

Soroptimists Midlands East
Safeguarding Newsletter

October 2021

Safeguarding Leads Meeting 9th October

There have been no safeguarding incidents reported, Safeguarding Leads felt that their club members were aware of who their safeguarding lead was and how to report incidents. Face to face meetings are starting to happen, with some meetings remaining on Zoom. Clubs have now seen the Safeguarding short video and if further training is required, this can be arranged through the club leads or Regional Safeguarding Lead (Jill Anderson).

SIGBI Safeguarding Forum Meeting, 21st September

Leads from the UK held a Zoom meeting, led by Shirley Jones the Designate Safeguarding Lead and were joined by SI St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Safeguarding issues that had arisen were discussed, highlighting the use of the Dispute Resolution procedure in conjunction with the Safeguarding policy. SI Kenilworth, raised the issue of the plight of women and children who were being quarantined in local hotels, their only outside contact often being the guards, women reported feeling intimidated and complained of sexual harassment. The club has provided information leaflets with contact numbers and relevant information, which they have had translated into a number of different languages. Particularly pertinent to the number of areas taking Afghan refugees.

SI St Vincent and the Grenadines reported on the situation following the volcanic eruptions earlier this year and the shelters.



Safeguarding Adults Week 15 -21st November 2021

The theme of the week is 'Creating Safer Cultures', we will follow the programme of the **Ann Craft Trust** www.anncrafttrust.org who have a full programme for the week (donations welcome)

Mon – Emotional Abuse and Mental Health

Tues – The Power of Language. There is a free on line seminar - 'On Line Grooming' register via the website

Wed – Digital Safeguarding, Sexual Abuse

Thurs – A conference is being held in Nottingham (£175) – focusing on Adult 'Grooming and Exploitation' Opening eyes and minds and including Predatory Marriage (see later in minutes).

Fri – A free seminar – The Power of Language

Sat – Creating Safe Organisational Culture

Sun - Safeguarding and You- with a free safeguarding assessment you can complete

You can sign up to receiving monthly updates and there are free resources on the website, including toolkits for:

Mental Health Support

Victim Support

The Children's Society

Digital Safeguarding

There are also suggested **Tweets for the week** and posters that might be used



Predatory Marriage

The Regional Safeguarding Forum have invited Daphne Franks to speak in the week leading up to Safeguarding week, **Club Leads are able to attend.**



Flyer for Daphne Franks Talk 10 November.pdf

She has recently appeared in [The Guardian](#) discussing her work to change marriage laws in England which would reduce the risk of predatory marriage. Daphne set up the campaign 'Justice for Joan', after her Mum became a victim of predatory marriage at the age of 91. Daphne is currently working with the Ann Craft Trust and the University of Nottingham as part of the research project 'My Marriage My Choice'. The research aims to raise awareness of predatory marriage and is lobbying to change the law so that marriage no longer automatically invalidates a pre-existing will. They aim to :

We aim to...

- Change the law such that a marriage does not automatically revoke a Will
- Create an offence of Predatory Marriage, perhaps as a subset of Forced Marriage.
- Publish Notices/Banns on the Internet.
- Train Registrars to look for signs of insufficient mental capacity to marry.
- Add a robust set of questions for registrars to ask at marriage, with clear procedures for them to follow if correct answers are not given.
- Ensure Registrars will stop a marriage ceremony if there are any doubts.
- Add "The marriage was fraudulent" to the permitted reasons to annul a marriage after one party has died.

<https://www.predatorymarriage.uk/>

For further help / information contact your Safeguarding Lead / Jill Anderson, Regional Safeguarding Lead (jill.anderson464@gmail.com)