



The Safeguarding Of Children & Vulnerable Adults West London Synagogue Statement of Commitment

We recognise the need to provide a safe and caring environment for children, young people and adults. We acknowledge that children, young people and adults can be the victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and neglect. We accept the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant of Human Rights, which states that everyone is entitled to "all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status". We also concur with the Convention on the Rights of the Child which states that children should be able to develop their full potential, free from hunger and want, neglect and abuse. They have a right to be protected from "all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s), or any other person who has care of the child."

As a Leadership we have therefore adopted the procedures set out in the West London Synagogue (WLS) safeguarding policy in accordance with statutory guidance. We are committed to build constructive links with both statutory and voluntary agencies involved in safeguarding.

The WLS full policy and associated practice guidelines are based on advice and guidance from the Westminster City Council's Social Service Team and guidance from 31.8 (the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service). They are available from Ros Clapham, WLS Human Resources Manager. The latest Policy can be found on the West London Synagogue's website: [here](#)

Leadership Safeguarding Statement

As a place of worship and as an organisation, we recognise the importance of WLS's ministry/work with children and young people and adults in need of protection, and our responsibility to protect everyone entrusted to our care.

We are committed to:

- creating and enabling a healthy culture in order to minimise any coercion and control within our synagogue;
- the safeguarding of children and adults with care and support needs and ensuring their well-being;
- following the requirements of UK legislation in relation to safeguarding children and adults and good practice recommendations;
- respecting the rights of children as described in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- implementing the requirements of legislation in regard to people with disabilities including that the premises meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010;
- ensuring that workers adhere to the agreed procedures of our safeguarding policy and they attend on-going safeguarding training to ensure they understand how they contribute to the safeguarding of vulnerable adults and children in our organisation;
- keeping up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding and reviewing our safeguarding policies annually to ensure they are consistent with current guidance;
- following any denominational or organisational guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and adults in need of protection;
- supporting the safeguarding lead/s in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children/adults with care and support needs;
- ensuring that everyone agrees to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this place of worship/organisation;
- supporting parents and families to feel confident in the safeguarding culture within the organisation to care for and meet the needs of their children;
- nurturing, protecting and safeguarding children and young people;
- supporting, resourcing, training, monitoring and providing supervision to all those who undertake this work;

CO-SENIOR RABBI [Helen Freeman](#)

CO-SENIOR RABBI [David Mitchell](#)

RABBI [Neil Janes](#)

INTERIM RABBI [Gershon Silins](#)

RABBI EMERITA [Julia Neuberger](#)

PRESIDENT [Mark Fox](#)

CHAIRMAN [Andrew Stone](#)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR [Stewart Sether](#)

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- supporting all in the place of worship/organisation affected by abuse;
- adopting and following the 'Safe and Secure' safeguarding standards developed by 31.8.

Specifically:

- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect of children and young people (those under 18 years of age) and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We believe every child should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that those children with whom we have contact, know this and are empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm.
- All children and young people have the right to be treated with respect, to be listened to and to be protected from all forms of abuse.
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, psychological, financial and discriminatory abuse and neglect of adults who have care and support needs and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We recognise the personal dignity and rights of adults who find themselves victims of forced marriage or modern slavery and will ensure all our policies and procedures reflect this.
- We believe all adults should enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of the place of worship/organisation unless they pose a risk to the safety of those we serve.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of all those who will work with children and adults with care and support needs.
- We believe in the necessity of creating a healthy culture in our synagogue where the value of all people is recognised and challenges are responded to appropriately.

We recognise:

- Children's Social Services (or equivalent) has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child. Adult Social Care (or equivalent) has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about an adult with care and support needs.
- Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed then the police should be contacted as a matter of urgency.
- Where working outside of the UK, concerns will be reported to the appropriate agencies in the country in which the concerns take place, and their procedures followed. In addition we will report concerns to agencies in the country where our agency's headquarters are located.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

If you have any concerns for any child or adult with care and support needs then please contact one of the following, who have been approved as Safeguarding Leads at WLS:

- **WLS Safeguarding Lead: JO MICHAELS**
tel: 0207 535 0290 | mobile: 07717 826 972 | email: jo_michaels@wls.org.uk
- **WLS Safeguarding Deputy for adults: TIRZA WAISEL**
tel: 0207 535 0260 | mobile: 07887 967 693 | email: tirza.waisel@wls.org.uk
- **WLS Head of Education Safeguarding Deputy for children: GIL RESHEF**
tel: 0207 535 0260 | email: gil.reshef@wls.org.uk
- **WLS Trustee for Safeguarding: JOAN ARNOLD**
tel: 07850 764543 | email: joan.arnold40@gmail.com
- **WLS Deputy Trustee for Safeguarding: ALISON EDELSHAIN**
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