

Photo Guidelines for the BUC website.

The British Union Conference publishes an on-line Photo Gallery of major events within the Seventh-day Adventist church in the UK and Ireland. The photographs are either taken by BUC Communication staff or are submitted by other staff or volunteers. A selection of these photos may also be submitted for publication in print journals such as the Messenger or Youth Magazines.

In that most photographs are taken in a public forum and are placed on the web for reporting purposes they do not come under the auspices of the data-protection act and permission is not required from individuals for their photograph to be published. As is the case with schools and sporting events it is emphasised that fear of breaching the provisions of the Data Protection act and Human Rights Act should not be wrongly used to stop people taking photographs or videos which provide many with much pleasure.

The BUC recognises that there are sensitivities in the area of publication and will do its utmost to ensure that no photos' are published which might be construed as suggestive or that portray vulnerable persons in an inappropriate manner. Most photo galleries do not contain names thus protecting individuals personal identity while telling the story and giving the atmosphere of the event. Photos are focused around the event rather than an individual.

Where individuals are named it will normally be with their consent or in terms of a specific event such as a baptism. Named minors will normally be identified only by their Christian name.

Parents are rightly concerned at the potential for the misuse of photographs of children and child protection issues related to their publication on the internet. In that the BUC website is a national forum pictures on the site are more anonymous than those on a local church website or on places like myspace or facebook. This would make it much more difficult for inappropriate usage of the photograph as a means of gaining access to a child.

The BUC is open in its photography policy and will endeavour to ensure that all photos posted are for a valid purpose and are adequate, relevant and not excessive in relation to that purpose. Individuals that are concerned about a particular photograph are welcome to contact the Communication department with their concerns.

Please note that these guidelines should not be taken as legal advice but as the working principle for the BUC website.