

POLICY STATEMENT (on Child Protection)

The British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists concurs with the position statement approved and voted by the church's world headquarters in 1995.

- (a) The church wishes to affirm the dignity and worth of each human being and therefore will not condone neglect, bullying or any form of physical, sexual, emotional and spiritual abuse of any individual whether in the church or in the community.
- (b) The Seventh-day Adventist church has a responsibility to protect all children who are involved in any of its programmes.
- (c) The church will report to the appropriate agency all allegations of abuse disclosed by a child or young person and will co-operate fully with other professional agencies to identify the perpetrators and to protect the child(ren).
- (d) The church will help persons in need to identify and access the range of professional services. It will assist families in grief over relationships that cannot be restored. It will address the spiritual questions confronting abused persons, seeking to understand the origins of abuse and family violence.
- (e) When changed attitudes and behaviour open possibilities for forgiveness and new beginnings, the church will provide a ministry of reconciliation, but intervention by appropriate agencies must occur to hold the perpetrator accountable for his or her actions and safeguard children.
- (f) The church will undertake to follow principles found within the Abuse of Trust guidance issued by the Home Office. It will therefore be unacceptable for people in a position of trust to engage in any behaviour which might allow a sexual relationship to develop while a relationship of trust continues.
- (g) This policy covers children and young people under the age of 18.

This policy may be used as guiding principles for responding to concerns about vulnerable adults.

The above Policy Statement is taken directly from pages 1 & 2 of the document "Keeping Our Church Family Safe" which is the official Child Protection document of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK & Ireland.