



Roles and Responsibilities of  
Religious “reps”?

What do a small group of  
experienced  
“safeguarders” see as  
priorities?

# A quick survey of Religious “reps” for Safeguarding

- What you would want to hand on to your successor?

or

- As a new “rep” what did you need to know?



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# Safeguarding ....

- Is a way of life and all have responsibility!
- Demands commitment .. There is work involved!
- Cannot be achieved alone, need for support networks
- Needs confidentiality NOT secrecy
- Means following policies & procedures (CSAS)
- Needs on going training etc.



# What does this role include?

- Ensuring that all members of the congregation are aware of the Safeguarding Policies and procedures.
- Responding appropriately to any allegations or concerns, and ongoing involvement.
- Liaising with Safeguarding co-ordinator of aligned commission
- Initiating/updating DBS checks as relevant for Congregation members, staff &volunteers
- Keeping up to-date with own safeguarding

# continued

- Ensuring Trustees understand their role and responsibilities in respect of Safeguarding, link to Charity Commission, insurers, solicitors etc.
- Record keeping and file management
- Know how to access CSAS websites and how to use them and when.
- Ensure each community has a clear public statement regarding its commitment to safeguarding.



How do you feel?





# Worst nightmare?

- Being given the role because of an allegation
- Previous post holder died suddenly
- Not understanding anything about safeguarding
- Being overwhelmed by information
- Feeling isolated/no support
- Not supported by leadership etc.
- Volume of work



# How to avoid a breakdown!

- Avoid isolation, use support networks, (CSAS, aligned commission co-ordinator, other Religious “reps”, training courses etc.)
- Stay on top of workload, do a little each day.
- Ask questions, ask for help
- Read “integrity in Ministry” & apply it!
- Don’t take on a role you aren’t comfortable with!



# How to hand-over?

- Succession planning!
- Prepare to handover to another person,
- Ensure new person has
  - training for the role,
  - understanding and commitment
  - the trust of leadership & trustees
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Are roles of Parish reps and Religious Reps  
the same?

How was it for you initially?

**How is it for you now?  
Where is your support  
etc?**

**What might help?  
WHAT DO YOU NEED?**

