

April 2024

An early Easter hastened in springtime. The safeguarding team has been busy supporting churches with their Annual Safeguarding Return and in March the team supported the World Council for Churches initiative 'Thursdays in Black' which highlights the hope of a world without rape and violence around the world.

Annual Safeguarding Returns

Throughout January and February churches worked hard to complete their Annual Safeguarding Returns. We thank you. Over the coming months Synod Safeguarding Officers across the denomination will be examining the returns to extract data which helps us see where we, as a denomination,

Training Update

Training Review Group - the group met in February to discuss all aspects of safeguarding training, from participation and publicity, to monitoring training attendance and course content. This is ever evolving within the safeguarding training framework . At each meeting of Training Review Group we welcome a member of a local church to join us. If you are interested in joining a meeting to give any feedback on safeguarding training then please contact carrie.kaunda@urc.org.uk

Upcoming Specialist Safeguarding Courses via Zoom:

Adult Safeguarding 18 April 6.30-8.30
Spiritual Abuse 8 May 1.30-3.30
Elders as Trustees 14 May 7.00-9.00
DDC Verifier and Safer Recruitment 30 May 6.30-8.30
Domestic Abuse 4 June 6.30-8.30

The full list of dates and times for 2024 is available on the Safeguarding pages on the URC [website](#) under 'Training Dates for the Whole Denomination'. To book, please email emma.pearce@urc.org.uk with your name/church/role and your course(s) and dates.

For mandatory safeguarding courses please contact your [Synod Safeguarding Officer](#).

The Safeguarding Foundation E-Learning is now available on the [URC Learning Hub](#). This

The framework will help make organisations more efficient and maximise commitments to collaborative working across agencies.

The Wales Synod will need to use the framework to make sure there's a consistent approach to training, learning and development, ensure people get the right training, learning and development at the right time and develop a consistent way of delivering training and checking how effective safeguarding has been.

Safeguarding practice in Wales will benefit from having national standards for safeguarding training, learning and development that will apply to all organisations, both statutory and voluntary. One benefit is that for people who volunteer or work in several organisations within Wales, the safeguarding training done at a particular level in one context will be valid in the other contexts they volunteer or work in. This will avoid the need to repeat or duplicate training.

Watch this space for further developments.

Thursdays in Black

Throughout the month of March members of the safeguarding team across the denomination have been taking part in Thursdays in Black.

This is an ecumenical campaign led by the World Council of Churches, to encourage people to speak out against all forms of gender-based violence. People participate by wearing black on Thursdays as a symbol of strength and resistance.

In every country, gender-based violence is a tragic reality. This violence is frequently hidden, and victims are often silent, fearing stigma and further violence.



