

# SVD British District Superior's Safeguarding Commitment



As British District Superior of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD), I affirm that safeguarding is a Gospel duty and a fundamental responsibility in every SVD community and ministry. I am committed to creating and maintaining a culture where children, young people, and adults at risk are safe, respected, and protected from harm. We follow and conform to the national standards for safeguarding in the Catholic Church, as set out by the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA).

Fr Vincent Mbu'i SVD

I commit to:

- Lead by example in promoting safety, transparency, and accountability, with zero tolerance of abuse, exploitation, bullying, harassment, or boundary violations.
- Listen and respond well to anyone who raises a concern, placing the wellbeing of the person at risk first, and ensuring pastoral support is available.
- Report concerns promptly to the appropriate statutory authorities and Church safeguarding bodies, and cooperate fully with investigations and procedures.
- Ensure safer recruitment and suitability, including required checks, references, role clarity, supervision, and ongoing review.
- Require safeguarding training and regular refreshers for SVD members, employees, and volunteers engaged in ministry or pastoral contact.
- Embed risk assessment and safe practice in all SVD activities, events, and pastoral settings, including clear codes of conduct.
- Maintain sound safeguarding governance, with clear roles, accurate records, regular review/audit, and timely action on findings.

I accept personal responsibility to ensure these commitments are implemented consistently across the District and that appropriate action is taken whenever safeguarding standards are not met.

Signed: 

(District Superior)

Date: 12th January 2026