



**RELIGIOUS SISTERS
OF CHARITY**

The love of Christ urges us on

The Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy

**English / Scottish
Province - 2022**



Religious Sisters of Charity
English / Scottish Province

Safeguarding Statement

We, the Religious Sisters of Charity, cherish and affirm each child and vulnerable adult as a gift from God and we acknowledge each person's inherent right to dignity of life and bodily integrity.

We will strive to ensure that this right is respected, nurtured and protected by all.

Everyone in our organisation has an obligation to ensure that the fundamental rights of children and vulnerable adults are respected.

We are committed to ensuring that each member of our organisation is aware of and complies with this obligation.

(Congregational Statement 2010)



The Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy

Each person is made in the image and likeness of God, is endowed with immense dignity and potential, has the right for that dignity to be recognised and respected at all times and for that potential to be developed. Any action or offence against the dignity and rights of the human person is against God and humanity. The violation of the dignity and potential of a child or vulnerable adult is a grievous offence and cries out for justice.

As Religious Sisters of Charity, we are called to serve the most vulnerable and needy, thereby giving witness to the love of God, by valuing and protecting the most vulnerable in our society.

From October 2019 following an independent Review of all the Safeguarding Structures and arrangements within the Catholic Church in England and Wales, it became very evident that significant change was needed at all levels with the Church and all Religious Life Groups. A similar process took place in Scotland.

In 2022, the new Regulatory and Support Agencies came into existence. As a Province we have worked closely through all the consultation stages with the Conference of Religious and the Church.

The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) has indicated that this 'model is built on a 'One Church' strategy to safeguarding - a commitment across all Dioceses and Religious Life Groups to be One Church, when it comes to Safeguarding with all Organisations working to common standards based approach and transparency and accountability in the fulfilment and upholding of these standards' – CSSA, 2022

In this way we have worked together to promote a 'One Church' approach to Safeguarding, as a Province we are pleased to have entered into formal Contracts with these Agencies.

Following the emergence of these new Regulatory and Supportive frameworks for Religious Life Groups, we are now in common with other Religious Congregations, entering into a period of review of all Safeguarding Policies in line with the new Standards and Guidelines

The new agencies we are working with are:

Scotland



SCSSA - Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency

<https://www.scsafeguarding.org.uk>

64 Aiken St, Airdrie, ML6 6LT.

England and Wales



**Catholic
Safeguarding
Standards
Agency**

CSSA – Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency

[The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency](https://www.catholic-safeguarding.org.uk)

39 Eccleston Square, London. SW1V 1BX.



RLSS – Religious Life Safeguarding Service

[Religious Life Safeguarding Service](https://religioussafeguarding.org)

[\(religioussafeguarding.org\)](https://religioussafeguarding.org)