

Mission Statement

Prevention of Sexual and Spiritual Abuse

Version 2 – 31 October 2024

Vision

We strive for a safe, respectful and supportive community in which every person has the right to bodily and spiritual integrity.

Our Society, rooted in the spirituality of Bethlehem, recognises the dignity and worth of every individual and is actively committed to preventing and combating abuse in all its forms.

Values

Faith and Respect

We respect the dignity, the boundaries and the voices of all people, regardless of continent, culture or religion. Everyone has the right to live and grow in a safe environment that corresponds to the values of his or her faith.

Empathy and Charity

We foster compassion and understanding for the experiences and needs of those affected. Everyone has the right to a respectful, listening community. Following Christ and in the spirit of Bethlehem spirituality, we commit ourselves to one another and live charity as the heart of our faith.

Responsibility and Accountability

We take responsibility for the protection of the weakest and actively oppose every form of abuse. It is our responsibility to foster a culture of vigilance. In the following of Jesus we are committed to promoting a culture of vigilance and protection.

Transparency and Openness

We strive for openness in our structures and processes, in order to gain and maintain trust in the Society. The work of our Society shall be a place of light and truth.

Justice and Healing

We commit ourselves to justice and support those affected on their path to healing and to the recognition of their rights, in keeping with the teachings of our faith community.

Goals

Prevention

We develop and implement training programmes, workshops and awareness campaigns to raise awareness of sexual and spiritual misconduct and to promote preventive measures grounded in the principles of Bethlehem spirituality.

Support

We provide those affected by sexual and spiritual abuse with access to resources, including psychological support, legal counselling and self-help groups.

Intervention

We implement clear protocols for reporting and handling incidents of abuse within our Society, in order to protect those affected and to take appropriate measures.

Healing

We promote programmes of healing and reintegration that help those affected to process their experiences and to regain trust in themselves and in others.

Community Building

We work to build an inclusive and supportive community of apostolic life that encourages people to support one another and to collaborate.

Commitment

We commit ourselves to fostering a culture of charity, respect and responsibility, in which abuse has no place. We commit ourselves to ongoing reflection on and improvement of our practices, in order to ensure that every person who comes into contact with our Society is safe and respected. Following Christ and in the spirit of Bethlehem spirituality, we strive to reflect the light of God in our relationships and in the community.

