



Safeguarding in Faith Communities

Welcome to our July newsletter! If you have any questions or content suggestions for the next edition, please contact [Junaid Akhtar](#) (Faith Project Co-Ordinator).

Happy New Hijri Year to all Muslims - may it be a year filled with blessings.

You Said, We Responded

Following consultation with faith organisations, about accessing affordable good quality safeguarding training, we are delighted to announce that we are expanding our training offer for places of worship.

We are in the process of developing **free safeguarding training** modules for places of worship, as we recognise that specialist training can be expensive and out of reach for some organisations. We will begin delivering the sessions in the autumn. The first modules will focus on safeguarding and will not require any prior knowledge.

Once we have begun delivering the new safeguarding programme, we will look to offer Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) training for places of worship. This is because all organisations who work with children and/or vulnerable adults must have a DSL. This training will be open to all places of worship and will be of particular interest to those who currently do not have a DSL.

We will be in a position for people to book sessions from August 2023. [Sign up](#) to receive details of these sessions.

Funding for Places of Worship

A regular theme in discussions we have with places of worship is 'cost'. Costs tend to hinder the activities of places of worship, such as having adequate safeguards in place, which puts beneficiaries, including children and vulnerable adults, at greater risk.

The Home Office has made £28 million available to fund Protective Security Measures for Places of Worship to help keep them and their attendees safe. There are two funding schemes which will be of interest to faith organisations who have experienced hate crime, or feel they are vulnerable to it. Find more information on eligibility and what costs are covered on the [GOVUK website](#).

The Home Office is holding online engagement events to promote the two schemes and answer any questions you may have. To find out more click on the below links:

- [25 Jul – 6:00 – 7:30pm](#)
- [27 Jul – 11:00am – 12:30pm](#)

If you have any questions, please contact: SecurityfundingCED@homeoffice.gov.uk

We are delighted that the Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership has taken steps to make available free Safeguarding Training which is needed for the faith sector.

The Safeguarding Guidance looks promising and will assist us greatly.

Feedback from one of the places of worship visited by our Project Co-ordinator

Get Involved and Shape Projects

There are several opportunities for places of worship and faith members to participate in:

1) In the coming months, we will be holding a consultation event for each faith to gain feedback on bespoke Safeguarding Guidance. For this, we require representatives from faith organisations to attend and provide input.

(Phase 1: Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Sikh, Buddhism and Hinduism. Phase 2: Will focus on other faiths)

2) We are looking for representatives from different faiths to be part of our steering group to help advise and shape our project.

3) We are also looking for more representatives from different faiths to be part of the Faith Covenant Group.

For more information on any of the above or to register your interest, please email our [Faith Project Co-ordinator](#).

Share Your Views: Thirtyone:eight, a faith organisation, would like to understand the working relationships between statutory organisations and those with safeguarding responsibilities within faith communities. It would be great if you could [share your views](#), the deadline is Sunday 30th July.

Free Events/ Workshops:

[27th July - SBC Masjid Community Careers - Faith leaders and young people will be in attendance](#)

[31st July - NWG Human Trafficking Awareness](#)

[3rd August - Intro. to Fundraising for Beginners](#)

Funding Opportunities:

[Addressing Housing Issues Grant Funding](#)

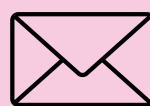
[Support for out-of-school activities being delivered for young people](#)



Our Project Co-Ordinator has attended several faith events and continues to visit places of worship to benefit from learning and feedback which we incorporate into our faith project. To arrange a visit, [email us](#).

In supporting the great work happening in the city, Birmingham City Council's Device Bank Programme is asking charities and community groups to [submit an application](#) if they require free laptops and/or desktops.

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To get involved with our work, scan here to fill out our [short form](#)!

