

STATE OF THE UNION

STRENGTHENING THE BOARD

Applicant Pack

Non-Executive Expert Advisor (NEEA)
Safeguarding



Seventh-day
Adventist[®] Church
BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE

Safeguarding role

Introduction

The British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (BUC) operates within the United Kingdom and Ireland (UK and EU). It serves as the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (Head Office) in this Territory. Therefore, its remit and part of its mission-focused strategy derives from the General Conference (GC) in the USA.

The BUC also operates as a governing charity of the territory. Therefore, it operates as a Church (strategic only), a Corporation (UK & EU) and a Charity (England and Wales, Scotland, and Republic Of Ireland Charity Law). All 3 strategic areas require attention as it is expected that the BUC and its territory must comply with UK legislation and best practice while being able to provide advice and guidance to the Territory.

The territory includes:

The South England Conference

The North England Conference

The Scottish Mission

The Welsh Mission

The Irish Mission - including Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland)

Purpose of the role

The Safeguarding Board Member at The BUC holds a paramount role, providing strategic leadership and oversight to ensure that safeguarding policies and procedures are not only in place but are deeply integrated into all aspects of The BUC's work and culture. This involves working collaboratively with other Board Members and the senior management team to weave safeguarding considerations into the fabric of planning, risk management, and decision-making processes and policies ensuring that safeguarding principles underpin the organisation's strategic direction.

Key responsibilities:

The responsibility of the Safeguarding Board Member is to oversee the development, implementation, and regular review of safeguarding policies and procedures. They will be tasked with ensuring these policies comply with legal, regulatory, and best practice requirements, thereby upholding the highest standards of protection and safety within The BUC. This role demands a proactive approach to drive forward the agenda of safeguarding, making it a cornerstone of our organisation's ethical framework.

Championing safeguarding training and awareness across The BUC territory is crucial. The Safeguarding Board Member must ensure that the DSL is held accountable for all staff, volunteers, and Board

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The President's Office

Members not only understand their safeguarding responsibilities but are also equipped with the knowledge and skills to act on them. This involves supporting initiatives that promote a widespread understanding of safeguarding across the entire organisation, fostering a culture of vigilance and responsibility. In addition, providing guidance to our network and partner organisations (schools, conferences, missions, etc), developing trust and openness, is key to our engagement intention.

Regular interaction with the CEO and the designated safeguarding lead is essential to review and affirm that the organisation's strategies are effectively creating a safer culture and keeping individuals connected to The BUC territory safe. This includes ensuring that The BUC's risk register accurately reflects safeguarding risks and that appropriate measures, including relevant insurance for trustees' liability, are in place. Moreover, readiness for inspections and the ability to respond to inspection reports are vital responsibilities, as is ensuring that safeguarding has a dedicated space on the agenda during board meetings. This role requires a commitment to help fellow trustees understand and critically evaluate safeguarding reports, fostering a board-level culture that is both informed and proactive in addressing safeguarding challenges.

Person Specification

Skills required:

- Strong leadership and strategic thinking skills.
- Excellent understanding of safeguarding, child protection, and the legal framework surrounding these areas.
- Ability to develop and implement policies and procedures.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to engage effectively with a wide range of stakeholders.
- Ability to handle sensitive information with discretion and integrity.
- Willingness to explore the nuance of safeguarding within different contexts and for different demographics (education, vulnerable adults, etc).

Experience and expertise:

- Experience on serving on a national board.
- Significant experience in a senior role with responsibility for safeguarding, child protection, vulnerable adults, education or related fields.
- Demonstrable experience of developing and implementing safeguarding policies and practices.
- Experience working with regulatory bodies and compliance requirements related to safeguarding.

Education (guidance notes only)

A bachelor's degree in Social Work, Psychology, Education, or a related field is common. Advanced qualifications such as a Master's degree in a related discipline is beneficial, emphasising a deeper

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understanding of safeguarding practices and policies. Certifications or additional training in safeguarding and child protection should be evident.

Appointment

This role is a fixed term appointment and will be until 2026, which is the end of the current BUC quinquennium.

Commitment: Meetings take place quarterly, with committees, and extraordinary meetings taking place outside of these quarterly scheduled meetings.

[Click here to apply for the Safeguarding NEEA role to the BUC Executive Committee](#)

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