



FAQs on sexual misconduct:

How Christian Aid safeguards the most vulnerable

April 2018

Recent news reports about sexual misconduct in the charity sector have been deeply saddening. Please be reassured that we take reports of sexual misconduct extremely seriously, and we're committed to safeguarding vulnerable people and communities.

We are dismayed by the deplorable behaviour of individuals who abused their power in Haiti in 2011. But we must not allow the actions of a few prevent us from helping those most in need, including in Haiti. For the sake of our neighbours like Marcelin and Vilia in Haiti, we must work for a fairer world, where everyone is free from poverty. Your actions in Christian Aid Week play an important part in that.

Please continue to pray for Christian Aid and our staff, and for all those we serve in the world's poorest countries. You may also find the following background helpful to answer any questions that come up through your Christian Aid Week activities. We may update this as we get nearer to Christian Aid Week – go to caweek.org/resources for the most recent version.

What's our policy on sexual misconduct?

Christian Aid's Code of Conduct explicitly prevents sexual misconduct including engaging in commercial sex work, and abuses of power of any kind, and we are a signatory to codes of conduct across the charity sector. We also have a range of policies and procedures aimed at preventing and responding to sexual harassment committed by any individual representing Christian Aid (including staff, volunteers and consultants) against other staff, beneficiaries or anyone else.

We continuously review and refresh our policies and practices, to ensure that we take timely action to prevent and censure such behaviour. We support staff to report any concerns or incidents freely and without fear, and we protect and support individuals who report or have experienced such incidents.

What's our response to reports of sexual misconduct by Oxfam staff in Haiti in 2011?

We are saddened by the accounts of deplorable behaviour from individuals who have abused their power, exploited their position, and sought to subvert systems designed to protect vulnerable people in Haiti. Through their unacceptable actions, they have undermined the vital, effective and life-changing work carried out by Oxfam, as well as by other aid and humanitarian organisations worldwide.

We must not let the actions of these individuals stop us from providing vital support and help to those most in need, including in Haiti. We must continue to stand by vulnerable people, like Marcelin and his daughters who are struggling to live through disasters and their aftermath.

The UK public has been extremely generous in supporting people in places like Haiti to recover from disasters and overcome poverty, and there has been much to celebrate. Without continued support, others like Marcelin who have lost their homes and livelihoods, or those who are seeing their lives eroded by climate change, will not get the urgent support they desperately need.

Reports indicate that staff in question left Oxfam to join other agencies. What's our response?

Christian Aid always follows robust recruitment procedures, such as securing references and carrying out Counter Terrorism and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks where required. If any concerns arise during recruitment processes – through references, whistleblowing or even a verbal comment – we would investigate and take appropriate action.

We are committed to living out our values of respect and dignity for all. We will investigate any claims about any individuals involved in the Haiti incident to ascertain the facts, should they relate to current Christian Aid staff and should we receive further information.

What work does Christian Aid do in Haiti?

We've been working in Haiti through our local partners since the 1980s. We support people to earn a living, and prepare and respond to disasters.

People like Marcelin find it hard to cope with the effects of natural disasters like earthquakes and hurricanes. We cannot turn our backs on them now.

Our partners' work in Haiti has saved thousands of lives and helped build hundreds of houses for people affected by disasters.

But there is still much more to be done. Currently, there are around 38,000 people still living in tents in Haiti, and according to the United Nations, there are still around two million people in need of humanitarian support.

This Christian Aid Week, 13-19 May, we're asking you to help support displaced people in Haiti, and elsewhere, so they can live in safety and withstand the storms of life.

Please continue to remember Christian Aid and our staff in your prayers. We, as a faith-based organisation, are firmly committed to protecting the most vulnerable and upholding the dignity of the individual person. Please pray that God will guide and strengthen Christian Aid, for the sake of those we seek to serve in the world's poorest countries.