

## Chaplaincy Domestic Abuse Statement

### Chaplaincy Name

St. Francis, South Tenerife. Adopted 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

## Safeguarding Policy Statement

All forms of domestic abuse are wrong and must stop. We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:

- ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse.
- protect those vulnerable to domestic abuse from actual or potential harm.
- recognise equality amongst people and within relationships.
- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to appropriately and consistently.

We recognise that:

- all forms of domestic abuse cause damage to the victim/survivor and express an imbalance of power in the relationship.
- all victims/survivors (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- domestic abuse can occur in all communities.
- domestic abuse may be a single incident, but is usually a systematic, repeated pattern which escalates in severity and frequency.
- domestic abuse, if witnessed or overheard by a child, is a form of abuse by the perpetrator of the abusive behaviour.
- working in partnership with children, adults and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of any child or adult suffering abuse.

We will endeavour to respond to domestic abuse:

In all our activities –

- valuing, listening to and respecting both victims/survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- by raising awareness about other agencies, support services and expertise in the local area.

When concerns are raised –

- ensuring that those who have experienced abuse can find safety and informed help.
- working with the appropriate authorities and agencies during an investigation into domestic abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community.

In our care –

- ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse.
- by identifying appropriate pastoral care support for both victims/survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

**If you have any concerns or need to talk to any one please contact:**

**Chaplaincy Safeguarding Officer – Paul Hale**  
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