



ANGLICAN CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

SAFE AND INCLUSIVE CHURCH COMMISSION

Circular 01/2025 12 March 2025

1. Warm Lenten greetings. We pray that we might all experience God's unfathomable love and grace this season.
2. As you might know, the Archbishop of Cape Town appointed a panel to inquire into matters relating to Mr John Smyth and the Anglican Church of Southern Africa (ACSA). The panel, consisting of The Honourable Mr Justice Farlam and Dr Ramphele, furnished its report which the Archbishop accepted unreservedly. Arising from the report, and in keeping with Resolution of Permanent Force No. 10 (formerly Act XX) of the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, the Archbishop appointed the Anglican Church of Southern Africa Safe and Inclusive Church Commission (the Commission).
3. The following persons have been appointed to the Commission:
 - Bishop Brian Marajh (Liaison Bishop);
 - Two persons learned in the law, Advocate Ewald De Villiers Jansen SC (Chairperson) and Ms Rosalie Manning (who will serve during the transitional period);
 - Two psychologists, Ms Sharitha Poodhun, a clinical psychologist and Ms Nokubonga Phakathi; and
 - Mr Rogerson, the Provincial Treasurer.
 - The appointment of two retired bishops is imminent.
4. This is the Commission's first communication to the dioceses in ACSA. Its current work will, pending the formation of diocesan structures and the preparation of persons willing to serve as safeguarding officers, continue with the team which has until now attended to matters referred to Safe and Inclusive Church (SAIC).
5. All persons who intend to serve on diocesan structures, including parishes, will require prior screening, training and assessment by SAIC, to establish their suitability for this ministry **before** being licensed in dioceses, archdeaconries and parishes. Diocesan Safeguarding Teams will be licenced by the diocesan bishop once trained and assessed and safeguarding officers in archdeaconries or parishes will be licenced by archdeacon once trained and assessed.
6. Subject to the requirements referred to above, the following persons are generally considered suitable for appointment to the Diocesan Safeguarding Teams: theologians, advisors,

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Bishop Brian Marajh (Liaison Bishop), Advocate Ewald De Villiers Jansen SC (Chairperson);

counsellors, trainers, investigators, legal support services, current gender desks and other ministries with corresponding objectives. Dioceses will determine the number and makeup as would meet their needs.

7. In keeping with the principal that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, Synod of Bishops in its recent communication emphasised the need to appoint safeguarding officers at parish level. To this end, it is advisable that each parish should consider the appointment of two safeguarding officers. Subject to paragraph 5 above, these should be persons in good standing, trustworthy, objective, impartial, emotionally collected, with a pastoral disposition. They will be required to maintain confidence and complete the declaration form.
8. The screening requirements are accessible here [SAIC Guide](#) and a copy of the declaration form is accessible here [SAIC Declaration](#).
9. For present purposes, the current team will provide Safe Church training. The following dates have been allocated for on-line training in the following competencies:
 - i. Introduction to Safe and Inclusive Church – ALL- 4 hours on line 5th April 2025
 - ii. Training as diocesan safe guarding teams 4 hours on line 17th of May 2025
 - iii. Training as safe guarding officers- 4 hours 24th of May 2025
10. Information regarding costs and registration will be communicated.
11. Should you have any further questions or concerns, please contact safechurches@anglicanchurchsa.org.za.

Yours in the love and service of Christ



Advocate E A De Villiers-Jansen SC

Chairperson

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