



Safeguarding policy

This policy applies to all members and leaders of SGI-UK. It also applies to staff, the board of trustees, volunteers and anyone working on behalf of SGI-UK, whether paid or not. SGI-UK is committed to safeguarding those who engage in its activities, ensuring their well-being.

Definition of 'child' and 'adult at risk'

In this policy, the terms 'child' or 'children' are used to refer to anyone aged under the age of 18. The term 'adults at risk' is used to refer to anyone aged 18 or over, who:

- Needs care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting these needs); and
- Is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
- As a result of those care and support needs, is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of, abuse or neglect.

This policy seeks to:

- Protect children who are involved in SGI-UK activities.
- Protect adults at risk who are involved in SGI-UK activities.
- Provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and child protection.

SGI-UK Statement on safeguarding

SGI-UK believes that no one should experience abuse. The trustees of SGI-UK recognise their responsibility to protect children and adults at risk who engage with activities either locally (e.g. within the setting of a district) or at one of our national centres.

We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of children and adults at risk, and to keep them safe. We are committed to operating in a way that protects them. Seeking to stay at the forefront of best practice, SGI-UK works closely with the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC).

Our activities as an organisation are centred on supporting current members and interested individuals in their practice of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism, a humanistic philosophy of infinite respect for the sanctity of life. We carry out activities for children as a way for them to make a connection with the life-affirming philosophy underpinning SGI-UK.

Activities involving children or adults at risk

SGI-UK carries out activities for children aged 7 and over, up to 18. SGI-UK does not carry out specific activities for adults at risk. We recognise that children under 7 and adults at risk may attend general activities, and visit our centres. Our safeguarding policies apply in all contexts within which children and adults at risk come into contact with SGI-UK.

Legal and local authority framework

SGI-UK recognises its responsibilities under the terms of the Children Act 1989 and 2004, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015, Children and Social Work Act 2017, the Care Act 2014 and the Care and Support statutory guidance (updated 2019) and other relevant legislation, to make arrangements for ensuring that it safeguards and promotes the welfare of children and adults at risk. As SGI-UK has a national remit within the United Kingdom, it operates and adapts its procedures in relation to the relevant legislations of each of the devolved governments of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

As SGI-UK is a religious charity with its headquarters in Buckinghamshire, this policy has been developed in the context of guidelines from the Charity Commission, and the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and Safeguarding Adults Board.

This policy should be read alongside:

- Child protection policy 20.5.21
- Child protection guidelines and procedures 20.5.21
- Online safety and social media policy 20.5.21
- Adults at risk protection policy 20.5.21
- Adults at risk protection guidelines and procedures 20.5.21

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989.
- All children, and all adults at risk, regardless of age, dis/ability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Working in partnership with children, their parents, carers and other agencies, as well as with adults at risk and their carers and other agencies is essential in promoting their welfare.

We will seek to keep children and adults at risk safe by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them.
- Appointing a Designated Safeguarding Officer for children and adults at risk, a safeguarding team and a lead trustee for safeguarding.
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers.
- Developing an effective e-safety policy and related procedures.
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures.
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Recording and storing information professionally and securely, and sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with adults at risk, children, their families, staff and volunteers.

- Using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving adults at risk, children, young people, parents, families, carers appropriately.
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against trustees, staff and volunteers appropriately.
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.

What to do if you have a concern

All concerns must be taken seriously – everyone in SGI-UK has a responsibility to report any concerns.

If you believe a child or adult at risk is in immediate danger, you must call the police on 999. You should then contact the Designated Safeguarding Officer, Sanda McWilliam, within 24 hours.

If you have any concerns, you must contact Sanda McWilliam in the first instance.

Email: sanda.mcwilliam@sgi-uk.org **Landline: 01628 591208**

You can also use the online reporting tool in the safeguarding tab on the SGI-UK members' website. Once you are at the form, follow the clear instructions.

If you are unable to reach Sanda McWilliam, contact these staff members:

Safeguarding senior lead: Robert Harrap robert.harrap@sgi-uk.org 01628 591210

Safeguarding team: Toni-Ann Hirayama toni-ann.hirayama@sgi-uk.org 01628 591233

Useful numbers

Police: Emergency (immediate danger), call 999

Police: Non-emergency (advice), call 101

NSPCC Helpline – 0808 800 5000

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