

Rochester Diocese general safeguarding guidance for overseas travel

Your conduct and responsibilities when visiting a companion diocese or travelling abroad on behalf of your church or Rochester Diocese

On your trip you will be representing the Diocese and so we ask that your conduct be in accordance with Christian values.

All travellers must ensure that their behaviour promotes and encourages everyone to live free from exploitation, harm, abuse, neglect and discrimination.

In the unlikely event that your behaviour results in a need for your visit to be terminated early please note that you will be liable for any costs incurred.

Safeguarding protocol

Rochester Diocese is committed to ensuring that children and vulnerable adults are protected from all forms of harm and abuse, and are able to live with dignity, respect and security.

Vulnerable Adult definition in this context:

Any person aged 18 or over who has particular needs because of their age, disability, physical or mental ability, or is reliant on others for the provision of basic services (e.g. water, food, shelter etc.) and are potentially vulnerable to exploitation or abuse.

All travellers are expected to assist in protecting children and vulnerable adults by adhering to the following protocol at all times during the official visit:

- Only traveling to locations when accompanied by a team leader or host/guide
- Conducting oneself in a culturally sensitive and appropriate manner in all interactions. If unsure of the appropriate behaviour, seeking guidance.
- Not revisiting locations and individuals without prior permission from the team leader or the host Diocese and always accompanied.
- Not being alone with a child or vulnerable adult, whether in the home or elsewhere, nor engaging in any inappropriate / unwanted physical conduct with children or adults.
- Not sharing contact or other personal details with a child or vulnerable adult or their family, nor disclosing any of their personal information (names, addresses, or locations) to any other party without the prior permission of the host Diocese during or after the trip.
- Not providing cash gifts directly to a child or vulnerable adult or their family. In our companion dioceses, requests for cash should always be referred to the Diocesan Bishop.
- Only giving non-monetary gifts that have been approved by the team leader and the host Diocese.
- Not collecting any photographs, videos or stories without the consent of the Companion Diocese, and the consent of the child's parent/carer or the vulnerable adult. Photos or video

can only be taken when the child or vulnerable adult is appropriately dressed. Material gathered must respect the subject's dignity and their right to privacy. When gaining consent for photography or filming the subjects should be informed about what will happen to the images.

You have a duty to report the conduct of others (including those resident in the host country) where there are concerns for the safety of children, young people or adults who are vulnerable. Any allegation should be reported to the Rochester Diocesan Safeguarding Team and their advice sought. It should also be reported to the host Diocese and/or local partner organisation. Respect should be shown for the legal/police system of the host country and, where appropriate, reports should be made to the police.

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I have read and understand the above safeguarding guidance for overseas travel. I will conduct myself in accordance with the guidance and will follow the protocol.

Name:

Signature:

Date: