

## Reporting abuse

**If someone is in immediate danger or needs urgent medical attention, call 999.** If the situation you are reporting is not an emergency, please use the contact details below:

- There are **Safeguarding Advisers** in every Church of England diocese across the country and **Safeguarding Officers** in every parish. If you are worried about someone and want to raise a concern or report abuse, please contact your Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. Details can be found using our [Diocesan Safeguarding Teams map](#) which links to relevant contact information in each area.
- The **National Safeguarding Team** manages safeguarding cases relating to senior clergy including bishops and deans. Contact [safeguarding@churchofengland.org](mailto:safeguarding@churchofengland.org) or use the form at the bottom of this page.

Reports of children and young people at risk of abuse and neglect should be made to the children's social care team at their local council. You can find contact details for these teams via the [GOV.UK website](#).

Adult safeguarding concerns should be reported to their local authority adult social care team. You can find contact details for these teams via the [NHS website](#).

## Support for victims and survivors

There are a number of organisations and services which specialise in offering support to survivors of church-related abuse:

### Accessing support in the Church of England

- [Safe Spaces](#) is a free and independent support service for anyone who has experienced abuse in relation to the Church of England, the Church in Wales, or the Catholic Church of England and Wales. You can contact the Safe Spaces team through their helpline ([0300 303 1056](tel:03003031056)), their live chat facility or by emailing [safespaces@firstlight.org.uk](mailto:safespaces@firstlight.org.uk).
- The Church of England's [Interim Support Scheme](#) offers immediate help and support to survivors whose life circumstances are significantly affected by the abuse suffered, and the response to it.

### Accessing support from partners and relevant organisations

- [MACSAS](#) supports women and men who have been sexually abused, as children or adults, by ministers, clergy or others under the guise of the Church. They support both Survivors who have remained within their Christian communities and those who have left.
- [Survivors Voices](#) is a survivor-led organisation that runs peer support groups for victim-survivors of all kinds of abuse, including faith-based abuse. It has a newsletter and other special events for survivors of abuse experienced in churches and other faith-based communities.
- [Replenished Life](#) is an independent charity that provides practical advice and support for those who have experienced abuse and trauma within faith and faith organisations providing a range of options.
- ['Thirtyone:eight](#) is a leading independent, non-denominational Christian safeguarding charity providing a wide range of support to over 10,000 organisations across the UK. They exist to help create safer places for all, including an open-access helpline
- [Peer Support Group](#) is a support group which is run by Newcastle diocese for those who have been harmed by any form of abuse in a church/faith context. The group meets once a month for 90 minutes on Zoom, with less frequent in-person sessions held in Newcastle.

## Finding support from other organisations

There are a number of charities and organisations that can offer support to victims and survivors of all types of abuse outside of office hours, either on a 24-hour basis or through specialist helplines and services:

- [Age UK](#) is the leading charity for **older people**. You can contact Age UK for help, information and advice on [0800 678 1602](#), 8am-7pm, 365 days a year.
- [Childline](#) is a free, private and confidential service designed to help anyone **under the age of 19** with any issue they're going through. You can talk to their counsellors by calling [0800 1111](#), [email](#) or [using a 1-2-1 chat](#).
- [Hourglass](#) (formerly Action on Elder Abuse) works to challenge and prevent the abuse of **older people**. Call their helpline on [0808 808 8141](#) or email [helpline@wearehourglass.org](mailto:helpline@wearehourglass.org).
- If you're worried about a **child or young person**, you can contact the [NSPCC Helpline](#) on [0808 800 5000](#) for support and advice for free.
- There are services that can help if you've been **sexually assaulted, raped or abused**. These include [Rape Crisis](#), [Women's Aid](#), [Victim Support](#), [The Survivors Trust](#) and [Male Survivors Partnership](#).
- Refuge's 24-hour [National Domestic Abuse Helpline](#) ([0808 2000 247](#)) supports **women fleeing domestic abuse** and other forms of gender-based violence.
- [Samaritans](#) are available 24 hours a day for **anyone who's struggling to cope**, who needs someone to listen without judgement or pressure. Call [116 123](#) for free.
- If you identify as **LGBT+** and have experienced abuse and violence, you can call [Galop](#) – the LGBT+ anti-abuse charity – on [0800 999 5428](#) for emotional and practical support.
- **Male victims** of domestic abuse can call [Men's Advice Line](#) on [0808 8010 327](#) or [ManKind](#) ([0182 3334 244](#)) for non-judgemental information and support.
- [NAPAC](#) supports **adults recovering from childhood abuse**. Call their free, confidential support line on [0808 801 0331](#).

A fuller list of organisations offering support to survivors, including therapy and counselling resources, helplines and self-help resources, is available [to download](#).

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