

Award in Safeguarding of Minors and Vulnerable Persons (SM) July - August 2026

Course level:

MFQ/EQF Level 4

Credits:

4 ECTS/ECVET

Course Description:

The course aims to provide participants with general knowledge in protection of vulnerable people. An interdisciplinary approach, considering psychological, theological, legislative disciplines, will facilitate the participants to understand the problem of maltreatment of children and vulnerable persons. Special attention will be given to sexual abuse from different perspectives and empower participants to protect children and vulnerable person.

Target Group

The course is particularly relevant for people who work with vulnerable people. It interests individuals working with children within a social, educational and/or pastoral setting. Nonetheless it will interest people working with vulnerable adults in caring institutions.

Course Objectives

- Knowledge:

The learner will be able to:

- a. Compare and contrast the societal awareness about child maltreatment and safeguarding practices across cultures and regions.
- b. Define the nature of maltreatment on children and vulnerable adults in general and sexual abuse in particular.
- c. Understand that there are common factors that either increase risks or protection.

- d. Recognize the importance for responsible adults to be alert to the signs and indicators of abuse.
- e. Identify and define the signs and indicators of sexual abuse.
- f. Assess the physiological, psychological, emotional, and spiritual implications of maltreatment.
- g. Recognize the suffering caused by sexual abuse and its widespread repercussions.
- h. Understand the Civil and Church norms regarding sexual abuse and implement appropriate measures to assure ethical behaviour.
- i. Share the knowledge covered in the course with different stakeholders.

- Skills:

The learner will be able to:

- a. Recognize possible signs of abuse and appropriate intervention.
- b. Analyze and implement protective factors in one's own environment and reduce risk factors.
- c. Handle appropriately any disclosure of abuse.
- d. Being able to listen, understand and empathize with vulnerable people.
- e. Make appropriate referrals to other professionals.
- f. Follow national and ecclesiastical safeguarding guidelines.
- g. Implement prevention programs.

Assessment:

Written assignment and case portfolio.

Duration:

In-Person Lectures: 20 hours

Indication for total hours of learning (including contact hours, self-study hours and assessment hours): 100 hours

Lecture dates:

10th - 11th - 24th - 25th - 31st July - 1st - 7th - 8th - 21st - 22nd August 2026

Grading System

Grade A+: 90% - 100% : Excellent performance showing comprehensive and critical understanding and application of the course contents
Grade A: 80% - 89%: Very good performance showing comprehensive and critical understanding of the course contents
Grade B: 70% - 79% : Good performance showing above average understanding of the course contents
Grade C: 55% - 69% : Satisfactory performance showing an overall understanding of the course contents
Grade D: 45% - 54%: Sufficient performance showing basic understanding of the course contents.
Grade F: Under 45%: Unsatisfactory performance.
Pass mark: 45%

Final Award:

Further Education Award in Safeguarding of Minors and Vulnerable Persons

Certification:

After successful completion of the course, participants will be awarded a Certificate issued by the Institute for Pastoral Ministry authorized by the Malta Further and Higher Education Authority.

Venue:

John Paul II Family Institute, Fortunato Mizzi Str, Victoria.

Course Fee:

Participants have to pay the sum of € 80 by Tuesday 30th June 2026 at Gozo Diocese Curia or by Bank Transfer.

Entry Requirements

The course is open to all people involved in Pastoral Care/Chaplaincy, State or Private schools, Childcare, Social and Care services. Every application will be considered on its individual merits. Applicants should be proficient in English and/or Maltese especially reading, speaking and writing skills. The level should be comparable with MQF Level 3. A school leaving certificate is also acceptable. They should have an expressed interest in child safety. Maturity Clause of Mature Students.

For visa requirements for third country nationals, follow the link: <https://identita.gov.mt/>