

Mercy International Association

64a Lower Baggot Street Dublin, D02 EH21

Policy: Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

Policy Area	Safeguarding
Version	1.0
Approved by Date of approval	The MIA Board November 2020
Due for Review	2023

VALUES:

Mercy International Association (MIA) values the dignity and rights of every person. In particular, we recognise each child as a gift from God. We work for Mercy and Justice to be experienced by all.

RATIONALE:

Mercy International Association is not a constituent part of the Catholic Church in Ireland. None-the-less it identifies strongly with the Catholic Church since all of its Member Congregations are Institutes of Pontifical Right within the Catholic Church. It therefore adopts and fully endorses the policy statements and standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland as publicly available through the website www.safeguarding.ie

POLICY:

Mercy International Association upholds the dignity and rights of all people with a particular focus on children and vulnerable adults. We are committed to ensuring their safety and well-being, and will work in partnership with parents/guardians (where applicable) to do this. We recognise each child as a gift from God and God's special care for those who experience circumstances of particular vulnerability. We will encourage the participation of children and vulnerable adults in all activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and social development.

All Mercy International Association personnel have a responsibility to safeguard children and vulnerable adults through promoting their welfare, health and development in a safe and caring environment that supports their best interests and prevents abuse.

SCOPE:

Religious, staff, volunteers and visiting clergy.

PROCEDURES:

MIA adopts the standards of the Catholic Church in Ireland and so has procedures to cover what is required under the seven standards that apply to MIA. These include:

- Display the policy statement in a prominent public space with the contact information needed to facilitate a quick response to any complaint
- Making all the relevant information available on the MIA website

The activities of Mercy International Centre which potentially involve children include:

- House Tours (real and virtual)

- Young Mercy Leaders programmes or similar events aimed at young people
- Visits to Mercy International Centre by class groups from schools

Any activity at Mercy International Centre can potentially involve vulnerable adults but in particular

- Bed and Breakfast at Mercy International Centre (Children are not accommodated).
- Programmes provided by Mercy International Association
- Events at Mercy International Association

For each of these situations and at any other venue where Mercy International Association has responsibility for activities, risk assessments will be done and responsibilities clearly allocated to ensure the safety of children and, as appropriate, the safety of vulnerable adults.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING TO THE PROCEDURES LISTED ABOVE:

The CEO is responsible for the day to day administration of Safeguarding procedures.

The Board has appointed a Safeguarding Committee.

A Designated Liaison person (DLP) is appointed by the CEO on the recommendation of the Safeguarding Committee.