

Bethlehem Mission Society (SMB) Policy on the Prevention, Protection and Addressing of Sexual and Spiritual Abuse

Vision:

We strive to create a safe, respectful and supportive community in which every person has the right to physical and emotional integrity.

Guided by the spirituality of Bethlehem, we recognise the dignity and worth of every person. We are actively committed to prevention, protection, addressing the issue, and combating the cover-up of abuse in all its forms.

Values:

1. Faith and Respect:

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

2. Empathy and charity:

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

3. Responsibility and accountability:

We take responsibility for protecting the vulnerable and actively oppose all forms of abuse. In following Jesus, it is our responsibility to foster a culture of vigilance and protection.

4. Transparency and openness:

We strive for openness in our structures and processes to maintain trust in our society. The work of our society should be a place of light and truth.

5. Justice and support:

We are committed to justice and support those affected on their journey towards healing and the realisation of their rights.

Objectives:

1. Prevention and protection:

We develop and implement training programmes, workshops and measures to raise awareness of sexual and spiritual misconduct and to promote prevention, protection and processing.

2. Support

We support those affected in processing their experiences and regaining trust in themselves and others.

3. Intervention:

In our community, there is a duty to report any suspicion of abuse. We follow procedures for reporting and dealing with incidents of abuse within our community to protect those affected, prevent cover-ups and take appropriate action.

4. Processing:

We carefully analyse incidents of sexual and spiritual abuse, draw lessons from them for our society, and ensure that those responsible are held to account. The aim is to continuously improve the structures, processes and culture within our society in order to prevent future incidents and strengthen the integrity of our community.

Commitment:

We are committed to reporting any suspicion or observation of abuse and to fostering a culture of love, respect and accountability in which there is no place for abuse or its cover-up. We are committed to constantly reflecting on and improving our actions to ensure that everyone who comes into contact with our organisation feels safe and respected.