addition to the international conventions outlined above.
- b. provide on-going safeguarding training for all volunteers and regularly review the operational guidelines attached.
- c. ensure that the online platform and the future premises meets the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and all other relevant legislation, and that it is welcoming and inclusive.
- d. support the Safeguarding Officer in their work and in any action, they may need to take to protect children and vulnerable adults.

SECTION 2

Recognising and responding appropriately to an allegation or suspicion of abuse

Awareness of abuse and neglect

Defining child abuse or abuse against an adult is a challenging and complex issue. A person may abuse by inflicting harm or failing to prevent harm. Children and adults in need of protection may be abused within a family, an institution or a community setting. Very often the abuser is known or in a trusted relationship with the child or adult.

In order to safeguard those in our future places of worship and organisations we adhere to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and have as our starting point as a definition of abuse, Article 17 and 19 which states:

Article 17

States Parties recognize the important function performed by the mass media and shall ensure that the child has access to information and material from a diversity of national and international sources, especially those aimed at the promotion of his or her social, spiritual and moral well-being and physical and mental health.

To this end, States Parties shall:

- (a) Encourage the mass media to disseminate information and material of social and cultural benefit to the child and in accordance with the spirit of article 29;
- (b) Encourage international co-operation in the production, exchange and dissemination of such information and material from a diversity of cultural, national and international sources.
- (c) Encourage the production and dissemination of children's books;
- (d) Encourage the mass media to have particular regard to the linguistic needs of the child who belongs to a minority group or who is indigenous.
- (e) Encourage the development of appropriate guidelines for the protection of the child from information and material injurious to his or her well-being, bearing in mind the provisions of articles.

Article 19

a Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.

b Such protective measures should, as appropriate, include effective procedures for the establishment of social programmes to provide necessary support for the child and for those who have the care of the child, as well as for other forms of prevention and for identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up of instances of child maltreatment described heretofore, and, as appropriate, for judicial involvement.

Also, for adults the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights with particular reference to Article 5 which states:

- a. No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
- b. Detailed definitions, and signs and indicators of abuse, as well as how to respond to a disclosure of abuse, are included here in our policy.

Definitions of abuse

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger for example, via the Internet. They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

Emotional abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve

conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying such as cyberbullying, causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Physical abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Signs of Physical Abuse

- a. Injuries not consistent with the explanation given for them • Injuries that occur in places not normally exposed to falls, rough games, etc
- b. Injuries that have not received medical attention
- c. Reluctance to change for, or participate in, games or swimming
- d. Repeated urinary infections or unexplained tummy pains
- e. Bruises on babies, bites, burns, fractures etc which do not have an accidental explanation
- f. Cuts/scratches/substance abuse

Signs of Emotional Abuse

Changes or regression in mood or behaviour, particularly where a child withdraws or becomes clingy

- i Depression, aggression, extreme anxiety
- ii Nervousness, frozen watchfulness
- iii Obsessions or phobias
- iv Persistent tiredness
- v Attention-seeking behaviour
- vi Running away/stealing/lying
- vii Sudden under-achievement
- viii Lack of concentration
- ix Inappropriate relationships with peers and/or adults

Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether the child is aware of what is happening.

The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing, and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the Internet).

Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Signs of Sexual Abuse

- a. Any allegations made concerning sexual abuse
- b. Excessive preoccupation with sexual matters and detailed knowledge of adult sexual behaviour
- c. Age-inappropriate sexual activity through words, play or drawing
- d. Child who is sexually provocative or seductive with adults
- e. Inappropriate bed-sharing arrangements at home
- f. Severe sleep disturbances with fears, phobias, vivid dreams, or nightmares, sometimes with overt or veiled sexual connotations
- g. Eating disorders - anorexia, bulimia

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- a. provide adequate food, clothing, and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment)
- b. protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers)
- c. ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Signs of Neglect

Under nourishment, failure to grow, constant hunger, stealing or gorging food, untreated illnesses, Inadequate care, etc

Child sexual exploitation

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity such as:

- a. in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or
- b. for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur using technology

Extremism

Extremism goes beyond terrorism and includes people who target the vulnerable including the young by seeking to sow division between communities on the basis of race, faith or denomination; justify discrimination towards women and girls; persuade others that minorities are inferior; or argue against the primacy of democracy and the rule of law in our society.

How to respond to a child (or a vulnerable adult) wishing to disclose abuse

If there is a concern that a child, young person or adult with care and support needs may have been abused or a direct allegation of abuse has been made, it is important the person receiving this information does the following:

- a. **Listen carefully to the child.** Avoid expressing your own views on the matter. A reaction of shock or disbelief could cause the child to 'shut down', retract or stop talking.
- b. **Let them know they have done the right thing.** Reassurance can make a big impact to the child who may have been keeping the abuse secret.
- c. **Tell them it is not their fault.** Abuse is never the child's fault and they need to know this.
- d. **Say you will take them seriously.** A child could keep abuse secret in fear they will not be believed. They have told you because they want help and trust you will be the person who will listen to and support them.
- e. **Do not talk to the alleged abuser.** Confronting the alleged abuser about what the child's told you could make the situation a lot worse for the child.
- f. **Explain what you will do next.** If age appropriate, explain to the child you will need to report the abuse to someone who will be able to help.
- g. **Do not delay reporting the abuse.** The sooner the abuse is reported after the child discloses the better. Report as soon as possible so details are fresh in your mind and action can be taken quickly.

Make Notes

Make notes as soon as possible (preferably within one hour of the person talking) including a description of any injury, its size, and if possible, a drawing of its location and shape on the child's body.

Write down exactly what has been said, when it was said, what was said in reply and what was happening immediately beforehand (e.g. a description of an activity). Write down dates and times of these events and when the record was made. Write down any action taken and keep all handwritten notes even if subsequently typed up.

Contact the Safeguarding Officer

These notes should be passed on to the Safeguarding Officer to assist them should the matter need to be referred to the statutory agencies such as Adult or Children's Social Services or the police.

Volunteers need to share concerns with the Safeguarding Officer as well as clear allegations made by, or about, children, young and adults at risk. Sharing 'gut feelings' at an early stage, may assist in helping those who need it.

Safeguarding awareness

The Leadership and trustees of **(PPN)** are committed to on-going safeguarding training and development opportunities for all volunteers, developing a culture of awareness of safeguarding issues to help protect everyone. All our volunteers will receive induction training and undertake recognised safeguarding training on a regular basis at least every 2 years and whenever new members are recruited to assist in any of the activities as an employee or volunteers.

The Leadership and trustees will also ensure that children and vulnerable adults are provided with information on where to get help and advice in relation to abuse, discrimination, bullying or any other matter where they have a concern.

RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE

Under no circumstances should a worker carry out their own investigation into an allegation or suspicion of abuse. The following procedures must be followed:

- i. The person in receipt of allegations or suspicions of abuse should report to the Leadership to act upon in dealing with the allegation or suspicion of neglect or abuse, who will then referring the matter on to the statutory authorities.
- ii. At no point that the Prayer Power Network will meet without any of its leadership present
- iii. Where the concern is about a child the leadership should contact Children's Social Services. Where the concern is regarding an adult in need of protection vulnerable adult contact Adult Social Services.
- iv. The leadership will assess the evidence and contact the relevant organisation as follows any Safeguarding Children's Board and Safeguarding Adults Board near to us and Adults Social Services office. Their telephone number is on 0808 800 2222 or contact the Police.
- v. The Leadership of Prayer Power Network may need to inform others depending on the circumstances and/or nature of the concern.
- vi. Suspicions must not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above. A written record of the concerns should be made in accordance with these procedures and kept in a secure place.
- vii. Whilst allegations or suspicions of abuse will normally be reported to the Leadership of Prayer Power Network, the absence of the Leadership should not delay referral to Social Services, the Police.
- viii. The Leadership will support as part of their roles and accept that any information they may have in their possession will be shared in a strictly limited way on a need to know basis.

It is, of course, the right of any individual as a citizen to make a direct referral to the safeguarding agencies, although the Leadership hope that members of the place of worship / organisation will use this procedure. If, however, the individual with the concern feels that the Leadership has not responded appropriately, or where they have a disagreement with the Leadership as to the appropriateness of a referral they are free to contact an outside agency direct. We hope by making this statement that the Leadership demonstrate its commitment to effective safeguarding and the protection of all those who are vulnerable.

The role of the Leadership is to collate and clarify the precise details of the allegation or suspicion and pass this information on to statutory agencies who have a legal duty to investigate.

Detailed procedures where there is a concern about a child:

Allegations of physical injury, neglect, or emotional abuse.

If a child has a physical injury, a symptom of neglect or where there are concerns about emotional abuse, the Leadership will:

- i. Contact Children's Social Services for advice in cases of deliberate injury, if concerned about a child's safety or if a child is afraid to return home.
- ii. Not tell the parents or carers unless advised to do so, having contacted Children's Social Services.
- iii. Seek medical help if needed immediately, informing the doctor of any suspicions.
- iv. For lesser concerns, (e.g. poor parenting), encourage parent/carer to seek help, but not if this places the child at risk of significant harm.
- v. Where the parent/carer is unwilling to seek help, offer to accompany them. In cases of real concern, if they still fail to act, contact Children's Social Services direct for advice.

Allegations of sexual abuse

In the event of allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse, the Leadership will:

- i. Contact the Children's Social Services Department Duty Social Worker for children and families or Police Child Protection Team direct. They will NOT speak to the parent/carer or anyone else.
- ii. Seek and follow the advice given by Thirtyone:eight if for any reason they are unsure whether or not to contact Children's Social Services/Police. Thirtyone:eight will confirm its advice in writing for future reference.

Detailed procedures where there is a concern that an adult needs protection:

Suspicions or allegations of abuse or harm including physical, sexual, organisational, financial, discriminatory, neglect, self-neglect, forced marriage, modern slavery, domestic abuse.

If there is concern about any of the above, the Safeguarding Officer Leadership will:

- i. Contact the Adult Social Care Team who have responsibility under the Care Act 2014 to investigate allegations of abuse.

- ii. If the adult is in immediate danger or has sustained a serious injury contact the Emergency Services, informing them of any suspicions.

If there is a concern regarding spiritual abuse, the Prayer Power Network Leadership will:

Identify support services for the victim i.e. counselling or other pastoral support

Allegations of abuse against a person who works with children/young people

If an accusation is made against a worker (whether a volunteer or paid member of staff) whilst following the procedure outlined above, the Leadership, in accordance with Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) procedures will need to liaise with Children's Social Services in regard to the suspension of the worker, also making a referral to a designated officer formerly called a Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) close to us.

SECTION 3

Pastoral care Supporting those affected by abuse

Prayer Power Network is committed to offering pastoral care, working with statutory agencies as appropriate, and support to all those who have been affected by abuse who have contact with or are part of the online platform and future place of worship.

Working with offenders

While it is hard to identify individuals when accessing the online platform during services, we will ensure there will be no video streaming coming from anyone except the moderator/ hosts or the officiating minister(s). With regards to future premises, when someone attending the place of worship is known to have abused children, or is known to be a risk to adults with care and support needs vulnerable adults the Leadership will supervise the individual concerned and offer pastoral care, but in its safeguarding commitment to the protection of children and adults with care and support needs vulnerable adults, set boundaries for that person, which they will be expected to keep.

SECTION 4

Practice guidelines

As a place of worship working with children, young people and vulnerable adults we wish to operate and promote good working practice. This will enable volunteers to run activities safely, develop good relationships and minimise the risk of false or unsubstantiated accusation.

Adult to Child Proportion Age Adults: Children

Age Less than 2	1: 3
Age 2-3	1: 4
Age 4-12	1: 6
Age 13-18	1:10

If there are not enough adult volunteers to meet the above criteria, then you must report this concern immediately to the leaders. They must then find someone who can join the team and assist, or children will need to be taken back into the meeting. In the case of youth groups, you may need to telephone in help or contact parents to come and collect young people if there are no sufficient assistance to keep the group operating safely.