Catholic and Catholic-inspired funders have significant influence to support safe cultures in the organizations they fund by prioritizing and promoting the protection of children and vulnerable adults. Given the history and reality of sexual abuse within the Catholic Church and in society, it is vital for Catholic and Catholic-inspired donors to exercise this influence, and for organizations of all sizes, as well as foundations, to have rigorous safeguarding policies, clear reporting guidelines, and other best practices in place.

Inspired by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, FADICA’s *Commitment to Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection* affirms the inherent dignity of the human person while emphasizing the importance of safeguarding in upholding that dignity. The initiative also acknowledges the role that funders can play in providing access to essential resources. For organizations that may lack the capacity and financial resources to develop effective models of abuse prevention and safeguarding, a funder’s support can be critical. Funders who require grantees to implement and maintain best practices set a universal example for Catholic giving and philanthropy in general.

As part of its *Commitment to Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection*, FADICA is partnering with leading abuse prevention organizations, such as Praesidium, to deliver safeguarding resources to funders and their grantees. Sample policies, capacity-building trainings, and expert consultation will be available to any FADICA member who commits to one or more safeguarding action steps via the Funder Safeguarding Pledge. By making this pledge, members will also enable all of their grantees to access capacity-building resources for a period of three years at no cost. Through this participation, pledged members support grantees in building and maintaining a culture of safety.

Safeguarding may be reinforced at many levels, and funders can help create new norms for safety. For example, funders can drive the creation of a new standard whereby asking for a grantee or grant applicant’s protection policy is as ordinary as asking for a financial audit. Accordingly, the pledge is accessible to any funder: Catholic, Catholic-inspired or non-Catholic. At the present time, FADICA’s capacity-building program is available to pledged FADICA members and any grantee of a pledged FADICA member.
[Foundation or Donor Name] pledges to be part of the solution to the sexual abuse crisis in the Catholic Church and in society by promoting and fostering the safety of children and vulnerable adults in [Foundation or Donor Name] and in the organizations and initiatives we support.

In making the **Funder Safeguarding Pledge**, we will take one or more of the following actions to support the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults:

- We will ask vital questions of grantees and applicants related to safeguarding. We will include questions such as the following on our grant application and/or website, or ask them in person:
  - Does your organization (grantee or applicant) have a safeguarding policy? Does it clearly define appropriate and inappropriate boundaries between employees/volunteers and youth? Does it include procedures for how to manage high-risk activities associated with abuse (overnights, e-communications, etc.)?
  - Does your organization screen all employees/volunteers who have access to youth for abuse risk?
  - Does your organization have clear procedures for reporting suspicious behaviors as well as suspected abuse, and support for mandated reporting requirements?

- We will invite all of our grantees to participate in FADICA’s capacity-building program or another comparable program on creating a culture of safety. We will ask them to adopt safeguarding policies and practices that are consistent with this pledge and general best practices. We will require our grantees who work with children and vulnerable adults to participate in safeguarding training, through FADICA or another comparable program, in order to develop safeguarding policies and practices.

- We will invite our staff and trustees to participate in FADICA’s safeguarding training, and we will adopt our own organizational policy of safeguarding before we require grantees to do so.

- After a clearly communicated time period during which this training is available, we will require grantees and applicants to have policies and practices in place to support child and vulnerable adult safety, before funding is granted.

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[Signature]

**Foundation Name**

[Signature]

**Contact**

[Signature]

**Date**

My foundation name may be shared publicly as a pledge signatory on FADICA materials and website. [ ] YES [ ] NO