



## **GODALMING FILM SOCIETY (GFS) VULNERABLE ADULTS' SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

Adopted by the GFS Committee July 2022

### **Background to Policy Statement**

Godalming Film Society (GFS) and its subsidiary, Relaxed Cinema in Godalming (RCIG), are both run by volunteers who are also members of the Society. Those members attending GFS film screenings do not normally include vulnerable adults. However, members of the public attending the screenings of the RCIG often include vulnerable adults who attend with their carers. This policy states the aims of GFS and RCIG in protecting vulnerable adults attending film screenings.

### **Policy Statement**

The Society recognises that the services it provides, especially the RCIG screenings, are used by adults who may be vulnerable. The Society has a duty to ensure the welfare of vulnerable adults by promoting a safe environment.

The Society believes that vulnerable adults must be safeguarded from all forms of abuse. It recognises that it must always protect vulnerable adults from the risk of abuse and identify and deal with specific instances of abuse if they occur.

The Society will take every possible action to prevent abuse and to deal with any abuse as promptly and effectively as possible if it occurs.

### **Aim of the Policy**

The aim of this Safeguarding Policy is to inform all members of:

- the Society's approach to the safeguarding of vulnerable adults
- the Society's expectations of its members and volunteers
- the actions that will be taken by the Society to deal with abuse if it occurs

### **Definition of Abuse**

Abuse may take any of the following forms:

- physical abuse
- financial or material abuse
- psychological abuse
- sexual abuse
- neglect
- discriminatory abuse
- inhuman or degrading treatment

- inappropriate or excessive restraint.

### **Responsibility**

The Society has a duty to report serious concerns relating to abuse to appropriate external agencies.

The Society has a duty to ensure that members and volunteers adopt safe practices when dealing with vulnerable adults.

The Society will ensure that all volunteers who are likely to come into contact with vulnerable adults have read and understood this policy by signing a form.

### **The Society expect its members and volunteers to:**

- Refrain from any abusive action in relation to vulnerable adults
- Report to the Society's Committee anything they witness which is or might be abusive
- The GFS Committee will contact either Surrey Adult Safeguarding Team or if any concerns relate to a child the Children's Single Point of Access (C-Spa)
- Co-operate in any investigation into alleged abuse.

### **GFS Safeguarding Officer**

The Society has nominated one of its Committee members to fill the role of Safeguarding Officer. For the 2023 - 2024 season this is Michael O'Sullivan.

This policy is also published on the GFS website:

<https://www.godalmingfilmsoc.org.uk/about-us/gfs-safeguarding-policy/>