

# The Bridge International Church Safeguarding Policy

## We are committed to:

- Promoting a safe environment and culture within our Church and in our Church activities by adhering to safe working practices and acknowledging the principle that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- Safely recruiting, training and supporting all those with a responsibility for children, young people, and adults within the Church to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to safeguarding concerns.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Having a named Lead Safeguarding Officer and a Deputy Safeguarding Officer to implement policy and procedures.
- Maintaining appropriate levels of confidentiality

## 1. Purpose and Scope

The Bridge International Church is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, vulnerable adults, and all individuals participating in our programs and services. This policy outlines our commitment to preventing harm, abuse, neglect, and exploitation and sets out the procedures for identifying, reporting, and responding to safeguarding concerns.

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, contractors, and representatives of The Bridge International Church who work with or have contact with children, vulnerable adults, or individuals with disabilities.

## 2. Definitions

**Child:** An individual under 18 years of age

**Vulnerable adult:** An individual aged 18 or over who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age, or illness and who is or may be unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation.

**Abuse:** Any form of physical, sexual, emotional, or financial mistreatment, neglect, or exploitation.

**Safeguarding concern:** Any suspicion, allegation, or evidence of harm, abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a child, vulnerable adult, or individual with disabilities.

## 3. Legal and regulatory framework

Our policy reflects and acts according to French and International laws, regulations, and guidelines that govern safeguarding practices. These include:

- Le code civil
- Le code pénal
- Les lois de protection de l'enfance
- Les lois de protection des adultes
- Le code au travail
- La convention Européenne des droits de l'homme

#### **4. Principles and Values**

The Bridge International Church is guided by the following principles and values in safeguarding:

- Respect for the rights, dignity, and autonomy of all individuals.
- Zero tolerance for any form of harm, abuse, neglect, or exploitation.
- Commitment to promoting a safe and inclusive environment for all.
- Empowerment of individuals to raise concern and access support.

#### **5. Roles and responsibilities**

**The Safeguarding Board:** Responsible for ensuring that safeguarding policies and procedures are in place and effectively implemented.

**Lead Safeguarding Officer:** Responsible for overseeing safeguarding practices, providing advice and support, and coordinating responses to safeguarding concerns.

**Deputy Safeguarding Officer:** Responsible for supporting the Lead Safeguarding Officer and covering the roles and responsibilities of the Lead if/when they are unavailable.

**All Staff and Volunteers:** Required to participate in safeguarding training, familiarise themselves with this policy, and report any safeguarding concerns.