



Funder Safeguarding Collaborative

Listening · Learning · Practicing Trust

The Safeguarding Challenge

The ability of charitable organizations to prevent abuse and exploitation across their operations has been the subject of intense media and political scrutiny. While a few organizations have been singled out for particular criticism, there is growing recognition that keeping people safe requires a sector-wide commitment to improving practices. This includes a fundamental shift in the way funders respond to the safeguarding challenge.

Until recently, the role of funders in safeguarding had received relatively little attention. In 2018, however, a report by the UK government's International Development Committee¹ warned that the failure to prioritize safeguarding, which resulted in the chronic underfunding of this area by funding agencies, was one of the main obstacles to progress. Since then, government agencies, trusts, and foundations have come together to identify solutions and explore ways in which funders can make more positive contributions to keeping people safe.

The Funder Safeguarding Collaborative (FSC) builds on these initiatives with the goal of sustaining momentum and promoting greater collaboration to achieve a safer world. Founded by Oak Foundation, Comic Relief, Porticus, The National Lottery Community Fund, and Global Fund for Children, the FSC does not see itself as a standard setting body, but rather as a catalyst for change. We achieve this mission by connecting funders to knowledge and expertise; providing high-quality, tailored support; and investing in initiatives that advance safeguarding globally.

Funder Safeguarding Collaborative

OUR VISION: A world where organizational cultures and practices keep people safe from harm.

OUR MISSION: To promote collaboration, listening, and learning among funders and organizations to support and strengthen safeguarding practices globally.

OUR VALUES:

- **Safety:** We believe that everyone has the right to feel safe. We take action to ensure that our institutions and the organizations we fund protect people from harm.
- **Listening:** We value the expertise of others and welcome the contributions that diverse voices bring to the conversation.
- **Learning:** We acknowledge what we don't know, value the knowledge that others bring, and commit to continually learning, adapting, and then learning some more.
- **Practicing trust:** We cultivate relationships based on mutual trust and respect. We create spaces where it is safe to ask questions, learn from mistakes, and challenge the status quo.
- **Shifting power:** We actively promote a more equitable system that values and supports the power and knowledge within the organizations we fund and the communities they serve.

¹ International Development Committee (2018) Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in the Aid Sector

Achieving Change

The FSC achieves change through three mutually reinforcing strategies: Connect, Support, and Invest.



CONNECT

No one has to address the safeguarding challenge alone. The FSC connects funders to the wealth of knowledge and expertise that already exists and promotes alignment around best practices. Connections include:

- **Peer-to-peer** learning through webinars and discussion forums, which provide a safe space for funders to share learning and discuss practice experiences.
- **A resource library** connecting funders to research, best practice guidance, policies, and frameworks tailored to the needs of funding agencies.
- **Alignment Action Groups** bringing funders together to find new ways to align our approaches to safeguarding and reduce duplication.

Network members have access to all connection opportunities **free of charge** upon joining.



SUPPORT

All funders, large and small, should have access to high-quality expertise to support their efforts to keep people safe. The FSC offers a range of flexible, fee-based support, which is tailored to the specific needs of funders.

All members who make an annual financial contribution to the FSC will have access to:

- **The Ask Any Time Advice Line** providing immediate advice on any aspect of safeguarding.
- **A community of practice for safeguarding leads** to provide peer support and explore the practical challenges of promoting safeguarding and managing concerns.

The recommended minimum contribution for access to this additional support is £1,000. In line with our commitment to promoting diverse and inclusive membership, funders who are able to make a larger contribution are encouraged to do so, as this will enable the FSC to subsidize additional support for smaller funders.

In addition, members can access:

- **Bespoke consultancy support** provided through individual consultancy contracts. This includes anything from policy development to support integrating safeguarding into the grantmaking cycle.
- **A modular training program** covering all aspects of safeguarding, from assessment to the management of safeguarding concerns. The FSC offers spots in open courses as well as in-house training for individual members.

Information on the FSC team, fees, and course availability can be found at fundersafeguardingcollaborative.org



INVEST

We know that resources for safeguarding are in deficit. The FSC provides opportunities for members to invest in evidence-informed initiatives to improve global practices. Our initial investment priority focuses on:

- **Fostering local approaches to keeping people safe** by distributing small grants to civil society partners who are advancing existing good practice grounded in local realities. The pilot will launch in Uganda. The FSC aims to extend the grants to organizations based in other countries in the future.

Future investments will be informed by member interests and evidence of what works. Members are not required to contribute to the collective investment opportunities, but contributions are encouraged whenever possible because we know that investment in safeguarding is critical to creating lasting change.

Membership

Network Members

The FSC believes that all funders can make a valuable contribution to keeping people safe. Membership is open to a wide range of grantmaking institutions, including:

- Charitable trusts and foundations, including private, corporate, public, and community foundations.
- Intermediary funders who dedicate at least 50% of their budget to grantmaking or providing support to the organizations they fund.
- Funder networks that wish to promote and support safeguarding as part of their work.

All members must share the FSC values and commit to contributing to and promoting efforts to keep people safe.

We actively promote a diverse membership by removing many of the barriers that deter funders from engaging with the safeguarding challenge.

- The FSC does not charge any membership fees. We welcome funders regardless of their size or their budget.
- The FSC recognizes that new members may not have established safeguarding protocols. By joining the FSC, you can access the support you need to start or continue your safeguarding journey.
- The FSC actively seeks members from all over the world. We recognize the importance of context-specific solutions, and we provide members with access to regionally specific forums and expertise.

Joining is simple!

1. Simply send an expression of interest to: kwalker-simpson@fundersafeguardingcollaborative.org
2. We will arrange a time to meet you and to discuss joining the FSC.
3. Review and sign our memorandum of understanding.
4. Receive your membership confirmation and join the FSC!

Knowledge Partners

The effectiveness and credibility of the FSC are strengthened by drawing on the knowledge and expertise that exists within the organizations we fund and the communities they serve. Rather than working in isolation, the FSC will develop knowledge partnerships with NGOs, researchers, government agencies, and others with expertise across a diverse range of thematic and geographical areas. We will make proactive efforts to ensure the participation and contributions of individuals with lived experience, as well as representatives from the communities served by the programs funded by FSC members.

Knowledge Partners will have the opportunity to:

- Engage in dialogue with FSC members through webinars, discussion forums, and Alignment Action Groups.
- Act as critical friends and help shape the FSC by contributing to the design of FSC strategies and services.
- Inform FSC members of any services, training, research, or other support they offer through member updates.

We will continue to engage in cross-sector dialogue to ensure meaningful engagement that adds value to our Knowledge Partners as well as to FSC members.

Interested in becoming a Knowledge Partner?

1. Simply send an expression of interest to: kwalker-simpson@fundersafeguardingcollaborative.org
2. We will arrange a time to meet you and to discuss how we can work together.
3. Review and sign our memorandum of understanding.

Operating Model

Secretariat

At present, the FSC is nested within founding member Global Fund for Children (GFC). GFC's mission, values, and operating model are strong aligned with the FSC, and GFC will provide administrative support and technical expertise to develop and grow the Collaborative. The FSC Director is employed by GFC, but accountable to the FSC Steering Committee. As part of our five-year strategy, the FSC will look to become an independent organization by 2026.

Steering Committee

The FSC Steering Committee provides oversight and strategic guidance related to the implementation of the FSC's mission. Committee members are champions of the FSC's work, proactively helping to build the network by identifying members and serving as central figures in securing funding.

The Steering Committee operates by consensus, weaving together everyone's best ideas and most important concerns. Consensus has been reached when everyone agrees that they can live with the final proposal, after every effort has been made to meet any outstanding interests.

During the development phase, the founding members have served as the de facto Steering Committee. As the Collaborative moves into the first year of operation, the composition and membership of the Steering Committee will be revised, creating new opportunities for members to take a central role in shaping the future of the Collaborative. This will take place between March and September of 2021.

Advisory Board

The FSC Advisory Board shares key skills and perspectives to advise the Collaborative on specific topics and to provide an external check on how the work is taking shape. The FSC aims to ensure that the Advisory Board represents diverse geographies and that experts by experience have a genuine voice in shaping the work of the Collaborative.

Financial Model

The FSC is currently funded by investments from founding members, as well as the revenue generated from the consultancy support offered to members. Although there is no minimum financial contribution required to become an FSC member, we encourage members to make a funding commitment as part of their membership memorandum of understanding to allow the work of the Collaborative to grow and develop.

Want to Know More?

We would love to tell you more about the FSC. Please contact the Collaborative: kwalker-simpson@fundersafeguardingcollaborative.org