



Apostolic Faith Mission Coventry Assembly also known as **AFM Coventry Mount Zion Assembly** has a moral and legal duty to ensure that we function and operate with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare children, young people and adults.

AFM Coventry Mount Zion Assembly has agreed the following statement of safeguarding principles:

Throughout the policy, reference is made to “children and young people”. This term is used to mean “those under the age of 18”. AFM Coventry Mount Zion Assembly recognise that some adults are also vulnerable to abuse, accordingly, the procedures may be applied (with appropriate adaptations) to allegations of abuse and the protection of vulnerable adults.

AFM Coventry Mount Zion Assembly is committed to

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry of all children, young people and adults within our church community.
 - the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
 - the building of a safe and caring community which provides a warm, friendly and loving environment where there is informed vigilance to the dangers of abuse
- We will carefully select, support and train all those with any responsibility within AFM Coventry Mount Zion Assembly, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration/membership of the relevant disclosure and barring scheme.
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made, that any adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to offer informed pastoral care and support to anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry that recognises the importance of understanding the needs of those who have been abused, including their feelings of alienation and/or isolation.

- We will seek to protect survivors of any form of abuse from the possibility of further harm and abuse.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision, and referral to the appropriate authorities, to any member of AFM Coventry Mount Zion Assembly community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.

In all these principles, we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

AFM Coventry Mount Zion Assembly recognises the following as definitions of abuse:

i Physical Abuse

Physical abuse causes harm to a child, young person or vulnerable adult. It may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, scalding, drowning or suffocating. It may be done deliberately or recklessly, or be the result of a deliberate failure to prevent injury occurring.

ii Neglect

Neglect is the persistent or severe failure to meet a child or young person or adult's basic physical and/or psychological needs. It will result in serious impairment of the child's health or development.

iii Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves a child, young or vulnerable adult being forced or coerced into participating in or watching sexual activity. It is not necessary for the child, young person or vulnerable adult to be aware that the activity is sexual and the apparent consent of the child, young person or vulnerable adult is irrelevant

iv Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse occurs where there is persistent emotional ill treatment or rejection. It causes severe and adverse effects on the child, young person or vulnerable adult's behaviour and emotional development, resulting in low self-worth. Some level of emotional abuse is present in all forms of abuse.

v Financial Abuse

Financial abuse is the inappropriate use, exploitation, or misappropriation of property, possessions or financial resources. This would include theft, deception, false accounting, fraud, exploitation or pressure in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions.

vi Modern Slavery

Modern slavery involves, slavery, human trafficking and forced labour and domestic servitude

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy for AFM Coventry Mount Zion Assembly

This policy will be reviewed each year to monitor the progress which has been achieved.

1. We recognize that everyone has different levels of vulnerability and that each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in our lives.
2. We commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care for all adults to whom we minister.
3. We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of people who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.
4. We commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.
5. We are committed to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable.
6. It is the responsibility of each of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of vulnerable people and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
7. We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with people who may be vulnerable.
8. We are committed to supporting, resourcing, training and regularly reviewing those who undertake work amongst people who may be vulnerable.
9. Each person who works with vulnerable people will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.

Designated Staff with Responsibility for Safeguarding and Child Protection

The designated senior member of staff with lead responsibility for child protection issues is Catherine Gumbura for the year 2018-2021

1. Has a key duty to take lead responsibility for raising awareness within the organisation of issues relating to the welfare of children and young people, and the promotion of a safe environment for the children and young people.
2. Is responsible for ensuring that exempted questions are asked on relevant volunteer and employment application forms.
3. Has received appropriate training and should keep up to date with developments in child protection issues.
4. Has responsibility for making new staff and volunteers aware of the existing Safeguarding and child protection policy.

5. Will be the main contact point for Child Protection and Safeguarding issues and will have contact details for relevant organisations available for employees and volunteers.

Complaints Procedure

Please refer to AFM Coventry Assembly main policy documents

How to raise a concern

Contact safeguarding lead person: Catherine Gumbura

Telephone number: 07879075400

AFM Coventry Assembly staff/volunteers have no powers to investigate abuse of a child, young person or vulnerable adult, but have a responsibility to take steps protect from further abuse and to work closely and cooperatively with agencies in order to achieve this. Staff may have a role as referrers, witnesses or supporters of a child/young person in the Child protection process.

Board of Trustees 
Signed: Date: 28/1/2018

Name: HILLARY M CHINDODO