

Safeguarding Newsletter

Sisters of the Good Samaritan of the Order of St Benedict

Message from the Superior

For the Sisters of the Good Samaritan, 2023 is a transition year. We have come together to discern our future directions, celebrate our life and mission and elect a new leadership team. We are blessed during this time, by the commitment and energy of our many Oblates and Partners. We have used words like “compassion...hope...justice.” Above all, together we seek to be good neighbours. These are the values that underpin our continuing commitment to safeguarding children and adults at risk wherever we are. This newsletter provides a glimpse of that commitment.

Catherine McCahill SGS



Good Samaritan Safeguarding Prayer

God of compassion,

You call us to listen to your spirit inviting us to travel a new Jericho road boldly and courageously.

May all Good Samaritans show neighbourly concern and friendship wherever they live and work.

May we tend the wounds of those who struggle or grieve.

May we reach out with compassion for, and in service of, our fractured society.

May we remember and find inspiration in our own Good Samaritan story, of the loving care for children and vulnerable people as shown by Sisters and friends for over 160 years.

As Good Samaritans on mission let us always hold deep respect for the diverse gifts of Sisters, Oblates, colleagues and friends.

May we foster and strengthen our rich Good Samaritan charism and allow each other to flourish.

Let us renew our commitment to creating safe environments for all, especially children & adults at risk in our care.

May we, as Good Samaritan women and men, use all gentleness as ministers of Christ's mercy and messengers of Christ's compassion.

We live out this call and responsibility in the name of Jesus.

Amen.



Mother & Child in Kiribati
Photo by Katarina Kabiriera SGS

Safeguarding Conversation

This year the Sisters in Japan participated in a Safeguarding Conversation facilitated by Veronica McCluskie SGS. Veronica presented several safeguarding related enquiry questions. The conversation and subsequent responses provided an opportunity for the Congregation to learn from the Sisters about what they consider safeguarding to mean and what it might look like in the Japanese context and culture. The responses were invaluable. A bookmark and reminder card have been developed displaying the information. The resources are available in both English and Japanese. At the recent Chapter in Baulkham Hills, Haruko Morikawa SGS accepted the resources on behalf of the Sisters. The images below and on the following page display the resources developed from the safeguarding conversation responses and the photos show the Sisters receiving the resources from Haruko when she arrived home.



Keeping yourself and others safe...

- Letting others know where I am and where I go.
- Carrying a mobile phone.
- Locking the door at night and other times.
- Talking to someone if I have concerns.
- Consulting with a Sister.
- Asking and listening to the explanation if I have any questions or worries.
- Forming relationships through conversation.
- Praying.
- Knowing other people's situation and responding with deep understanding.

The Good Samaritan Sisters, Japan



自分自身と他人の安全を守る...

- 自分がどこにいるか、どこに行くか他の人に知らせる
- 携帯電話を携える
- 夜および他のときにドアの鍵を閉める
- 心配事や懸念がある場合、誰かに打ち明ける
- シスターに相談する
- 疑問や心配事がある場合、質問したり説明に耳を傾ける
- 会話を通して関係を築く
- 祈る
- 他の人の状況を知り、深い理解をもって対応する

The Good Samaritan Sisters, Japan



Above: 'Reminder Card' resource (front & back)

Good News from Japan continued...



Sisters viewing resources and the 'Bookmark' resource (front & back).

Your way of acting should be different from the world's way; the love of Christ must come before all else.
RB 4:20-21

Sisters of the Good Samaritan of the Order of St Benedict

世俗的なおこないに背を向けること。どのようなこともキリストの愛には優先させないこと。
(聖ベネディクトの戒律 4:20-21)

Sisters of the Good Samaritan of the Order of St Benedict

Speak the truth with heart and tongue. RB 4:28

Feeling safe means...

- Kindness
- Support
- Not being judged or misunderstood
- Trusting relationships
- Cooperation
- Secure
- Listening
- Protection
- Happiness
- Love
- Respect
- Fairness
- Being authentically present to others
- Help is available

The Good Samaritan Sisters, Japan

真実を心と口で語ること。
(聖ベネディクトの戒律 4:28)

安心感を得るとは...

- 親切
- サポート
- 批判されたり、誤解されない
- 信頼関係
- 協力
- 安全で安心していただける
- 聴く耳をもつ
- 保護
- 幸福感
- 愛
- 敬意
- 公正
- 真意をもって他の人のために存在する
- 助けを求められる

The Good Samaritan Sisters, Japan



Safeguarding Education & Formation

The following is a summary of some of the programs featured in this years schedule.

Safeguarding Induction for new employees – The Congregation is committed to a culture of safeguarding and therefore a safeguarding induction session is scheduled for every new employee within Australia. The session is delivered online or face to face. The induction session invites conversation. The leading question of the session is *“How does the parable of the Good Samaritan and the Rule of St Benedict support our practice of safeguarding? What wisdom do they offer?”*

Health and Wellbeing Team - Self-Directed Learning Module – Professional Boundaries for Health Care Workers

The HWB employees reviewed and reflected on safe practices implemented in a care setting. The module detailed information about professional boundaries, zone of helpfulness and crossing boundaries.

Sisters who minister to adults at risk

1. A 4-hour online training session facilitated by STARTTS (NSW Service for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture & Trauma Survivors). The session covered the impact of persecution, torture, refugee trauma and forced displacement; The complexity of seeking asylum in Australia; Trauma informed and culturally safe practices.
2. A facilitated conversation circle forum to develop a resource highlighting practices that enable a safe space for asylum seekers and refugees to learn English. The final approved resource is an Information Sheet titled ‘English Support – Adults at Risk’ and it is available from the Sister Intranet.

SGS Initial Formation Committee

In collaboration with Helen Anderson SGS a safeguarding module was developed and delivered to both Formators and those in Formation. The session focussed on the topic Professional and Pastoral Relationship Boundaries Continuum – What is it?, Why is it important?, Cues and Self-Care.



Click on the link to view the Good Samaritan Safeguarding Induction video. <https://vimeo.com/868650175/116945be8b?share=copy>

Safeguarding Policy

In Kiribati this year we have been working on a Safeguarding Policy that addresses our context. Our first draft states:

Safeguarding means, protecting children and adults. We want children and adults to feel safe and speak up when something does not feel right.

The Congregation of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan in Kiribati want to make sure everyone feels safe and protected.

Safe and Protected means that we will do all we can so that children and vulnerable adults are not hurt or harmed when working or ministering with us.

Te Tararua/Kamanomano nanona tina tararuaia ataei ao ikawai. Ti tangiria Ataei ao Ikawai ba ana mano raoi ao n taetae ngkana iai baai aika kukurei/namakina te mengabuaka.

Tiina n te Utu n tina ae te Itamaria ae Raoroi iaon Kiribati, a tangiria ba kona mano ao man tararuaki raoi.

Kakawakin ma te kamanomano nanona bon tabera n tatabemanira nako ba tina aki reke n te kanganga inanon ara tai ni makuri ke ni makuri ma aomata.

The Policy addresses the expectations of behaviour by the Good Samaritan Early Childhood Centre (GSECC) staff and volunteers. It also outlines the required actions a Sister must take when she has a safety concern about a child at the GSECC. In addition to this work, we have drafted a Risk Assessment Plan for the GSECC. The Plan identifies the areas of risk under the categories of Situational (physical and online), Vulnerability, Propensity and Institutional. The Plan includes actions to mitigate the identified risks. An action implemented by the Sisters is the placement of posters at the GSECC facility to teach and remind parents about their responsibilities of keeping their children safe. One of the posters shows a simplified english version of the Rights of the Child translated to I-Kiribati.

Rights of the Child - Children living in Kiribati have the right to: Inaomatan te ataei – Iaon Kiribati ao iai inaomataia ataei ba:

1. Be treated fairly and equally
2. Voice their thoughts when decisions are being made about them
3. Live and grow in a healthy and clean environment
4. Find out information and express themselves
5. Be protected, no matter their ability, language, belief or who they are with
6. A safe and loving home with clothes to wear and food to eat
7. Privacy to enjoy and protect their life
8. Go to school and receive an education

1. A na kairaki n te eti ao te riari
2. A na ongoraeaki aia iango ngkana e karaoaki te babaire ibukia
3. A na maeka ao man rikirake n te tabo/mwenga ae mano ao man itiaki
4. A na kona n rabakau ni kaoti aia iango ma aia namakin
5. A na tararuaki raoi n akea te kakaokoroaki
6. A na kawakinaki raoi ni mwengaia ao man tauraoi kanaia ma oneaia
7. A na anganaki inaomataia ba a na rabakau n tararuai raoi
8. A na riari n nako n te reirei

Good News from the Philippines by Anne Dixon SGS

“Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults is EVERYONE’S responsibility”

2023 has been a year in which both the Kinder School and the Outreach Center have endeavoured to finalise their respective Safeguarding Rules documents.

Prior to leaving for Australia in late January Donna Ferrer SGS facilitated a number of workshops at both the Kinder School and Outreach Center. These workshops invited the Staff at the Kinder and the Team at the Outreach Center to consider the relevant Rules of Safeguarding in each of their areas of responsibility. Additionally, the Kinder and Outreach Center completed their ‘Procedures for Reporting Abuse’ and updated their ‘Improvement Plan’, the latter being a living document.

The Principal of the Kinder School, Marites Lagrito stated that the school has integrated into their curriculum safeguarding lessons. Topics include; the do’s and don’ts of keeping safe and stranger danger. Other lesson topics include bathroom etiquette to ensure the children are ready for the big step up into Elementary School.

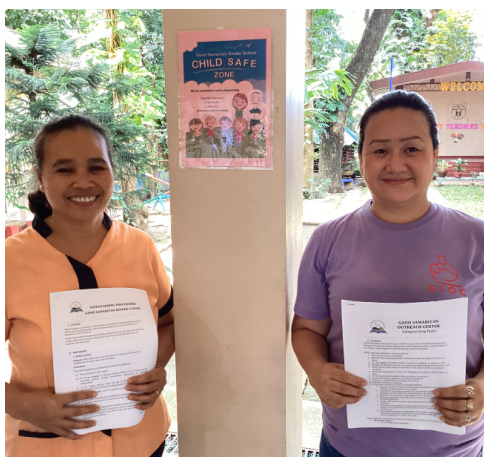
At the monthly parent meeting the parents view a safeguarding video and discuss important practices expressed in the Safeguarding Policy to ensure they keep their children safe. Marites and her staff are very aware of their responsibility to keep the school children safe at all times.



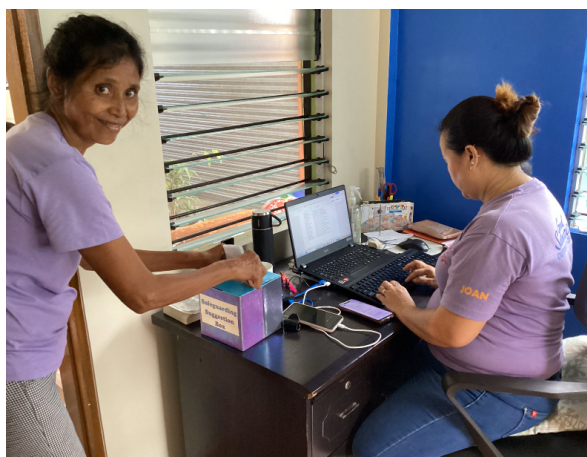
Right: Posters on display.



Left: After a recent burglary next door to the Outreach Center where the burglars used the Center to escape it was deemed important to look at our procedures on Team safety. Immediately we got the escape tree next door chopped down and made a peep hole in our gate so that we can see who is wishing to enter.



Left: Arlea Floralde-Bautista Kinder Staff and Joan Lobaton Outreach Center Team holding Safeguarding Rules documents. Arlea and Joan hold the position of Safeguarding Desk Officers in their respective ministries. Middle: Ailen using the safeguarding suggestion box.



Above: Self-care for our workers - Jigsaws. Great therapy!