

Code of Conduct

An essential part of Prison Fellowship's mission is to restore lives, whilst believing in the power of transformation. We expect everyone involved in Prison Fellowship to live this out in their actions and not just their words. This is especially important when we are coming into contact with the lives of children, young people or vulnerable adults even when this is indirect through the lives of other adults who know them.

Remember: When Prison Fellowship puts its trust in staff and volunteers to get alongside people who might be vulnerable, including children and young people, it has to be confident that its volunteers and staff know how to behave in a safe way, with strong boundaries.

This Code of Conduct is designed to protect vulnerable people, and also to give guidance to us about how we can set, and keep, clear boundaries.

We should:

- Put the safety of vulnerable people first, before everything
- Treat all vulnerable people with respect
- Provide children, young people and vulnerable adults with an example of good conduct
- Ensure that there is always more than one adult present during activities with vulnerable people
- Recognise that special caution is required when you are discussing sensitive issues with children, young people or vulnerable adults
- Challenge unacceptable behaviour and report all suspicions or allegations of abuse
- Say a proper goodbye to prisoners when Prison Fellowship activities have come to an end – don't offer to stay in touch

Adults should not:

- Seek out time and attention from vulnerable people, which is not part of the specific activity organised through Prison Fellowship
- Add children, young people or prisoners from Prison Fellowship activities as 'friends' on Facebook or other social networking sites
- Communicate privately with children, young people or prisoners from Prison Fellowship activities e.g. texting or other forms of message or electronic communication
- Have inappropriate physical or verbal contact with vulnerable people (if in doubt about what constitutes inappropriate contact, discuss this with the Designated Safeguarding Person)
- Make suggestive or derogatory remarks or gestures in front of children, young people or prisoners
- Ignore, exaggerate or trivialise child abuse or welfare issues
- Do things of a personal nature for children or vulnerable adults that they can do for themselves
- Rely on their good name or that of Prison Fellowship to protect them
- Take a chance when common sense, policy or practise suggest a better way