STANDING IN THE GAP
Headline Feedback



What is the need for this training?

- Demand for church social action (e.g. food banks) has risen sharply due to multiple recent socio-economic pressures including Brexit, Covid, the cost of living crisis, and global conflicts.
- **50% of Standing in the Gap attendees** said that they had not previously received training on staff / volunteer safety and wellbeing for social action ministry projects.

What have we done?

In response, we developed a one-day pilot training, "Standing in the Gap", focused on managing boundaries and staying safe in social action contexts. 30 people attended the pilot in May 2026 and gave extensive feedback.

Attendees' past experiences

- Violent threats
- Fights in / outside of church
- Drug use
- Anti-social behaviour
- Assaults on volunteers
- Stalking
- Homophobic slurs
- Intimidating / aggressive behaviour

93%
of attendees had previously experienced situations where they felt unsure / ill-equipped of how best to uphold staff and volunteer safety and wellbeing

100% of attendees would recommend the training to a friend or colleague

97%
said it met needs not met by other training courses

"The sessions were well organised, relevant, and value for money to the LDF."

"Really excellent day which I'm sure will increase the health and sustainability of the church's social action! Thanks so much!"

Based on this **clear need** and **exceptional feedback** of the pilot training, we recommend this training should be offered by LDF more widely. The Compassionate Communities team will prioritise this rollout in the coming year.