LEADERSHIP NEWS

11 October 2026

Safeguarding Training in Korea: Building a Culture of Care

Safeguarding is more than a policy to follow; it is a commitment to protect dignity, nurture trust, and ensure that every person feels safe, valued, and respected. This conviction was at the heart of the **Safeguarding Training** in Korea, where a series of enriching sessions deepened our understanding, challenged our perspectives, and renewed our commitment to **safeguarding as an essential expression of our way of life and common culture**.

The training took place from 5 to 10 October and was attended by 22 safeguarding delegates from our global Congregation.

The key speakers were Tina Campbell, Independent Consultant; Una Coogan CJ, Canon Lawyer; and Manju Mathew CJ, Congregational Safeguarding Lead.

The training explored the five safeguarding standards through presentations, case studies, practical exercises, and personal reflection, helping us connect safeguarding principles with the realities of our respective ministries.

We began by examining the safeguarding journey, the Congregational Policy, and the role of the Safeguarding Delegate.

Standard 1 focused on the foundations of safeguarding, including the structures, roles, and processes needed for its effective implementation. We were reminded that safeguarding must be more than a policy document; it needs to become part of our institutional culture, shaping our relationships, decisions, and responses to vulnerability.

Standard 2 focused on safe activities, places, and relationships. Through risk assessments, recording procedures, and case studies, we explored how potential risks can be identified and addressed before harm occurs. The sessions reinforced the importance of prevention, careful planning, and shared responsibility in creating safe environments.

Standard 3 addressed responding to concerns and allegations, including mandatory reporting, recognising “Red Flags (Immediate or Serious Safeguarding Concern) and Yellow Flags (Early Warning Signs/Emerging Concerns)”, and understanding the responsibilities of the Safeguarding Team.

The discussions highlighted the need to take every concern seriously and follow appropriate procedures. What we notice, how we listen, and the action we take can make a significant difference in protecting someone from harm.

Standard 4 brought us closer to the experiences of victims and survivors. Exploring the impact of abuse, trauma, and responses to disclosures helped us appreciate the importance of listening without judgement, responding sensitively, and ensuring appropriate support. Behind every disclosure is a person who deserves to be heard, believed, and treated with dignity.

Our response can help restore trust and become an important step towards healing.

Standard 5 explored the management and support of the accused, sexually offending behaviours, safety plans, the role of a support person, Canon Law, and preliminary investigations. These sessions emphasised the importance of fairness, accountability, clear procedures, and responsible decision-making, while keeping the safety and well-being of those at risk as the foremost priority.

The final sessions addressed **online safety, addictive behaviours, and artificial intelligence**, drawing attention to emerging safeguarding challenges in our changing world. Developing action plans, revisiting our roles, and sharing resources encouraged us to translate our learning into practical commitments.

Throughout the training, reflective sessions invited us to look beyond policies and procedures and consider the values at the heart of safeguarding: attentiveness, compassion, courage, accountability, and respect for every person's dignity.

Perhaps the most important lesson was that safeguarding is not the responsibility of a few delegates alone; it is a shared commitment that must be lived by all of us. Policies provide the framework, knowledge equips us to act, and compassion reminds us why this work matters. Our commitment becomes meaningful when awareness leads to action and concern is met with a responsible response.

My most profound takeaway from this training has been the active participation, wholehearted commitment, and generous contribution of every participant, lay and religious alike. We came from diverse cultures, languages, continents, and life experiences. Though many of us met for the first time, we built genuine bonds of trust and fellowship and left as companions on a shared mission: to create safe spaces, nurture safe relationships, and promote safe actions wherever we are.

My heartfelt gratitude goes to our Korean sisters for their exceptional hospitality and selfless service, which touched us deeply and is truly beyond words. A special word of appreciation to Sr Estela Grignola and her team for their dedication and tireless efforts in making this training so meaningful.

I am equally grateful to Sr Veronica Fuhrmann, our General Superior, and her team for their unwavering support, guidance, and steadfast commitment to safeguarding, particularly in making this training possible.

As we carry the learning from Korea into our respective contexts, we are called to become more attentive listeners, more responsible decision-makers, and more courageous advocates for those who are vulnerable. Ultimately, safeguarding is about the kind of community we choose to build: one where silence gives way to speaking up, indifference gives way to care, and vulnerability is met with protection and understanding.

May this training inspire us not merely to practise safeguarding, but to embody a culture of care; one that protects dignity, restores trust, and offers every person the gift of safety, respect, and hope.

Manju Mathew CJ, Safeguarding Lead

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Video statements of the participants

If you are interested to know even more about the Safeguarding Training in Korea, you can read the day-to-day-reports on our website. There, you will also find personal statements from the participants in short videos.

Watch the video statements

October: Month of Mission

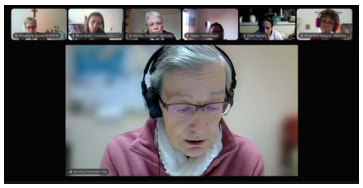
Within the roman-catholic Church, October is not only the Rosary Month, but also the Month of Mission, offering the Church a special opportunity to reflect on what it means to be sent by Christ.

All month - and especially during World Mission Sunday on 18 October 2026 - we have been invited to renew our commitment to bringing Christ's saving love to the world.

Mary Ward wrote: *"Divine love is like a fire which will not let itself be shut up, for it is impossible to love God and not to labour to extend God's honour."* Her words continue to inspire us. Therefore, throughout October, we publish testimonials from sisters about their mission and ministries. Their stories offer personal insights into the many ways in which we live the call to follow Jesus today: through spirituality and pastoral care, education and health care, social and intellectual ministries, ...

Read more about the month of mission

Communications network meeting



On 23 October we had the first meeting of our extended communication network.

34 responsibles for communications from our Provinces and Regions as well as of the Mary Ward Family got to know each other, learned more about the communications strategy of the General Leadership and laid the foundations for future cooperation and support. Sr Veronica Fuhrmann CJ thanked all who help disseminate the charism of Mary Ward and encouraged the communicators to bear credible witness to Christ and engage with the people of our time?

Read the report

Provincial Superior for the Latin European Province

The General Council has reappointed Sr Monica Cojan as Provincial Superior for the Latin-European Province (Italy and Romania) for a 3 year term, beginning on 1 January 2027.

The sisters there have learned about the reappointment with joy and gratitude: "We give thanks to God, our General Superior Sr Veronica Fuhrmann CJ and her Council for the trust placed in us, and we entrust Sr Monica's ministry and dedication to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Deo gratias."

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