

SCOTTISH CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS AGENCY



Walking together in Safeguarding

a journey of personal and communal conversion

Saturday 1st October 2022

BIOGRAPHIES

THE HON. LADY RAE K.C.

Chair, SCSSA

Lady Rae is recognised as having led a distinguished legal career as a solicitor, advocate, Queen's Counsel, Sheriff, Vice Chair of the Parole Board for Scotland and an Upper Tribunal Judge in Immigration and Asylum cases. She retired as a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland in 2020 but continues to sit part-time as a Judge. She was elected Rector of the University of Glasgow in 2021 and is the Vice Chair of St Margaret's Children and Family Care Society. Lady Rae is Chair of the SCSSA Board and is committed to ensuring that the agency will operate with "independence and integrity".

PATRICK O'MEARA QAM

Vice Chair, SCSSA

Pat O'Meara is a former strategic commander with the Scottish Ambulance Service. He also acts as Chief Medical Support Officer to the UK Army Cadets. He has served as a trustee of several charities. Referring to the work of the SCSSA, Pat said, "I firmly believe that all children, regardless of background and wherever they are, should have the same opportunities to flourish, feel and be safe in a caring and loving environment".

REV DR HANS ZOLLNER, S.J.

Pontifical Gregorian University

Fr Hans is Director and Professor of the Institute of Anthropology. Interdisciplinary Studies on Human Dignity and Care (IADC, <https://iadc.unigre.it/>), both at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He has been a member of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors since its inception in 2014.

DANI WARDMAN**C.E.O. Religious Life Safeguarding Service of England and Wales**

Dani has worked in charity leadership for over ten years as a Trustee, CEO and Consultant. Originally working towards change, development and improvement to survivor services, Dani began working with some Religious Congregations, and then the Conference of Religious in England and Wales, where she worked on the structural changes needed in safeguarding following the IICSA and Elliott reports. Dani became the CEO of the newly formed Religious Life Safeguarding Service (RLSS) in November 2021. Dani is committed to making the Church a safer place by seeking to understand all the complexities Religious face within safeguarding, while working together with Religious and wider structures to find the best solutions to common place problems. Dani has worked with the principles of listening and empathy as foundation stones in the leadership of complex services where the protection of others is of primary concern with much success and has embedded these same principles into the RLSS.

FRANCES GUNN**Chair of Safeguarding Risk Assessment Working Group**

Frances is a Service Manager for Children's Services including Health Visiting and School Nursing. Prior to this, she worked for an NHS board as a Child Protection Advisor and her professional background is in midwifery and Health visiting.

Frances is also a PhD researcher and teaching associate in the Centre for Child Wellbeing and Protection at Stirling University and teaches child protection to both undergraduate and postgraduate students. Her PhD study is an exploration of practice around child neglect. Frances is a peer reviewer for The Journal of Health Visiting.

Frances supports the safeguarding team in the Diocese of Galloway by providing strategic overview of policy development and by chairing both the DRAMT and DSAG.

CATERINA O'CONNOR**Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, Archdiocese of Glasgow**

Catrina qualified as a Social Worker in 1988 and is registered with the SSSC. Caterina worked in a Local Authority setting until 2012 where she managed a Children & Family Team and delivered training specialising in Child Protection, Domestic Abuse and Counselling Skills. She went on to be Violence Against Woman Coordinator, then Training Coordinator for Gender Based Violence for the Greater Glasgow Training Consortium. Caterina has been a tutor on the Certificate in Counselling Skills for Glasgow University since 1999 and is accredited by COSCA. In 2014 she started working for the Archdiocese of Glasgow and is now the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. Caterina has additional independent safeguarding commitments.