



OFM Capuchin GB Charitable Trust

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

The protection of the vulnerable lies at the heart of our Christian and Franciscan vocation and therefore Safeguarding cannot be seen as a 'task' to be done or a 'file to be stored' – rather it is an intrinsic part of our consciousness and the life and mission of our communities and ministries.

The OFM Capuchins are committed to building a Culture of Safeguarding which permeates every aspect of our Life and Mission. We draw inspiration from our own Rule and Life and the call of Pope Francis.

Pope Francis' Letter to The People of God (August 2018)

"If one member suffers, all suffer together with it" (1 Cor 12:26). These words of Saint Paul forcefully echo in my heart as I acknowledge once more the suffering endured by many minors due to sexual abuse, the abuse of power and the abuse of conscience perpetrated by a significant number of clerics and consecrated persons. Crimes that inflict deep wounds of pain and powerlessness, primarily among the victims, but also in their family members and in the larger community of believers and nonbelievers alike. Looking ahead to the future, no effort must be spared to create a culture able to prevent such situations from happening.....the pain of the victims and their families is also our pain, and so it is urgent that we once more reaffirm our commitment to ensure the protection of minors and of vulnerable adults.'

It is in this context that we commit ourselves to the following Standards which set out the intent of the OFM Capuchin in respect of its safeguarding arrangements and practices and which form a framework from which the Culture of Safeguarding can be both built and evaluated. **If you have a concern please contact:**

Contact Person:

Br. James Boner OFM Cap.

Provincial Delegate

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We are committed to:

Standard 1: Embed safeguarding in the Church body's leadership, governance, ministry and culture.

Standard 2: Communicate the Church's safeguarding message.

Standard 3: Engage with and care for those who report having been harmed.

- Standard 4:** Effectively manage allegations and concerns.
- Standard 5:** Manage and support subjects of allegations or concerns (respondents).
- Standard 6:** Implement robust human resource management.
- Standard 7:** Provide and access training and support for safeguarding.
- Standard 8:** Quality assure compliance to continuously improve practice.

Approved by the Trustees of OFM Capuchin GB Charitable Trust - February 2025

Review: February 2026