

International Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

This policy outlines what to do if a person from overseas raises a concern or allegation whilst you are speaking to them, either in a group or individually as a Friar or volunteer of CACS. Additionally, this document functions as a resource in reference to international safeguarding.

An international global hub

The Centre for applied Carmelite Spirituality is a global hub. People from each continent of the world join us in worship, learning, spiritual direction and guided retreats, both in person and online. We follow the advice given from the RLSS (Religious Life Safeguarding Service) should an allegation arise. The RLSS have a specialist advisor in reference to international safeguarding.

What to do if you receive an allegation from a person living abroad

As a member of the Oxford Priory or as a volunteer working for CACS, if you need advice or to report a safeguarding concern or allegation you must follow the procedure in our Safeguarding Policy, which is to contact one of our safeguarding leads. No other steps must be taken until this contact is made.

The CACS safeguarding leads are:

- Fr. Liam Finnerty OCD
- Fr. Clement Oborah OCD
- Kate Keefe

Email: safe@cacs.org.uk

Phone: 07300319055

Recruitment from overseas for CACS volunteers or paid staff

It is not possible to undertake a DBS disclosure on individuals from overseas. It is, however, possible to undertake a "Certificate of Good Conduct" check from many countries.

Once an individual has been in the UK for six months, a DBS disclosure should be undertaken. If CACS volunteers or SDFP students are not able to obtain this, then two letters of endorsement will be accepted in lieu.

A “Certificate of Good Conduct” check is best obtained via the embassy or consulate of the country the individual is from.

The following will always be considered:

- It is not always possible to obtain a certificate from countries that do not have functioning criminal record regimes or refuse to provide these to anyone other than their own citizens.
- Not all behaviours of a sexual or violent nature that would be considered an offence in the UK would be in other countries.
- The age of consent and the age of criminal responsibility differs in many countries.
- Information supplied by an Embassy or Consulate may require translation.
- An understanding of criminal law in a country may assist risk assessment.

The DBS provide details of which countries provide a Certificate of Good Conduct:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-records-checks-for-overseas-applicants>

Guidance on the application process for criminal records checks overseas:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-records-checks-for-overseas-applicants/guidance-on-the-application-process-for-criminal-records-checks-overseas>

Challenges in working in an international context

- The starting point for CACS is meeting the standards established by the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency. We are advised how to enact these standards by the Religious Life Safeguarding Service.
- The RLSS will advise us on any international issues that arise. The safeguarding lead and his deputy will have general knowledge, but the RLSS specialist will lead on any concerns or allegations that arise.
- Civil law differs from country to country and sometimes even from state to state.
- Domestic abuse and domestic violence is not a crime in every country. Other issues we may see as abuse may be perceived differently in other countries.

- The age of consent varies from country to country.
- CACS does not currently have international hospitals or schools, but in the event this does occur, the workers will need extensive training in managing safeguarding, which is provided by agencies such as www.thirtyoneeight.org
- Safeguarding Resource and Support Hub: <https://safeguardingsupporthub.org/> This is an outstanding international resource for safeguarding.

Policy prepared by the CACS Safeguarding Team.

