



Safe Spoken
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RE: Safe Spoken Community Update: Current Position and Future Plans

Dear Safe Spoken Community,

We hope this message finds you well. As a volunteer-run platform dedicated to supporting our community, we want to take a moment to update you on our current activities and share our plans for the future. Your engagement and support have been invaluable to us, and we appreciate every interaction that contributes to our mission.

Since our rebranding, we have focused on improving our services to better meet the needs of the community. Historically, Safe Spoken has signposted victims of abuse to relevant services and organisations. Moving forward, we are committed to enhancing our approach by developing safeguarding policies and procedures specifically tailored to the Spoken Word community.

Our research has revealed that many events currently lack proper safeguarding practices. We are pleased to announce that we now have a recommended safeguarding policy available to offer guidance and support to event promoters, helping them to better serve and protect their attendees. You can find this policy on our website, along with other important resources, which include:

- Recommended safeguarding policy template
- Commitment to inclusivity and safety at events template
- Reporting structure for poetry promoters (including implementation guidelines)
- Privacy policy for reporting (example)
- Template for reporting and processing safeguarding concerns
- Guidance on navigating responses and determining actions

These resources aim to assist the community as we work towards the establishment of a centralised reporting system. While we recognise the complexities involved, including time, legal, and compliance considerations, we believe these materials are a good starting point for addressing how to safeguard and handle reports of abuse.

While we do not yet have a community-wide reporting system, we do have a process in place for addressing any concerns related directly to Safe Spoken. We encourage all poetry



promoters to consider implementing a direct reporting option and ensure that they have an up-to-date safeguarding policy to protect their staff and patrons.

As we continue to develop our resources, we will regularly update them to reflect the community's needs and feedback. We are grateful for the community's active participation and have held two successful forums where voices have been raised around safeguarding and inclusivity. We have also created surveys and feedback forms to further allow community members to express their opinions regarding safeguarding practices, these are available on our website under the safeguarding tab.

It is important to clarify that, at this stage, Safe Spoken cannot process community wide allegations in an official capacity. Should we receive disclosures, we are equipped to listen and signpost individuals to appropriate support services; however, we are not positioned to investigate allegations outside of Safe Spoken activities, or manage data pertaining to them. We are also happy and able to advise poetry promoters on the handling of allegations and safeguarding.

We are working on developing a much wider resource pack to foster community engagement and building training opportunities aimed at enhancing the knowledge and skills of community members. However, our primary focus remains on the safeguarding policy and reporting structure.

In closing, we want to thank you for your patience, understanding, and continued support during this critical development stage. Your input is invaluable, and we welcome any questions or discussions regarding our current position and future plans. We are here to listen and engage with you, as the strength of Safe Spoken lies in our community.

Thank you for being a vital part of Safe Spoken.

Warm regards,

The Safe Spoken Team