

13th Shvat 5773 (14 Jan 2013)

Dear Rabbis, educators and headteachers of our local schools

UOHC and Child Safeguarding

Parents and schools in our community dedicate themselves to nurture and educate holy souls (their children) whilst protecting their innocence in holiness and purity. With divine help they are very successful in this work. Safeguarding our precious children and protecting them from all and any harm and abuse is obviously a crucial matter.

Therefore, we are all obliged to carefully consider each and every allegation or complaint of abuse (heaven forbid) as an extremely serious matter and to know how to deal with it as appropriate and to ensure that any such incidents cannot be allowed to occur in the future and to provide suitable support to any victims of abuse.

There is, on behalf of the UOHC, a dedicated committee dealing with any cases of alleged child abuse (heaven forbid) in the community. The committee members are rabbis, educators and members of the community, some of whom have undergone appropriate training. The Rabbinate recognises that there are certain circumstances which it is right and proper to contact the social service and/or the police. The Committee will confer with the Rabbinate to establish a suitable course of action in each specific case.

The committee will endeavour to enlist professional support to assist any victim and/or their families.

Regrettably, a TV programme is set to be aired on the matter of Child abuse within our community. It alleges that even after incidents of abuse coming to light, their behaviour can go unabated. The Committee for Safeguarding Children (and to establish correct procedures regarding safeguarding) will go a long way in disputing these allegations that the UOHC does not fulfil its duties in this regard.

In any case where a rabbi, educator or headteacher is approached with a concern regarding the safety of a child, we ask that the matter be brought to the attention of the committee which will act in accordance with the advice of the Rabbinate and in accordance with the law of the land.

The phone number of the committee is included below

Singed on behalf of the Rabbinate

Rabbi E Padwa

UOHC Child Protection Line

020 3322 8384

Important note: this document was translated for the UOHC (Feb 2020) as an exhibit to the IICSA witness statement. It is not a word for word translation of the Hebrew document and should be read alongside it.