

NSPCC Young People's Board for Change
Reflection by Poppy, Age 13

Look

Look down the road of the future,
See how it twists and turns,
It is so uneven; like a buoyant sea,
Children float but the hurt of silence
pulls them down,
They all have something to say
but the storm of life drowns them out.

We need to STOP!
We need to listen!
Calm the sea,
silence the thunder,
So that the once silent voice
we could barely hear now is heard,
as clear as a summer's sky.

We can't let the storm brew once more,
For to stifle this sound is to stifle
a generation of blooming flowers,
shining stars,
the people of tomorrow,
And right now,
we the people of today
must listen.



Missionary Society of
St. Columban

Dalgan Park, Navan, Co Meath



Safeguarding Newsletter, Region of Ireland

Issue 8: June 2022

Safeguarding Prayer



*Lord Jesus, we praise you for
calling us to the service of others.*

*We pray for a generosity of spirit
to ensure the vulnerable are
protected.*

*We pray for a compassionate heart
so that we will reach out to those
who are wounded by abuse.*

*We pray for courage and
determination as we seek
the safety of everyone in the
communities we represent.*

*We dedicate ourselves to this work
of service and pray that you will
help us to always do your will and
in all places.*

Amen

*All Saints' Lydd with St Peter's
Greatstone*

Safeguarding Committee Members

Chairperson

Sandra Neville

Committee Members

Fr Donie Hogan
Fr Padraig O'Donovan
Michael O'Sullivan

Work of the Safeguarding Committee

During 2021 the committee met on four occasions. The focus of the work was on revising the 'Guidance on Vulnerable Persons' in line with current updates and practices.

The delivery of safeguarding refresher training for the members was commenced using training videos made by the numerous safeguarding trainers working with other Orders/Congregations.

The annual safeguarding audits were received and formed part of the 2021 annual report. The annual report can be viewed on www.columbans.ie.



If you have a safeguarding concern please contact:
Sandra Neville, Designated Liaison Person
Mobile: 087 9844779 Email: sandra.neville@columban.ie

Or you can report your concern directly to:

An Garda Síochána Helpline Tel: 1800 555 222
and TUSLA (Child and Family Agency) Tel: 046 907 3753

Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults

The Safeguarding Committee, revised our Guidance on Safeguarding Vulnerable Adult Policy now called Safeguarding Adults at Risk of Harm. (www.columbans.ie). This Policy will be reviewed annually and/or in accordance with changes in statutory, civil and/or church developments in this area.

Meanwhile, the NBSCCCI has been asked by the Irish Bishops' Conference (IEC) and the Association of Leaders of Missionaries and Religious in Ireland (AMRI) to initiate a one-year programme to develop a one Church approach to vulnerable adults. Work is well underway in this area and the NBSCCCI have established a steering group to guide the work. Our Guidance will be amended and/or updated in accordance with any proposed changes by the NBSCCCI.

Feedback from the NBSCCCI's Conference Theology of Safeguarding May 12th

The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland wishes to contribute to the development of a Theology of Safeguarding. It is now commonplace to hear the declaration that 'safeguarding is everyone's responsibility'. Ensuring that the Catholic Church welcomes, supports and protects children and all other vulnerable persons is a sacred ministry that is shared by clergy, religious and the lay faithful. But the Catholic Church is not simply another civic community that needs to be regulated by internal and external norms and laws; it is a Eucharistic faith community, The Body of Christ, The People of God. www.safeguarding.ie

During the conference time was given for group work, Q & A and panel discussion. The speakers at the conference addressed the following themes:



Fr Andrew Small:
The New Apostolic Constitution and the work of Mainstreaming Safeguarding.



Dr Jessie Rodgers:
Theological perspectives on safeguarding children and adults.



Dr Niall Moore:
Children's rights and theology, barriers and acceptance in child safeguarding.



Mr Paschal Moynihan, Safeguarding Ireland:
Safeguarding vulnerable people – human rights approach – in the context of Church ministry.

Safeguarding News from Myanmar – June 2022

The Myanmar mission confirmed and adopted its Policy for dealing with the protection of children and vulnerable adults in May 2018. We are very grateful to Neil Magill and Pat O'Donoghue who put the policy together.

I began working in the Rebirth Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation center in Myitkyina in 2017. The center had been set up in 2015 by the Diocese of Myitkyina. The protection of vulnerable adults was not a concept that local people were familiar with. I worked with the staff to help them see our clients as people suffering from a disease that needed to be treated.

We developed a safeguarding policy that was formally adopted in 2020.



Despite the pandemic and the coup we were able to fundraise and build a center for women. This was the first purpose built residential center for recovering female addicts in the country. We accepted our first female clients in January 2022. In regard to safeguarding this added another level of complexity. We developed a Policy on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, abuse and harassment and this was adopted in March 2022. Both policies have been translated into Kachin and Burmese and each staff member and volunteer is provided with a copy. In a country where abuse of human rights are commonplace and were many people do not feel safe, I am really proud that the rehab center provides a safe and welcoming environment for some of the most vulnerable people.

All of our staff have gone through a seminar to explain the policies and they have signed a document saying they understand and will abide by the policy. I am particularly grateful to Sandra Neville who helped in the development of these policies.

Fr Eamon Sheridan SSC