

WCCM in the UK Retreats **Policy on Anonymity and Confidentiality**

WCCM in the UK retreats guides are always experienced meditators, who may or may not be spiritual directors. They adhere to the following guidelines for respecting anonymity and confidentiality.

Anonymity refers to the identity of a person. Anonymity is provided when the person remains unidentifiable. For the smooth running of the retreat and benefit of all retreatants there are situations when it is necessary to discuss concerns with co-retreat leaders. This may be as a result of a conversation or interview with a retreatant, but the person remains unidentified.

Confidentiality refers to the content of what is discussed between two (or more) people. Confidentiality means that the content will not be disclosed to another person without the consent of all parties. All conversations with a retreat guide during a retreat are treated as confidential and will not be disclosed to other people without consent unless there are concerns as outlined below.

The exception and limit to confidentiality occurs when a retreat director has serious concerns that the retreatant may be a risk to themselves or to other people. Or where the retreatant reveals abuse by another person, and where the person is still alive and may still represent a risk of abuse to others. The retreat leader will then discuss this with their co-retreat leaders and, if necessary, in line with the WCCM in the UK safeguarding policy, inform others. In this situation, the retreatant will be kept informed of any actions taken.

If you have any questions about anonymity or confidentiality, please discuss them with your retreat guide.

School of Meditation (UK)
March 2020