

SIM's apology and commitment to the children of missionaries

Our apology

On behalf of SIM and its members, we would like to extend an apology to the adult children of SIM missionaries.

We deeply apologise for any distress and harm that you may have experienced during your childhood and while living overseas with your parents. We acknowledge the profound and lifelong impact that the distress and harm has had on your health and your relationships.

We grieve that some of you experienced physical, emotional, and sexual abuse from those who were entrusted with your care, and that many perpetrators of abuse have avoided accountability.

We are sorry that you experienced traumatic events such as civil conflicts, separation from friends and loved ones, and that many of you experienced violence, or lived under the threat of violence.

We regret that many of you who attended boarding school experienced separation from your parents and felt a sense of abandonment. For others, we acknowledge the difficulty and pain of reintegrating into the culture of your parents' home country on return from mission.

We apologise that you were not always met with care and compassion, and that you were not always provided a say in matters involving your own care.

For too many years we have failed to appropriately acknowledge and respond to you. We are thankful for and honour the courage of those who have spoken up, often at great personal cost. We acknowledge your experiences and want you to know that you have been heard. We understand that others will never speak with us directly for valid reasons.

SIM International is committed to raising awareness on behalf of current, past and future generations of children who have experienced life on the mission field, and to implementing programs to protect and prioritise the wellbeing of children involved in our organisation – no matter where they are in the world.

Our commitment

We are committed to:

- building awareness of the trauma and abuse that you experienced.
- prioritising the safety of children, including ensuring that children are listened to and have a say in the decisions that impact them.
- providing safe places for children, including promoting policies and procedures that acknowledge and respond to the experiences of children; and
- honouring and listening to the AMK community, including providing responses to everyone that contacts us in a way that responds to their circumstances.

In Christ,



Joshua Bogunjoko
SIM International Director