

Welcome letter from Chair of Board and CEO

Dear applicant

Thank you for your interest and we are delighted that you are considering a role on the new Survivor Reference Panel.

As somebody who has experienced church-related abuse or who has been harmed by their contact with the Church, this is an opportunity to use your lived experience to inform, encourage and influence, with the potential to make a real difference to the safeguarding arrangements and practices within the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

The panel will bring together survivor representatives from the Catholic Church in England and Wales in a way that ensures the voice of victims and survivors of church-related abuse is heard and learnt from. This is just one way in which we are seeking to engage with survivors of church-related abuse, and we will use other methods to canvas the views of survivors who are not members of the panel.

We are looking for members who:

- are a victim or survivor of church-related abuse within the Catholic Church in England and Wales;
- are committed to helping the Catholic Church in England and Wales to fulfil its safeguarding mission;
- can inform and influence the work of the CSSA by forwarding and receiving issues for discussion or ideas for pieces of work;
- can provide the CSSA with advice and recommendations on matters relevant to victims and survivors of church-related abuse, by offering knowledge and insight into the experience of those who have been abused or hurt by their contact with the Catholic Church;
- have strong inter-personal skills, an ability to listen, engage effectively and work collaboratively;
- can communicate effectively by expressing their own views; work with differing opinions; challenge appropriately;
- can manage personal emotions and issues that may be raised from discussions in meetings or sight of documents pertaining to abuse;
- can contribute to the development of strategy and operational materials, and provide feedback on products of the CSSA;
- as may be requested from time to time, provide input on media and communications.

It isn't necessary for all members to be able to fulfil all of the above as we expect a range of skills and experience within the panel. You may have other skills that you can contribute so please do get in touch.

08.11.21

If you would like an informal conversation about this, or other opportunities for engagement with the CSSA, please contact Anna Gebski Anna.Gebski@catholicsafeguarding.org.uk who will arrange this.

We thank you again for your interest and very much look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Nazir Afzal
Chair



Dr Colette Limbrick
CEO