Safeguarding in
an International Context

Handbook

thirtyone:
eight

Creating safer places. Together.

Welcome to the Thirtyone:eight International Context course. This handbook is designed to accompany the course and contains knowledge related to the course content and the case scenarios we will be using. You will also find questions to help you think through and contextualise the course for your church/organisation's unique context.

We are looking forward to supporting you on your safeguarding journey in what is often complicated and nuanced scenarios in the international sphere.

The Thirtyone:eight team

International Conventions

UDHR - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights - a milestone document in the history of human rights. Drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations. It sets out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected and it has been translated into over 500 languages.

CEDAW - Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. The Convention defines discrimination against women as "...any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex (gender) which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field."

Convention against Torture - The Convention is an international legal agreement that aims to tackle and prevent the use of torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The Convention defines torture as any setting where state officials may be involved in inflicting 'severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental' on an individual. (Article 1 of the Convention has more information on the definition of torture).
In addition, the state is obliged to prevent other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment which may fall short of 'torture'. Many countries around the world have ratified the Convention, including the UK in 1988. This means they have made a commitment to ensuring their laws, policies and practices are in line with its provisions.

Convention on the Rights of the Child - All countries have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, with the exception of the US.   However, despite governments ratifying the treaty, the concept of child rights is not necessarily accepted in all cultures.

Istanbul Convention is a Council of Europe Convention and opens the path for creating a legal framework at pan-European level to protect women against all forms of violence, and prevent, prosecute and eliminate violence against women and domestic violence. It has been signed by all EU countries. UK has signed but not ratified.

An up-to-date list of the various countries that have signed and/or ratified various international treaties can be found here: https://indicators.ohchr.org/

International Safeguarding Standards

United Nations Secretary General's Bulletin on Preventing Sexual Abuse and Exploitation:
https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/document/se-st-sgb-2003-13.php

Inter Agency Standing Committee 6 principles of PSEA:
https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/inter-agency-standing-committee/iasc-six-core-principles-relating-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse

and Minimum Operating Standards:
https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/3_minimum_operating_standards_mos-psea.pdf

Core Humanitarian Standard:
https://corehumanitarianstandard.org/

Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office Enhanced Due Diligence Standards:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfid-enhanced-due-diligence-safeguarding-for-external-partners/enhanced-due-diligence-safeguarding-for-external-partners

Accountability to Affected Populations:
https://www.reachresourcecentre.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2.-REACH_AAP-Training-Module_FINAL_May2020.pdf

Keeping Children Safe:
https://www.keepingchildrensafe.global/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/KCS-CS-Standards-ENG-200218.pdf

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Charity regulators key principles – working overseas

- Expect charities to endeavour to uphold the same practices and standards as they would if working in the UK.

- Expect charities to take reasonable steps to ensure any partner they use also upholds these practices and standards to the fullest extent possible. If you're working in partnership, it's up to you to carry out due diligence checks on your partner organization's safeguarding processes and ensure clear partnership agreements that detail expectations are in place. If something goes wrong, trustees will be held to account for how that relationship was deemed to meet the public benefit requirement of the charity and how the partnership was supposed to further the aims of the charity.

- Charities should be able to evidence reasonable steps taken to safeguard – the higher the risk of the activities of the organisation, the higher the effort to safeguard should be. This is an important distinction to make – The regulators recognize some of the amazing humanitarian work being undertaken by charities is in high-risk situations. They are not risk averse, but risk alert.

- The regulators recognise it may not be possible in all contexts to uphold the same standards (e.g. where there is police corruption and reporting abuse may increase risk to the victim rather than minimize it). It is possible to make a decision not in line with normal best practice in the UK, but you must be able to explain why taking that decision was a reasonable and justifiable course of action and how it protected the beneficiary and was in the best interests of them and the charity. Such decisions need careful documenting so that if challenged the process can be evidenced. If you are taking such decisions, you should also evidence what additional steps were considered and taken to ensure risks were removed or minimized.

- If a serious incident occurred in connection with your charity's work overseas it would still need to be reported to all relevant authorities in the UK (even if not reported overseas), including submitting a serious incident report to the relevant charity regulator.

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- Where a British national or person with a claim to British residency has committed or potentially committed, child sexual abuse / exploitation overseas, this should be reported to the National Crime Agency in the UK.

Key questions for your organisation to consider:

1. What are some of the challenges of safeguarding internationally?
2. What other policies might you need that relate to international safeguarding?
3. Risks (and mitigations) that you may need to include in a pre-trip risk assessment.

Discussion – personal data and images

Without your help sisters Fatima and Joy Akello will be separated and forced to leave their home in Port Bell. Since their aunt was killed in a car accident they have been living on the streets of Kampala, begging. Donate today!

Read the fictional case study.

A worker for the charity concerned took the photo of the sisters and uploaded it to his personal social media account.

1) What poor practice can you identify?
2) What elements of good practice are you aware of for using images and personal data?

Barriers to reporting abuse for different groups in overseas contexts.

Physical barriers

Social barriers.

For more discussion on this topic by the department for international development [DFID], see this report.

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Survivor-centred approaches table.

Non-compliance:	Minimal compliance:	Survivor-centred approach:
Survivor-centred approach is not seen as an organisational priority.	Senior leaders consider reputational impact before survivor welfare.	Leaders consistently prioritise survivors above other organisational interests.
Reporting processes may be non-confidential and do not prioritise the welfare of the survivor.	Reporting processes may be confidential but there is still low accessibility and uptake.	Reporting processes prioritise survivors' wellbeing.
Response to cases does not consider needs of the survivor.	Limited funding may be available for survivor care but there is a lack of clarity about how to access it.	Survivors are involved determining responses to their concerns.
No funding is allocated to survivor care.	The need for confidential storage and access to sensitive information is known about , but not implemented consistently.	Workers are trained to respond.
Confidential and sensitive data is not kept securely.		Financial and other resources are allocated to survivor care.
Organisation has not considered that there may be survivors in their work force.	There is recognition that there may be survivors in the workforce but no actions are taken in response.	Confidential storage of and access to sensitive information is routinely actioned and monitored.
Untrained staff may respond inappropriately		Survivors feedback that the organisation is a safe place for the employment of survivors.

Signposting to other useful organisations/ resources

Please note: These links are accurate at the time of course preparation. Thirtyone:eight don't recommend organisations but you may find these links useful when signposting people for support and guidance.

OSCR – Office of the Scottish Charity Register:
https://www.oscr.org.uk/ / info@oscr.org.uk

CCNI – Charity Commission for Northern Ireland:
https://www.charitycommissionni.org.uk/

Charity Commission for England and Wales:

Safeguarding and protecting people for charities and trustees:
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-duties-for-charity-trustees

Safeguarding duties for charity trustees – working overseas:
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-duties-for-charity-trustees#working-overseas

How to manage risks when working internationally:
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charities-how-to-manage-risks-when-working-internationally

Strategy for dealing with safeguarding issues in charities:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategy-for-dealing-with-safeguarding-issues-in-charities

Charity Commission Faith Outreach Team:
faithoutreach@charitycommission.gov.uk

Charity Commission International Charities Engagement Team:
ICET@charitycommission.gov.uk

Charity Commission guidance for registered charities supporting non-charities:
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-charities-with-a-connection-to-a-non-charity

Reporting a serious incident if it involved a partner organisation:
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/reporting-a-serious-incident-in-your-charity-when-it-involves-a-partner

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Thirtyone:eight:

Safeguarding children and young people in International Christian Work Research Report:
https://thirtyoneeight.org/news-and-events/publications/icw-research-report/

International audit tool:
https://thirtyoneeight.org/our-services/international-child-protection/self-audit-tool/

Justin Humphries - Escaping the Maze of Spiritual Abuse:
https://www.amazon.co.uk/Escaping-Maze-Spiritual-Abuse-Christian/dp/028108131X

Justin Humphries – Just Leadership:
https://spckpublishing.co.uk/just-leadership

International safeguarding policy template and guidance (members resource in the downloads section):
https://thirtyoneeight.org/get-help/safeguarding-manual/

Theology of safeguarding:
https://thirtyoneeight.org/about-us/why-safeguarding/a-theology-of-safeguarding/

Safeguarding Helpline (7am-midnight daily):
+44 303 003 1111 option 2

Safer, Healthier Culture article:
https://thirtyoneeight.org/news-and-events/publications/together-magazine/2021-spring/spring-2021/7-top-tips-safer-healthier-culture/

31:8 & Youthscape resource – Working Safely with Young People Online:
https://thirtyoneeight.org/media/2588/guidanc-for-online-youth-work_v3.pdf

31:8 Safeguarding for Trustees training:
https://thirtyoneeight.org/training/webinars/trustees-webinar/?subject=role+of+trustees&eventtype=webinar&page=1

31:8 Safer Recruitment training:
https://thirtyoneeight.org/training/webinars/safer-recruitment-webinar/?subject=safer+recruitment&eventtype=webinar&page=1

Bond (the UK network for organisations working in international development):

Safeguarding policy templates (including Code of Conduct):

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https://www.bond.org.uk/resources/safeguarding-policy-templates

Eight principles for building trust through feedback:
https://www.bond.org.uk/resources/eight-principles-for-building-trust-through-feedback

Safeguarding in successful partnerships – Change statement:
https://www.bond.org.uk/sites/default/files/safeguarding_in_successful_partnerships_-_change_statement_v7_final.pdf

Good governance for safeguarding:
https://www.bond.org.uk/sites/default/files/resource-documents/good_governance_for_safeguarding_0.pdf

Twenty core elements: a toolkit to strengthen safeguarding report handling:
https://www.bond.org.uk/sites/default/files/resource-documents/bond_20_core_elements_a_toolkit_to_strengthen_safeguarding.pdf

Developing and modelling a healthy safeguarding culture:
https://www.bond.org.uk/resources/developing-and-modelling-a-positive-safeguarding-culture

Facilitating Meaningful Child Participation in Safeguarding:
https://www.bond.org.uk/news/2019/03/facilitating-meaningful-child-participation-in-safeguarding

Informed Consent:
https://www.bond.org.uk/news/2019/07/informed-consent-why-conversations-are-crucial

Global Connections (The UK network for world missions):

https://www.globalconnections.org.uk/

Code of best practice for Church partnerships:
https://www.globalconnections.org.uk/churches/global-mission/global-mission-resources/c2cp

Short-term mission code of best practice:
https://www.globalconnections.org.uk/guidelines/short-term-mission-code-of-best-practice

Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO):

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Enhanced Due Diligence – Safeguarding for External Partners:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfid-enhanced-due-diligence-safeguarding-for-external-partners

Other:

National FGM Centre (re CALFB):
http://nationalfgmcentre.org.uk/calfb/

Stop Child Witch Accusations:
https://www.stop-cwa.org/

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

How to obtain an overseas criminal record check:
https://www.cpni.gov.uk/system/files/documents/71/a2/How_To_Obtain_An_Overseas_Criminal_Record_Check_May_2018.pdf

Survivor testimony of Fanda Boarding School abuse:
https://documentaryheaven.com/all-gods-children/

Thrive Worldwide:
https://www.thrive-worldwide.org/

Resilient Expat:
https://www.resilientexpat.co.uk/

Tostan website:
https://www.tostan.org/

Tostan film:
https://youtu.be/JcX32btTU48)

World Vision Channels of Hope:
https://www.wvi.org/faith-and-development/channels-hope

International Child Protection Certificate:
https://www.acro.police.uk/icpc/

Inter-Agency Standing Committee resources re PSEA:
https://psea.interagencystandingcommittee.org/

Inter-Agency Misconduct Disclosure Scheme:

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https://www.schr.info/the-misconduct-disclosure-scheme

Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages:
https://www.dochas.ie/resources/communications-pe/code-of-conduct-on-images-and-messages/

Keeping Children Safe reporting procedure flow chart:
https://www.keepingchildrensafe.global/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/KCS-CS-Standards-ENG-200218.pdf

Safeguarding Resource and Support Hub:
https://safeguardingsupporthub.org/
Nigeria Hub:
https://nigeria.safeguardingsupporthub.org/nigeria/support
Ethiopia Hub:
https://ethiopia.safeguardingsupporthub.org/node/1287
South Sudan Hub:
https://southsudan.safeguardingsupporthub.org/southsudan/support

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