Anne Peffer <annejanai@gmail.com>  
To: Tim Fitzpatrick <fitz@sltrib.com>, George Pyle <gpyle@sltrib.com>  
Sun, Jul 16, 2017 at 2:06 PM

My Op-ed that was printed today

7 messages

Anne Peffer <annejanai@gmail.com>  
To: Tim Fitzpatrick <fitz@sltrib.com>, George Pyle <gpyle@sltrib.com>  
Sun, Jul 16, 2017 at 2:06 PM

Hi George and Tim,

On July 12th, I asked to be informed before my op-ed would be printed. I did not receive a response.

Today, my op-ed was printed, but some of my words were removed and the attached policy I referred to was excluded. My op-ed is not as strong without its practical application and I would have opted not to print it if I knew it was going to be adjusted and the important part, its practical application, omitted. I was never informed that it would be adjusted and that the policy would not be included.

I have run that policy by attorneys who represent victims and other experts. I would like it to be seen and considered. It is discussion of such policies that will make a difference. Having the policy excluded does not do much good and there is little purpose in printing my op-ed without it.

I believe much of the criticism I am receiving in the comments would be more obviously amiss if the article I had written had been printed as I intended it to be printed. Preventing child abuse is all about practical application, not me or any other individual.

I would have been fine (although slightly disappointed because I think this issue is very important) with the decision to not print, but I am not fine with the decision to print it in a different form than it was intended and, especially, to do so without informing me or asking my permission. Focus on me is unimportant, focus on policies will help.

Would you be open to printing the policy recommendation separately and making sure the links are made between the current article and the policy?

Warm regards,

Anne

George Pyle <gpyle@sltrib.com>  
To: Anne Peffer <annejanai@gmail.com>  
Cc: Tim Fitzpatrick <fitz@sltrib.com>  
Sun, Jul 16, 2017 at 4:17 PM

Hi, Anne,

I apologize for not keeping you informed as to when your commentary was to be published. These decisions are often made on the fly as we find out what space we have available and how many other pieces I have on my list.

I don’t remember changing any of your wording except for a few words in the first paragraph, as we discussed, as your original version seemed to say that the bishop in question was guilty of the charges against him, something no newspaper or contributing writer can say.

As for detailed policy, at more than 1,300 words there was no way it could appear in print. I can add it to the end of the online version. Or we could add a link, if you could provide it. I have the text from your original email but I don’t see a
link to an address where it already exists online.

And, oh, yes. Don't read the comments.

Thank you,

George Pyle

Anne Peffer <annejanai@gmail.com>  
To: George Pyle <gpyle@sltrib.com>  
Cc: Tim Fitzpatrick <fitz@sltrib.com>  
Sun, Jul 16, 2017 at 6:54 PM

Fair enough. Thank you George.

1. The wording that was changed is in red below. I added the orange just now to make my intent of including the proposed policy more clear.

2. I do not have another link to send you to. It would be fine to put the policy in the online version. You may add the note that I just added at the top (currently in orange) so that people know they are free to use it for whatever purpose they want. It is all my original writing.

3. Also, the word "only" in this title is problematic because of course there are many ways to prevent child abuse. I don't want people thinking there is an "only" way to do it. I want them doing it in every way they can, of course.

How about this title: Arrest of Mormon Bishop Shows that Communities Must Work Together to Protect Children from Abuse

4. If you take a second to add the third link I've copied into the text below (task force led by a sexual predator), it will take people to Smith's deposition where he admits he was in charge of sexual abuse prevention when he was with the Boy Scouts.

And yes, never read the comments! In this case I agreed that it rambled and went nowhere without the practical application.

Thanks again for your hard work. I appreciate you taking the time to fix the posting.

Best,

Anne

On Wednesday, June 21, Mapleton police arrested Eric Hughes, 51, for ostensibly drugging and sexually abusing two boys while serving as bishop of a Mormon ward. While no guilty plea has been made, this incident underscores the necessity of instituting effective child protection policies in Mormon wards and communities.

To be most effective, child protection and sexual abuse prevention require community involvement. No individual can alone be trusted to ensure the safety of children. Placing implicit trust in church leaders and Mormon neighbors who seem like "good people" is not enough. Sometimes predators use positions of trust and authority to deceive well-meaning parents and to attract vulnerable children.
Proactive community watch practices can counteract predators' tactics. Predators take advantage of the common and mostly accurate belief that children are, in general, safe with adults who appear to be upstanding community members.

Communities can work together to diminish the efficacy of this predator strategy through maintaining the healthy assumption of general child safety while simultaneously proactively ensuring that -all- eyes are constantly on the lookout for suspicious behaviors.

All children are vulnerable. They're young and impressionable. They can be groomed, drugged or simply cornered and threatened then shamed. And as uncomfortable and unsafe as it makes adults feel, the unfortunate fact of the matter is that any adult could potentially be a child predator -- even a bishop or beloved friend and neighbor.

It is impossible to discern "good" from "evil" just by looking or asking a few questions. And it is impossible to discern by applying common assumptions like "I know she's safe because she talks about how she would personally harm anyone who abuses children," or "I know he wouldn't hurt a child because he's such a good father to his own kids."

Predators intentionally say and do things to make them seem like people we can all trust. When people proclaim their own beneficence, see red flags rather than giving confidence.

Safe adults will support and follow community watch practices that prevent -all- adults, including themselves, from having time alone with others' children. Safe adults don't mind being scrutinized and watched because they aren't looking for opportunities to exploit. Safe adults aren't seeking alone time with children so will not work to find or maintain it. Predators, on the other hand, will resist community watch practices that threaten their access to children. They want implicit trust, not community involvement in child protection.

I propose the community child abuse education, prevention, and response policy below. I believe a policy that educates and encourages communities to work together to prevent private access to children could be instituted in Mormon neighborhoods and wards and even by the church as a whole. I believe it would be more effective than current church child protection policies as well as the Boy Scouts' two-deep program.

In fact, I believe two-deep policies are insufficient and have the potential to be dangerous. Sometimes predators work together. A bishop who is a perpetrator himself could easily call two other predators to work with the children in his ward thereby also making it easier for him to gain private access.

It is worth noting that Douglas Sovereign Smith Jr., chairman of the Boy Scouts' Youth Protection Task Force at the time the two-deep policy was first introduced, served time in prison after being convicted of harboring and distributing photos and videos of naked boys and boys engaging in sex acts. A child abuse prevention strategy that was formulated by a task force led by a sexual predator is arguably not one parents or church leaders should rely on.

Better and more effective policies require not only background checks for those who work directly with children on a regular basis, but also assume that background checks and ensuring that at least two adults are present at all times are not sufficient.

Instead, effective policies promote and facilitate the need for adult education and for -all- eyes to watch at -all- times. They are widely published, regularly discussed and encourage community involvement.

The safest community is a community that works together to protect -all- children from predators.

Anne McMullin Peffer is a sixth-generation Mormon who still has membership but no longer self-identifies as Mormon. She cares about the safety of children and has no qualms about being scrutinized while with them.

This proposed policy is provided to promote discussion. Any organization is free to copy it in part or whole. Always consult an attorney and your insurance provider:

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=7cc0f11a7d&view=pt&search=...=msg-f%3A1577575958331036475&simpi=msg-f%3A15800664061296665208
Child Protection Policy

The ____(name of organization)____ will not tolerate the physical, emotional or sexual abuse of children or young people. This Child Protection Policy consists of an Abuse Prevention Policy and an Abuse Response Policy. The Abuse Prevention Policy is to be adhered to by staff, volunteers and community members at all times. The Abuse Response Policy is to be followed in the case of reports, allegations, or reasonable suspicions of abuse. All staff and volunteer caregivers including volunteers who work with youth will be presented a copy of this Child Protection Policy to include the Abuse Prevention Policy and the Abuse Response Policy. By participating in sponsored events, community members agree to abide by and support caregivers in the implementation of these policies.

Abuse Prevention Policy

Prevention of child abuse is in the best interest of children. Abuse prevention is of paramount import because abuse can be emotionally, psychologically, physically and mentally devastating and can have a lifelong impact on victims. Educated, prepared and watchful communities can work together to protect children and consequently prevent the harmful effects of abuse.

The Abuse Prevention Policy utilizes a tripartite approach to the prevention of abuse based on the assumption that abuse will not happen if perpetrators do not gain access to children. First, it seeks to educate community members as to the techniques perpetrators use to gain access to children. Second, it sets forth specific policies that will prevent abuse by making it difficult for perpetrators to gain access to children. Third, it seeks to help caring community members understand what they can do to make children safe by ensuring that no adults gain access to others’ children. Community members can demonstrate their commitment to child protection by following these policies.

1) Techniques perpetrators use to gain access to children:

- Perpetrators gain the trust of parents by appearing to be upstanding community members and citizens.
- Perpetrators will most often target children in communities where the offender is known and trusted.
- Perpetrators most often target children with which they are familiar and have an existing relationship of trust.
- Perpetrators may also seek trusting communities that will allow them access to children; they work to gain the trust of the children and adults in these communities; they may volunteer to work with children or youth.
- Perpetrators can be involved in healthy intimate relationships with other adults.
- Perpetrators can be male or female and can have children of their own.
- Perpetrators often target vulnerable children they perceive will not report or will not be believed if they report. This may include children with behavioral issues, special needs, or unique or alternative family situations.
- Perpetrators will often engage potential victims by giving gifts or providing special treatment.
- Perpetrators engage in grooming behavior meant to break down physical barriers and allow the offender physical contact with the child. This type of behavior can be manifest through tickling, wrestling, horseplay, or other seemingly innocuous situations.
- Perpetrators may abuse with others present or nearby.
- Perpetrators work to prevent children from reporting abuse through threats, lies and other abusive techniques. They are often successful in stopping children from reporting.
- Perpetrators will often make victims of abuse feel a shared responsibility in the abuse which prevents the child from reporting the abuse.
- Perpetrators sometimes work together and/or appeal to friends and other adult community members for protection. Married perpetrators sometimes work together.
- When perpetrators are caught, they make excuses for their actions, falsely minimize their crimes, and make false promises that they will never abuse again.
- Perpetrators will rely on the techniques above to attack the believability of a victim.
2) Policies that will prevent abuse through making it difficult for perpetrators to gain access to children:

- All childcare and classes for children and youth should take place in spaces that allow for visibility from the outside. Many churches and other facilities are now equipped with classroom windows either on doors or walls. If rooms do not have windows allowing for outside visibility, doors must be left open at all times. Child gates can be used to keep younger children in rooms with open doors.
- No child will be alone with another adult during childcare and classes for children.
- No child will be alone with another child during childcare and classes for children.
- A child will never share a blanket with an adult.
- Children who require help with toileting will receive assistance from their parents. OSF staff, volunteers and community members will not assist others’ children with toileting. Caregivers should arrange with parents or legal guardians ahead of time as to how parents or guardians will be contacted should children need to use the bathroom or receive a diaper change.
- Children will not be alone with another child during childcare and classes for children.
- Children will not be taken on trips or outings into secluded outdoor or indoor environments. Children are safer when many people can see them simultaneously. Any outings and trips should be to locations with public visual access. For example, going outside to play on a public playground is appropriate; going outside to explore a secluded corner of a wooded grove is prohibited. Taking children into a large, open gym is appropriate; taking children into a cleaning closet or an office without a window on the door is prohibited.
- Sponsored childcare will not take place in a home or facility that is separate from the location where parents are meeting.
- Sleepovers necessitating that children or youth sleep away from their parents and families are prohibited. Children and youth are required to sleep in the same accommodations as their parents and families at all events.
- All staff and volunteers who work with children on a recurrent basis will submit themselves to background checks.

3) What community members can do to help ensure that children are safe:

- Educate others about the Abuse Prevention Policy.
- Volunteer to work with children and youth so that positions are not available to perpetrators.
- Be watchful. Make a fun habit of working together as a community to ensure that no adults are alone with others’ children. A prepared, watchful community can make it difficult or nearly impossible for perpetrators to succeed in their abusive intentions.
- Resist the inclination to be offended by the fact that you are not allowed to be alone with others’ children. In order to be effective, the Abuse Prevention Policy must be applied indiscriminately.
- Help others understand that the stringent protection policies are not intended to unnecessarily incriminate good community members, but to prevent potentially abusive community members from gaining access to children.
- Remember that the best way to ensure children’s safety is to follow the Abuse Prevention Policy indiscriminately. It can be very difficult or impossible to distinguish a safe adult from a perpetrator. The Abuse Protection Policy has consequently been written to prevent perpetrators from successfully gaining access to children.
- Copies of the Abuse Prevention Policy will be distributed to all staff, parents and volunteer caregivers and will be available to all community members.

Abuse Response Policy

- For the purposes of this policy, abuse is defined as any sexual contact or sexual communication with a child, any physically, mentally, or emotionally harmful contact or communication with a child, or any neglect of a child.
- All institution authorities, staff, and volunteers will take reports, allegations, and reasonable suspicions of abuse seriously.
- Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of physical and/or sexual abuse are required to immediately report abuse to legal authorities and parents (when parents are not implicated) regardless of the laws of the state or country in which the abuse occurs. Witnesses of emotional abuse are required to report abuse to parents.
- Reports shall be made immediately by telephone or in person and shall be followed by a written report within 48 hours. A written report shall also be submitted within 48 hours after learning of the potential abuse.
- Reports shall contain:
  1. The names and addresses of the minor and the minor’s parents or the person or person having custody of the minor, if known
2. The minor’s age and the nature and extent of the minor’s abuse, child abuse, physical injury or neglect, including any evidence of previous abuse, child abuse, physical injury or neglect.

3. Any other information that the person believes might be helpful in establishing the cause of the abuse, child abuse, physical injury or neglect.

Anne Peffer <annejanai@gmail.com>  
To: George Pyle <gpyle@sltrib.com>  
Cc: Tim Fitzpatrick <fitz@sltrib.com>  

Or, how would you feel about me writing a short follow-up article and giving you a pdf of the Child Protection Policy to attach? This may be a better way to correct the record.

My biggest problem is that I think perpetrators can and do take advantage of an "it takes a village." A plan needs adult education and specificity to work and right now I feel like I've left with a miscommunication that does little but open a conversation. I want to not only open a conversation, but offer solutions.

A follow-up plus pdf could make that very possible. The print version of the short followup could send people to the online version to read the pdf.

George Pyle <gpyle@sltrib.com>  
To: Anne Peffer <annejanai@gmail.com>  

Anne,

I've amended the online version to include your changes and the full text of your proposed policy. I think we will leave it there for now. I've sitting on a huge backlog of submissions and I need to move on.

If you want to write something new a couple of months, I'd be happy to look at that.

Thanks for all your work.

- George

Anne Peffer <annejanai@gmail.com>  
To: George Pyle <gpyle@sltrib.com>, Tim Fitzpatrick <fitz@sltrib.com>  

Hi George,

I wrote another child abuse prevention op-ed today and went back to link to my July 15th op-ed protection policy only to find that the changes you made have disappeared. See your July 17 email. I am confused. Why would someone
take the time to change things back? This is a very important issue.


See my July 16 email for the text we agreed upon.

I am going to send my new op-ed because I think these things need to be said, but it is important to me that a policy proposal be online somewhere for people to refer to. I can't link to it because it no longer exists, although it did exist on July 17th when you emailed me. If we do not ever get to the nuts and bolts of policies, all we have are words words words and children are not helped. Action is what is required.

As stated previously, I am also very concerned about the title of my July 15th op-ed being changed back to "Only" communities can protect children from abuse. Not only is that false, as children can be protected in many ways, but predators take advantage of "it takes a village" reasoning. "It takes a village" is not what I meant and does not help prevent child abuse. Please see the last paragraph of the op-ed I am sending you tonight.

Warm regards,

Anne

[Quoted text hidden]