



Statement on the Engagement with Those Harmed by Abuse

The Archdiocese of Southwark acknowledges with deep sorrow and shame, the grave harmed caused to so many by members of the Church, who were granted positions of trust. We recognise the profound and lasting suffering experienced by those harmed by abuse and to their loved ones. The Archdiocese of Southwark is committed to a compassionate and respectful engagement with all those that contact the diocese, while understanding our obligation to refer all cases of abuse to statutory services.

We are steadfast in our resolve to ensure that the mistakes of the past are neither ignored or repeated. In dialogue with those that have been harmed, we continue to listen, learn and adapt our practices so that the Church may truly be a place of safety, healing and hope for all. Our engagement with those that have been harmed by abuse is guided by the Gospel values of truth, reconciliation and respect for human dignity. We pledge to;

- Listen sincerely to those that have been harmed by abuse experiences, with care and without judgement.
- Support those that have been harmed by abuse with pastoral care, signposting to services and practical assistance, tailored to each individual's needs.
- Seek justice by cooperating fully with statutory authorities, ensuring transparency and accountability in our actions.
- Foster healing by creating spaces for prayer, reflection and engagement with those that have been harmed, including our annual service.
- Promote safe environments through rigorous safeguarding practices, policies and training for all clergy, staff and volunteers.

We ask forgiveness from those that have been wounded by the failures of the Church. We also ask the Church community to join us in building a future where the dignity of every person is protected and cherished.

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