



HM Prison &
Probation Service



To: Regional Probation Directors
Heads of Public Protection
MAPPA Co-Ordinators

Public Protection Group
Community Interventions Directorate
Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service

cc. SMB Chairs
Becky Hart, NPS Gold Command

22 May 2020

**Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults:
A message to all faith groups about the use of online/video conferencing for religious
purposes during Covid-19**

Please can you share this message with your Directors of Social Care and Chairs of Safeguarding Adult Boards and Child Safeguarding Partnerships to be passed on to local faith groups.

As the providers of key services across the country look to use alternative and creative ways to support their communities during the Covid-19 lockdown, it is essential that safeguarding strategies continue to underpin those arrangements. We are writing to you as Joint Heads of the National Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Team to highlight the support available to faith groups as you think about how to continue to consider public protection during this period .

We are aware that some of you may be delivering your services by video conferencing and we are sure you will want to ensure that you continue to prioritise safeguarding responsibilities. We hope this reminder of the need for faith groups to remain vigilant during religious activities which are held online will be helpful. In usual circumstances, should an individual who poses a risk of sexual harm wish to join a local church, mosque or faith group etc, the police and probation services will work together to assess and manage potential risks. They will make necessary disclosures to the person responsible for safeguarding so proper steps can be taken to ensure safeguards are in place. While such work is continuing this approach may need to be adapted - when worshipers are meeting on line and attendance is not so easily visible.

Should you be providing services in this way and wish to discuss safeguarding issues, we are sure your safeguarding leads will have contacts with the local safeguarding board/partnership with whom they can make contact. If the concern is about an individual

known to pose a risk to children or vulnerable adults, safeguarding leads can contact their local police or probation office or, where there is one, contact their local Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub.

Yours sincerely,

Doug Naden and Becky Canning
Joint Heads, National MAPPA Team