Click here if you are having trouble viewing this message.

global safeguarding alliance

In partnership with ACU INSTITUTE OF CHILD PROTECTION STUDIES

September 2025

Welcome to our September newsletter

Thank you for subscribing to the Global Safeguarding Alliance. Welcome to you all!

We hear from organisations and practitioners from all around the globe, and the common thread is your dedication to making safeguarding a high priority. We are pleased to help you in this process by bringing you the latest research findings that you can apply to your practice.

We are also conducting research with women in the Church. We are inviting women to complete a survey to help us learn about your experiences.

Read on for more information.

Calling on women's perspectives - WISE Project

Women often play key roles in safeguarding, as educators, carers, or religious leaders, but their voices have not been fully heard. We are gathering insights from women in Catholic entities around the world, in every country, via an online survey: Women's Insights into Safeguarding Efforts (WISE).

Would you like to participate? Take part in the WISE study

The study will explore women's experiences with current safeguarding measures, their ideas for improvement, and their views on the risks posed by both men and women within Church settings. Findings will help us understand the role women play in safeguarding practices in the Catholic Church. The ultimately, this research can help made the Church a safer place for children and vulnerable adults. Funding from Porticus has made this research possible.

Read more

"Safeguarding as mission" webinar recording now live

How to embed safeguarding within the mission of an organisation? This topic, addressed by Gabby Hunt in our latest webinar peresented on 5 August 2025, proved to be very popular with over 110 attendees.

We learned about how religious leaders perceive safeguarding and about some of the barriers to safeguarding in faith-based organisations. You can download the presentation notes here. For those who could not attend, we thank you for waiting patiently for the recording.

View the webinar

Spotlight on Professor Daryl Higgins

Professor Daryl Higgins is Director of the Institute of Child Protection Studies, Australian Catholic University.

Many of you will recognise him as the host of our GSA webinars, as well as a fierce spokesperson for children's safety and wellbeing.

Professor Higgins has been researching child abuse impacts and prevention, family violence and family functioning for over 30 years.

This spotlight takes a look at what drives his passion for changing systems and public health approaches to protecting children.

Read more

Next webinar: contextual safeguarding explained

Continuing our focus on safeguarding, we are very excited to announce that our next webinar will be presented by Professor Carlene Firmin, globally renowned for her work in contextual safeguarding. In fact, she coined the phrase "contextual safeguarding".

Professor Firmin's approach to safeguarding children underscores the transformative potential of reshaping responses to harm through context.

Her presentation for GSA will be hot on the heels of a conference in the UK where she will be launching the Global Centre for Contextual Safeguarding at the Durham University.

Stay tuned for details of the time and date of her webinar for GSA subscribers.

We'll contact you soon.

Selected publications of GSA members

- Russell, D. H., Trew, S., Smith, R., Higgins, D., & Walsh, K. (2025). Primary prevention of harmful sexual behaviors by children and young people: A systematic review and narrative synthesis. Aggression and Violent Behavior, 102022. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.avb.2024.102022
- Hunt, G. R., Higgins, D. J. & Willis, M. L. (2025). "Just tick the box and move on": Australian Christian religious leaders reflect on safeguarding practices in their settings, Child Abuse & Neglect, Volume 167, 2025, 107591, ISSN 0145-2134, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2025.107591.
- Russell, D.H., Higgins, D. J., Harris, L., Rinaldi, A., Pound, M., & Zollner, H. (2024). The Safeguarding Capability of Adults in Catholic Church Ministries: A Global Perspective. Child Abuse & Neglect, Volume 153, 106801, ISSN 0145-2134.
- Jones, P., Pound, M. & Sexton, C. (2024). The Cross of the Moment: A Report from the Boundary Breaking Project. Centre for Catholic Studies, University of Durham.
- Hunt, G. (2023). Measuring children's safety in organisations: Evaluating the strengths and limitations of currently-used measures. Giving Evidence.

View past webinars and newsletters

The Global Safeguarding Alliance (GSA) focuses on bringing safeguarding research to a wider audience. We hope this network will facilitate a mutually beneficial exchange of safeguarding knowledge to improve prevention of child sexual abuse, and knowledge about research methods suitable for difference contexts.

Feel free to view past webinars and newsletters to learn more about how we are integrating academic and professional work focused on safeguarding. And check out our spotlights on members of GSA and their approaches to safeguarding in their local regions.

We invite you to **forward this newsletter** to people in your network and invite them to sign up as subscribers so we can spread our news on safeguarding.

You have received this newsletter as part of your subscription to the Global Safeguarding Alliance.
Unsubscribe or update your subscription preferences. View our **Privacy Policy**.

ABN 15 050 192 660 **CRICOS Reg** 00004G **PRV**12008