



## **OAC Ministries Lone and Unaccompanied Working Policy**

**Approved by the Trustees 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018 Review bi-annually**

**Reviewed date: 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024 Next Review - Autumn 2026**

Evangelists and volunteers should read this policy in conjunction with other relevant OAC policies including generic risk assessment examples. These may be obtained from OAC's General Secretary on request.

OAC Ministries recognises, from time to time, evangelists and volunteers may need to work alone or unaccompanied, whether at an event, in the open air or other places.

As an organisation we aim to ensure the safety and well being of all those ministering on our behalf, but also expect the latter to take reasonable care themselves.

OAC will provide a framework to support those who need to work alone or unaccompanied, which primarily requires completion of risk assessments and to follow the guidance within this and other OAC policies.

OAC's best practice is wherever possible to have a team approach to all ministry situations.

### **Potential Risks (not exhaustive)**

- Violence or the threat of violence
- Accidents or sudden illness when there is no-one to call or to administer first aid
- Fire
- Lack of a safe way in or out of a building and the risk of being locked in
- Attempting tasks which cannot be safely done by one person alone
- Accusations of inappropriate conduct
- Unknown risks in unfamiliar situations, including, for example, foreign countries, towns, cities and various buildings and meeting places.



### **Risk Reduction Considerations (use as appropriate)**

- Consider the activity and identify potential hazards
- Complete risk assessments
- Seek guidance from the Branch or National Director if required
- Don't proceed until you are fully satisfied with the ministry situation
- Carry a mobile phone (do you have a signal)?
- Let someone know where you are and your expected start and finish times
- Your personal safety takes priority at all times
- Follow building specific fire and safety procedures
- Consider the environment and take additional precautions if necessary e.g. prisons
- Consider risks associated with working in the evening
- De-escalate confrontation through verbal and body language signals
- Schools and College staff should always accompany Evangelists when ministering in their locations
- Trainee evangelists and interns should not minister unaccompanied
- Legal, location and venue specific rules and regulations must also be considered.