

# Policy for safeguarding in the Focolare Movement

Unity is at the heart of the spirituality of Chiara Lubich and of the Focolare Movement, which she founded and has spread all over the world. The main commitment of this movement is to motivate women and men of every age, culture and background to implement the mutual love taught by Jesus in the Gospel and thus create bonds of fraternal unity everywhere.

The Movement is committed to living out this ideal through the different expressions of its educational activities and its cultural and social commitment. Therefore, the Movement firmly recognizes the dignity and rights of all, and supports them in practical terms, with particular attention to children, adolescents and vulnerable adults.

Nevertheless, even within this movement there have been cases of abuse: sexual abuse as well as other types of abuse, such as abuse of authority and abuse of conscience. This is why it was necessary to address the problem decisively on several levels.

After having addressed the individual issues with specific procedures and guidelines, a more general document **is being prepared and will be published in the coming months**. It will provide a general framework for:

- defining standards of behaviour for those belonging to and participating in the activities of the Movement
- promoting awareness, responsibility and transparency
- ensuring compliance with current rules
- offering practical guidance
- promoting an organisational culture built on trust, security and respect.