

BUC FAMILY

A Publication of the BUC Family, Children and Possibility Ministries

In this issue:

**If You See Something,
Say Something**

**Who Needs a Criminal
Records Check?**

**Safeguarding Our
Church Policy
Statement**

Events & Notices

**Recommended
Reading**

If You See Something, Say Something - Responding to Abuse

Pr Les Ackie

Recent shocking revelations in the national press have rocked the Seventh-day Adventists Church in the British Union to its foundations and sent reverberations around the world church. The exposure of evil in our community of faith is a sobering reminder that we ought to "Be sober, be vigilant; because [our] adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8)

If we ever could, we can no longer take false comfort in the belief that abuses uncovered in other denominations are not present among us. In 2021, the government-commissioned Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) reported that some religious organisations in England and Wales were "morally failing" children. Those failings included victim-blaming, not openly discussing matters of sexuality, abuse of power by religious leaders, men dominating the leadership, mistrust of non-religious agencies, and misusing the concept of

forgiveness. While the SDA church was not included in the investigation, the report makes uncomfortable reading for those charged with the protection of the vulnerable in our congregations. We bear a heavy weight of responsibility if we increase trauma for those already traumatised by failing to guard against abuses or respond inappropriately to victims of abuse.

Like ravenous wolves, abusers target those they perceive to be weak and defenceless. It is a disconcerting and, yet, unsurprising reality that perpetrators seek to operate in organisations where there the vulnerable are accessible. Their nefarious activities meet with greater success in poorly regulated contexts. It is our responsibility to make our churches hostile environments for would-be abusers. This requires spiritual discernment, vigilance and a robust adherence to best safeguarding practices.

The old adage admonishes that "All that glitters is not gold." Since the Serpent groomed Eve in the Garden of Eden, evildoers have utilised devious tactics to secure their prey. Grooming is patterned behaviour designed to increase opportunities for abuse. The Psalmist provides an apt description of the abuser - "His speech was smooth as butter, yet war was in his heart; his words were softer than oil, yet they were drawn swords" Psalm 55:21



Groomers not only groom their targets but also the people around their potential victims, ingratiating themselves with those whose trust they so callously plan to betray. Solomon warns, "He who hates, disguises it with his lips, and lays up deceit within himself; when he speaks kindly, do not believe him, for there are seven abominations in his heart" Proverbs 26:24.

While we can never guarantee that abusers will never practice their evil intent, we can do everything within our power to minimise the risk by adhering to the policies, procedures and guidelines in Safeguarding Our Church. Education and training increase our ability to recognise the signs of abuse and equip us with the knowledge of what to do when we suspect it may be occurring. Abuse takes many forms, including physical, emotional and spiritual. It may be characterised by an ongoing pattern of behaviour designed to control, intimidate, manipulate and subjugate. It occurs when a victim's personhood, dignity, self-worth, autonomy and sense of safety are regularly undermined, denied, criticised, or crushed. The impact on victims is devastating. In the words of Shakespeare, "The evil that men do lives after them." Long after abusers have passed off the scene, the trauma they inflict can blight a victim's capacity to live the abundant life.

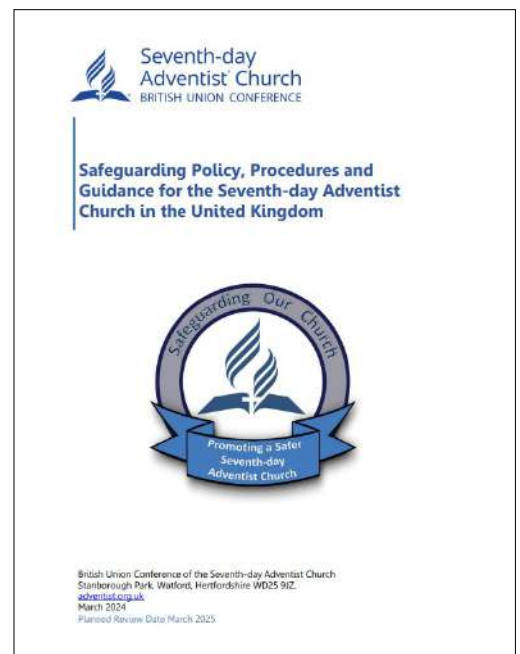
As rank evil as abuse is, it is all the more heinous when committed by those who misrepresent the name of Christ. C S Lewis said it well when he penned, "Of all bad men, religious bad men are the worst." Abuse in religious contexts represents the most egregious breach of trust because God designed church and family to be havens of safety above all other institutions. For the sake of the innocent, we have a solemn responsibility to be places of refuge - to provide comfort, affirmation, protection and a place to heal.

The ethos of our safeguarding policy is that the safety of children and adults at risk is our paramount concern. Safeguarding covers the specific actions we take to protect children and adults at risk from abuse. Proverbs 27:12 states, "The prudent see danger and take refuge" (NIV). Combatting abuse is everybody's responsibility. Research indicates that significant barriers to safeguarding include fear of reprisal, misplaced priorities, undue deference to church leaders, shame culture, apathy, denial and a lack of knowledge about how to respond.

No matter how slight our concerns, we must exercise the courage to speak up. It is always better to be safe than sorry. Reporting a concern does not necessarily require a report to the police or statutory authorities. However, it is vital that designated safeguarding leads, in consultation with the pastor, evaluate any potential risk (see the flowchart below).

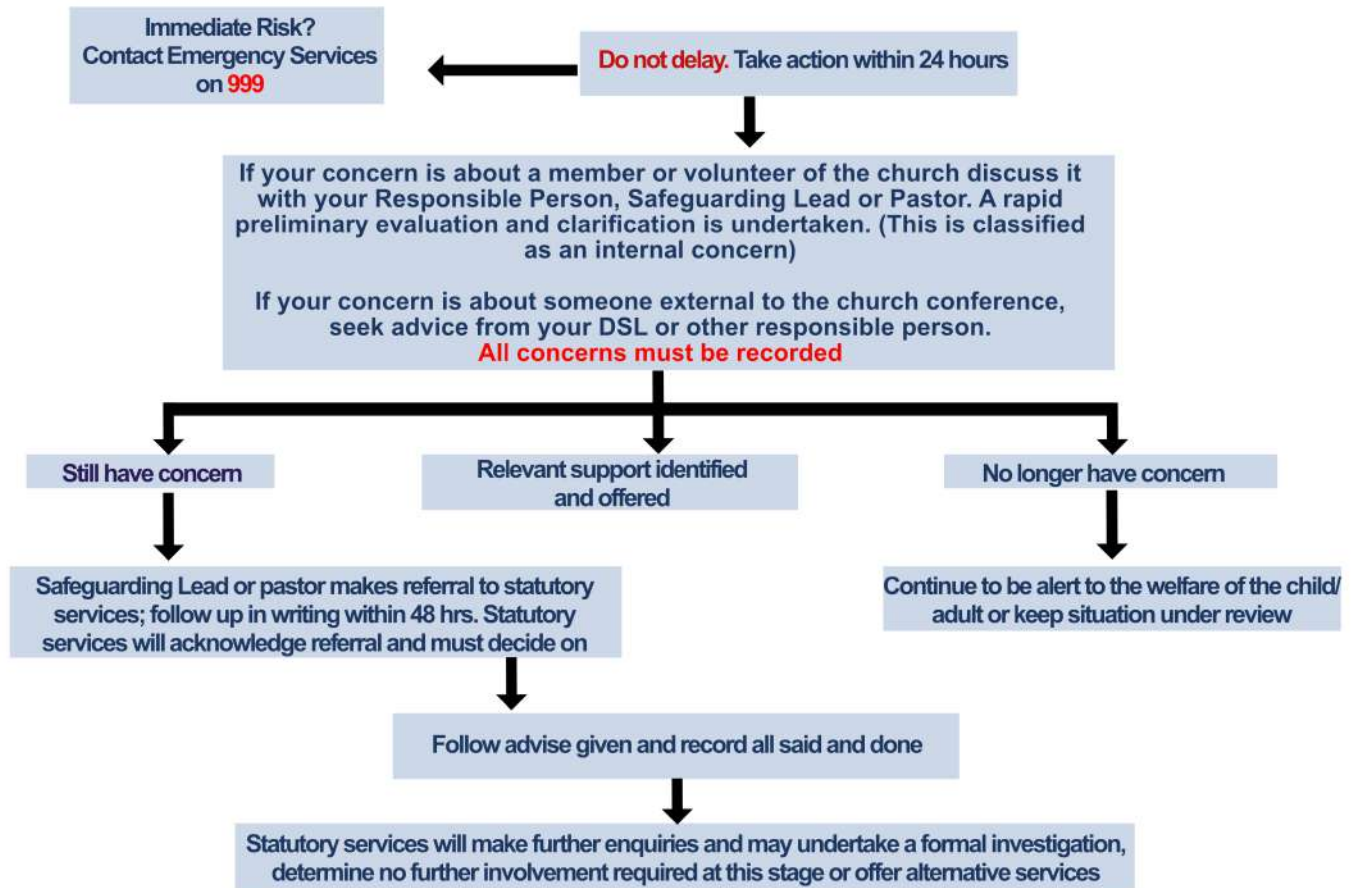
We need to talk. Safeguarding should be a permanent agenda item on our church boards. We must send a clear message to survivors and perpetrators that the SDA Church is committed to a zero-tolerance of abuse. As church leaders, we must fulfil our responsibilities as shepherds of the flock. That involves holding abusers accountable. We have to make our churches sanctuaries in the truest sense.

Policies and procedures are vital in creating a secure environment for the vulnerable. Still, victims will not come forward unless we create a safe space that gives them confidence that they will be believed and supported. To remain indifferent and unresponsive in the face of abuse is to condone and perpetuate abusive behaviour. We must "Speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable" (Proverbs 31:8 CEB).



[Click here to download the BUC Safeguarding Policy and Procedures](#)

How to Respond to Concerns of Abuse



Who Needs a Criminal Record Disclosure Check?

Vetting and barring checks helps churches make safer recruitment decisions and prevent unsuitable people from working with vulnerable groups, including children.

Any individual working or intending to work with children and/or adults at risk, must have a criminal record check. Staff and volunteers who wish to work with children or adults at risk of harm within the Seventh-day Adventist Church require an enhanced criminal record disclosure (in the countries where varying levels of vetting exists) which shows details of spent convictions, unspent convictions and cautions that have not been filtered. This includes a check of local police records.

In deciding who requires a vetting and barring check the following question should be considered:

Does the role mean that the relevant individual either supervised/unsupervised on a frequent/infrequent basis, teaches, trains, instructs, cares for or supervises children/adults at risk or provides advice/guidance on physical, emotional or educational well-being to children?

The Validity of Vetting and barring Checks Across Organisations

NB - All staff or volunteers who have been DBS/PVG/AccessNI/NVB checked in their employment or other activities outside the remit of the Seventh-day Adventist Church are STILL required to obtain a separate certificate in relation to their church activities.

Regulated Activities with Children

In simple terms, regulated activity is work that a barred person must not do. Regulated activity with children means carrying out any of the below activities. Individuals who carry out this work infrequently (but more than once) will require an Enhanced Level DBS check

Unsupervised activities: teaching, training, instructing, caring for or supervising children; providing advice or guidance on wellbeing, or driving a vehicle only for children.

Working for a limited range of specified places with the opportunity for contact with children and young people, for example schools, children's homes, childcare premises (excluding work done by supervised volunteers).

Some activities are always regulated activities, regardless of how often they take place and whether or not they are supervised. These include: engaging in intimate or personal care of children; health care by, or under the supervision of, a registered health care professional.

Regulated work can also apply to certain positions of trust within organisations, for example being a trustee of a children's charity.

Regulated Activity - Adults

In general terms, the following activities fall under the category of regulated activity:

- Health care - any health care professional providing health care to an adult or anyone who provides health care to an adult under the supervision of a health care professional.
- Personal care - providing assistance, supervision, or advice in relation to activities including eating and washing
- Social care
- Assistance with cash, bills, or shopping
- Assistance in the conduct of a person's own affairs
- Transporting an adult because of their age, disability, or illness to or from their home and a place where they will receive health care, personal care, or social care.

For specific requirements, refer to your country's criminal records disclosure services:

England & Wales - [The Disclosure and Barring Service \(DBS\)](#)

Scotland - [Protecting Vulnerable Groups \(PVG\)](#)

Northern Ireland - [AccessNI](#)

Republic of Ireland - [National Vetting Bureau \(NVB\)](#)



The Seventh-day Adventist Church values every human being as part of God's creation. We are committed to safeguarding all children and adults at risk who take part in our services and activities.

Safeguarding Policy Statement

The Seventh-day Adventist Church commits to:

- Promote a safe environment for children and adults at risk of harm
- Respond promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Provide compassionate care and support for survivors of abuse
- Ensure that those working with children and adults at risk are trained and supported
- Raise awareness of safeguarding responsibilities throughout all church programming and provisions
- Work collaboratively with safeguarding agencies
- Follow legislation, statutory guidance and recognised best practice in order to protect the vulnerable
- Implement, maintain and regularly review the procedures outlined in our safeguarding policy

Safeguarding is Everybody's Responsibility



Free Family Ministries Webinar

Till Trauma Do us Part

Dr Gábor Mihalec

11 November 2024

18.00 London
19.00 Zürich
20.00 Bucharest

Zoom ID: 980 5593 4013
Passcode: family

January 8 - 18, 2025

10 DAYS OF PRAYER

Children's Resource



[Click here to download the 10 Days of Prayer Children's Resource](#)

TED Children's Ministries



Alive in Jesus

Sabbath School

Curriculum Training

BABY STEPS

Tuesday, November 12 at 18.30 GMT

Meeting ID: 867 9646 7577

Passcode: 712488

BEGINNERS

Monday, November 18 at 18.30 GMT

Meeting ID: 879 9657 1040

Passcode: 953146



Karen Holford
TED Children's
Ministries
Director



UCY in association with Stanborough Press
presents

EDUCATION & CAREER FAIR 2024

EXPLORING YOUR FUTURE: CAREER PATHWAYS FOR EVERY PASSION

- Explore various career paths.
- Get insight into different professions and industries.
- Connect with professionals, universities, colleges, and training programs.
- Networking and mentorship opportunities.
- Purchase books from Stanborough Press.



Date

10 November, 2024



Time

10:00am - 3:00pm



Location

Balham SDA Church

83 Elmfield Road, SW17 8AD London

Register Now
Free



www.ucy.org.uk



Scan to Register



**Lunch available
to purchase.**

Please contact us to discuss this great opportunity to be a sponsor and or exhibitor at this impactful event

GROWING CLOSER, GROWING STRONGER

Family Ministries Webinars 2024

18.00 LONDON = 19.00 ZÜRICH = 20.00 BUCHAREST

8 JANUARY

LITTLE TIME - LOTS OF LOVE

Karen Holford

Meeting-ID: 914 0886 9347

Passcode: family

11 MARCH

TEN "SECRETS" OF SUCCESSFUL RELATIONSHIPS

Karen Holford

Meeting-ID: 981 9162 3388

Passcode: family

13 MAY

GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH

Karen Holford

Meeting-ID: 914 1849 2288

Passcode: family

9 SEPTEMBER

SAFE HAVEN MARRIAGE

Dr Les Ackie

Meeting-ID: 929 6901 7660

Passcode: family

11 NOVEMBER

TILL TRAUMA DO US PART DR GÁBOR MIHALEC

Meeting-ID: 980 5593 4013

Passcode: family

12 FEBRUARY

NURTURING EMOTIONAL CONNECTION

Dr Les Ackie

Meeting-ID: 937 2587 8671

Passcode: family

8 APRIL

SOLUTION-FOCUSSED CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Dr Les Ackie

Meeting-ID: 937 2587 8671

Passcode: family

10 JUNE

NAVIGATING THE UPS AND DOWNS OF MARRIAGE

Karen Holford

Meeting-ID: 932 0794 3671

Passcode: family

14 OCTOBER

DEVELOPING YOUR EMOTIONAL SKILLS

Ansku Jaakkola

Meeting-ID: 942 6976 9388

Passcode: family

9 DECEMBER

COMMUNICATING LOVE AND CARE THROUGH TOUCH

Ansku Jaakkola

Meeting-ID: 930 3884 8013

Passcode: family

For 2024 we have decided to focus our Family Ministry webinars on nurturing marriages. Although these webinars are focussed on couple relationships, anyone can join and learn skills that may also help them in their parenting, workplace relationships, dating and friendships.

Please share this poster and the links to these webinars with your networks. Thank you!

Karen Holford - TED and Rainer Wanitschek - EUD

SEC Men Ministry presents

REAL MEN REAL TALK

REAL MEN EMBRACING GOD'S PRESENCE

It's a forum where Men can talk about how they really feel about issues that matters to them.



EVERY MONDAY
TIME: 7:30PM - 9:30PM GMT

Zoom:  LET'S TALK

[FACEBOOK.COM/SECMENSMINISTRY](https://facebook.com/secmensministry)



EVERY THURSDAY 8PM GMT

ADVENTIST SINGLES PRAYER MEETING

PRAYER MEETING FOR SINGLE ADVENTISTS

THURSDAYS 8PM UK TIME / 3PM EST

ROOM IS OPEN 24 HRS A DAY TO PRAY

ZOOM ID: 846 3079 9939 PASSCODE: Pray

S.N.A.G.D. SDA Singles Ministry & Creative Spiritual Insights invite you to join the:

LET'S BUILD Singles Devotional Project

WANTED

SDA WRITERS WHO CAN SHARE ON THE JOYS, CHALLENGES, POSITIVES, NEEDS & OPPORTUNITIES THAT SINGLES FACE



ELIGIBLE WRITERS

- Must be members of the SDA Church
- Single and willing to share their experience
- Married and willing to write on their single experience
- Can be Conference Directors or Church leaders

Entries should be 500-750 words long

Interested?

EMAIL: submit@snagdsdasingles.org




HAY'S WOOD RETREAT

EST. 2022





BEYOND THE ORDINARY - UNFORGETTABLE EVENTS IN THE HEART OF NORFOLK

www.hayswoodretreat.com bookings@hayswoodretreat.com



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

CCS is here for you

CONTACT
0330 133 2495
 Dedicated listening line
0207 723 8050
 Office Number / Appointments
connect@ccscounselling.org.uk
www.ccscounselling.org.uk

**"I am not living,
 I am just surviving."
 Together we can make
 it happen.**

Often, it is not the initial experience that
 creates the overwhelming pain,
 but the lack of support.

Do not suffer alone
 Do not suffer in silence
 CCS is here to support you
 Together we can win your struggle.



Facing Difficult times or issues, Need to talk?



The first step is the
hardest. Call the NEC
Counselling Service Today!

07539 211 442

We can arrange
for you to access
support.



**FORWARD
We Go!**

North England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
 office: +44 (0) 115 960 6312 mobile: +44 (0) 7918618606
 22 Zulia Road, Nottingham, Notts - NG3 5DB
jfrancis@necadventist.org.uk • necadventist.org.uk





**REAL
FAMILY
TALK**

WITH
**WILLIE & ELAINE
OLIVER**

Through engaging, informative, and spiritual
discussions about issues facing today's
families, Real Family Talk seeks to strengthen
families and inspire hope.

[Real Family Talk](#)



Click the link watch past episodes of [Real Family Talk](#)



Click the link to download the Resource Book [Keys to Healthy Minds](#)



Click the link to learn more and download the resource
[Flourish](#)

Useful Links

[AdventSource](#)

[Adventist Possibility Ministries](#)

[Adventist Single Adult Ministries \(ASAM\)](#)

[Adventist Special Needs Association \(ASNA\)](#)

[BUC Family Ministries](#)

[BUC Safeguarding](#)

[Care for the Family](#)

[GC Children's Ministries](#)

[GC Family Ministries](#)

[In Discipleship](#)

[Prepare Enrich](#)

[TED Children's Ministries](#)

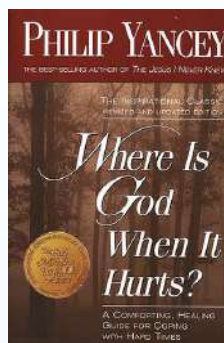
[TED Family Ministries](#)

[TED Possibility Ministries](#)

[Through the Roof \(Disability outreach\)](#)

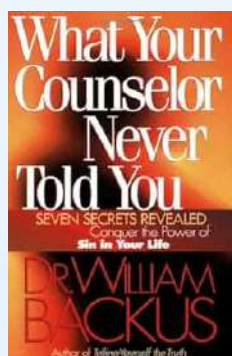
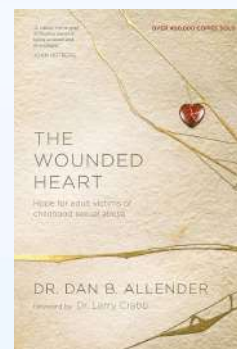
[Women's Aid](#)

Recommended Reading



An inspirational classic for more than thirty years. In *Where Is God When It Hurts?* Phillip Yancey honestly explores pain—from physical wounds to emotional and spiritual pain—and sheds light on God's presence in our suffering. The author speaks to everyone who thinks that suffering doesn't make sense. He uses examples from the Bible and his own experiences to show us how we can learn from what we don't understand.

For those who have experienced childhood sexual abuse and those who love and care for them, *The Wounded Heart* offers a tender, compassionate window into the psychological effects of abuse and the theological foundations for healing. Dan Allender offers an urgently needed word of grace in a world ravaged by sexual abuse.



In *What Your Counselor Never Told You*, William Backus shares a detailed look at the causes of various character traits and the reasons behind our actions. The book is a tool to help us overcome sin in our lives, and a handbook for self-examination to lead a purer life. Using the Bible and psychology, the book explains how our sins affect our daily actions and our character traits.

BUC Family, Children, Possibility Ministries & Safeguarding



Pr Les Ackie
Director:
 01923 665547
lackie@adventist.uk

Kathleen Hanson
Admin Assistant:
 01923 665546
khanson@adventist.uk

Postal Address: Seventh-day Adventist Church
 Headquarters Stanborough Park, Watford WD25 1PZ

BUC Website: adventist.uk