



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 2015, 2018 and 2023, 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.

SGI-UK acknowledges the passing into law of the extension of positions of trust in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. This makes it illegal for religious leaders to engage in sexual activity with 16- and 17-year olds in England and Wales, as called for by the NSPCC's Close the Loophole campaign.

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
- Child protection guidelines and procedures
- Code of Conduct for members
- Online safety and social media policy
- Adults at risk protection policy
- Adults at risk protection guidelines and procedures
- Managing known risk procedures
- Managing allegations against staff and volunteers procedures

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 effective policies 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.
- Working closely with Thirtyone:eight, an independent religious safeguarding charity advising faith communities.
- Consulting with the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC).

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 someone is in immediate danger, call the police on 999.

If you have any safeguarding concerns, report them using the online reporting form on the SGI-UK members' website at this address <https://bit.ly/sgiuksafeguarding> or via this QR code



Useful contacts

Police: Emergency (immediate danger), call 999

Police: Non-emergency (advice), call 101

Thirtyone:eight helpline 0303 003 1111

NSPCC helpline 0808 800 5000

SGI-UK Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO), Sanda McWilliam **01628 591208**

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