



## The Child Safeguarding Statement of the World Meeting of Families 2018 (WMOF2018)

This statement has been prepared to comply with the requirements of the *Children First Act 2015*.

### **1 Statement**

WMOF2018 recognises and upholds the dignity and rights of all children, is committed to ensuring their safety and well-being and will work in partnership with parents/ guardians to do this.

WMOF2018 recognises each child as a gift from God, and values and encourages the participation of children in all WMOF2018 activities to enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and social development.

All WMOF2018 personnel (including clergy, religious, staff and volunteers) have a responsibility to safeguard children through promoting their welfare, health and development in a safe and caring environment that supports their best interests and prevents abuse.

### **2 Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm**

WMOF2018 is an international event that brings together families from across the world to celebrate, pray and reflect upon the central importance of marriage and the family as the cornerstone of our lives, of society and of the Church. Taking place over a week in August, 2018 in Dublin, it includes a programme of prayer, workshops, talks and discussions that will be open to children accompanied by their parents/ guardians as well as separate activities and events provided specifically for children and young people.

#### **Safeguarding principles**

WMOF2018 will provide an environment for children (persons up to the age of 18 years) that is welcoming, nurturing and safe. WMOF2018 will do this by:

- Valuing children and demonstrating respect for them;
- Obtaining parental/ guardian permission for the involvement of children in activities and events that they attend separate from their parents or guardians;
- Choosing carefully those who work with children;
- Ensuring that those working for WMOF2018 behave appropriately towards children;
- Making proper arrangements when organising activities and events for children;

- Keeping good records.

### 3 Risk Assessment

WMOF2018 has carried out an assessment of the potential for harm to children through their involvement in WMOF2018 events and activities. The following lists the identified risks and the practices and procedures in place for managing these risks.

Risk Identified	Policies, practices and procedures in place to manage identified risk  (to be found in <b>Child Safeguarding and Protection Policy of the World Meeting of Families 2018</b> )
1. Children could be exposed through their involvement in WMOF2018 activities to people who may harm them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe selection and recruitment procedures for those working for WMOF2018, including vetting</li> </ul>
2. Those who work with children could engage in unsafe work practices or behave inappropriately towards them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code of Practice for staff and volunteers</li> <li>• Complaints procedures</li> <li>• Appropriate communication with children (including use of social media)</li> </ul>
3. Those working with children could operate in unsafe environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proper arrangements for events and activities for children</li> </ul>
4. Lack of clarity as to who is responsible for what when it comes to child safeguarding and protection in WMOF2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roles and responsibilities are clearly laid out in policy document</li> <li>• Training, information and advice are provided by Child Safeguarding and Protection Service (CSPS) of the Archdiocese of Dublin</li> </ul>
5. Concerns that a child may have been, is being or is at risk of being abused or neglected may go undetected and unreported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguarding information, training and advice provided by CSPS</li> <li>• Safeguarding personnel on site at every WMOF2018 event</li> <li>• Safeguarding message conveyed through promotional material, on website and at each WMOF2018 event</li> </ul>
6. WMOF personnel, whether mandated persons or others, may be unaware of their responsibility, or not supported, to report concerns that a child may have been, is being or is at risk of being abused or neglected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting thresholds and procedures are set out in policy document and covered in training and information sessions</li> <li>• CSPS available to provide advice, guidance and support</li> <li>• Joint reports will be made by WMOF2018 DLP/ deputy DLP and Mandated Persons, where appropriate, taking account of data protection requirements</li> </ul>
7. Mandated persons may not be aware of their responsibilities under the Children First Act 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role of mandated person described in policy document</li> <li>• Training and information sessions provided</li> </ul>

#### 1.4 Child Protection Procedures

WMOF2018 will promptly report all concerns that a child may have been, is being or is at risk of being abused or neglected in accordance with procedures developed in line with the requirements of the:

- *Children First Act 2015,*
- *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017,*
- *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice,*
- *Criminal Justice (Withholding of Information on Offences against Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012.*

A copy of this Child Safeguarding Statement is available on request and online at [www.worldmeeting2018.ie](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie).

#### 5 Implementation

WMOF2018 is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguard Statement and the practices and procedures that support this commitment to keeping children safe from harm while engaged in WMOF2018 activities.

Signed: 

Fr. Timothy Bartlett, General Secretary, World Meeting of Families, Holy Cross Diocesan Centre, Clonliffe Road, Dublin DO3 P2E7.

For queries please contact: Andrew Fagan, who is the Relevant Persons under the *Children First Act 2015*.

Contact details:

Address: Holy Cross Diocesan Centre, Clonliffe Road, Dublin DO3 P2E7

Phone: 01 8360314;

Email: [andrew.fagan@dublindiocese.ie](mailto:andrew.fagan@dublindiocese.ie)