



## Nederlandse Kerk

Templum Domini Jesu  
The Dutch Church  
7 Austin Friars  
London EC2N 2HA

### Statement of Safeguarding Principles

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore a duty to protect anyone from harm.

### Principles

The Kerkeraad and the Diaconie of the Nederlandse Kerk/Dutch Church Austin Friars are committed to:

- ✓ the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with all children, young people and adults
- ✓ the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- ✓ the establishing of a safe, caring community which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

We will carefully select those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles; this may include the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.

We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.

We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.

We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.

In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.



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**If anyone is in immediate danger, don't hesitate - call the police immediately on 999.**

**You suspect someone is being harmed:** If you suspect that a child, young or vulnerable person is being abused or neglected, it is vital you report your concerns so that Social Workers can investigate. They will make enquiries and find out about the person's safety and welfare. They will try to work in partnership with parents and carers and keep them involved in what is happening.

### **Social Workers covering the City**

**Adult Social Care Team 020 7332 1224**

**Children's and Young Person's Social Care Services 020 7332 3621**

To speak to someone out of hours, on weekends or bank holidays, please contact the **City and Hackney Emergency Duty Team on 020 8356 2710**



## Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy for the Nederlandse Kerk/Dutch Church

This policy was agreed at a Church Council meeting held on 9 February 2014.

### Key concepts and definitions

**Vulnerable Adults:** any adult aged 18 or over who, by reason of mental or other disability, age, illness or other situation is permanently or for the time being unable to take care of her or himself, or to protect her or himself from significant harm or exploitation.

**Safeguarding and protecting children or vulnerable adults** from maltreatment; preventing impairment of their health and ensuring safe and effective care.

**Adult/child protection** is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity which is undertaken to protect children/specific adults who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm, including neglect.

**Abuse and neglect** may occur in a family, in a community and in an institution. It may be perpetrated by a person or persons known to the child or vulnerable adult or by

It was reviewed by the Church Council at a meeting held on 22 January 2018.

The Dutch Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore a duty to protect anyone from harm.

The Dutch Church is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and vulnerable adults and affirms that the needs of children or of people when they are vulnerable are paramount.

The Dutch Church recognises that none of us is invulnerable but that there is a particular care for those whose vulnerability is increased by situations, by disabilities or by reduction in capacities. It is recognised that this increased vulnerability may be temporary or permanent and may be visible or invisible, but that it does not diminish our humanity and seeks to affirm the gifts and graces of all God's people.

This policy addresses the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is intended to be a dynamic policy. It is intended to support the Church in being a safe supportive and caring community for children, young people, vulnerable adults, for survivors of abuse, for groups and for those affected by abuse.



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The Dutch Church recognises the serious issue of the abuse of children and vulnerable adults and recognises that this may take the form of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, spiritual or institutional abuse or neglect. It acknowledges the effects these may have on people and their development including spiritual and religious development. It accepts its responsibility for ensuring that all people are safe in its care and that their dignity and right to be heard is maintained. It accepts its responsibility to support, listen to and work for healing with survivors, offenders, communities and those who care about them. It takes seriously the issues of promotion of welfare so that each of us can reach our full potential in God's grace.

The Dutch Church commits itself to respond without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, whether in the church or in another context. It commits itself to challenge the abuse of power of anyone in a position of trust.

The Dutch Church affirms and gives thanks for the work of those who are workers with children and vulnerable adults and acknowledges the shared responsibility of all of us for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults who are on our premises.

The responsibility for safeguarding lies with the Safeguarding Coordinator; during Sunday worship, the Elder on duty acts as a deputy. The Dutch Church appoints the diaken/trustee as Church Safeguarding Coordinator and supports him/her/them in his/her/their role which includes and is not limited to:

- a) support and advise the minister, staff and others in fulfilling their roles
- b) provide a point of reference to advise on safeguarding issues
- c) promote safeguarding best practice within the church

### a) **Purpose**

The purposes of this safeguarding policy are to ensure procedures are in place and people are clear about roles and responsibilities for children, young people and vulnerable adults in our care and using our premises. It is to be read in conjunction with government and third sector recommendations, policies and procedures

### b) **Good Practice**

We believe good practice means that:

All people are treated with respect and dignity.

Those who act on behalf of the Church should not meet or work alone with a child or vulnerable adult where the activity cannot be seen by others unless this is necessary for pastoral reasons. If this is the case a written note of this will be made and kept noting date, time and place of such meeting.

The church premises will be assessed for safety for children and vulnerable adults and the risk assessment report will be given annually to the Church Council in written form. The Church Council will consider the extent to which the premises and equipment are suitable or should be made more suitable.



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### c) **Appointment and training of workers**

A satisfactory DBS disclosure may be part of the appointment criteria of any worker (staff or volunteer) within the Church. Training needs of each worker will be assessed and staff will have an annual review conducted by named members of the Church Council.

### d) **Ecumenical and cultural events**

Where ecumenical events happen on church premises, safeguarding is the responsibility of the Church Council; for cultural events the responsibility for the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults lies with the organisers of such events.

### e) **Other groups on church premises**

Where the building is hired for outside use, the person signing the letting agreement will be given a copy of this policy. The operational manager, verger or his/her deputy will consider the various users of the building in arranging lettings.

### f) **Complaints procedure**

It is hoped that complaints can generally be dealt with internally by the organisation. However, a complaint may be made to the Church Council, who will arrange to meet with the complainant and attempt to resolve the complaint. If the complaint cannot be resolved, consideration will be given to bringing the complaint to the Consultants/consulenten for resolution.

### g) **Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Church Council and the Diaconie/Diakonale Werkgroep.

Dated: January 2018

Signed

Chair of Church Council