

What is an Airport Chaplain?



A support for passengers

A source of support in the everyday life of the airport

- in-person work at the airport
- low-threshold meetings
- emotional and spiritual support for passengers facing challenging situations
- a contact person for other religions and beliefs
- a listening ear – no matter what the problem is
- the Airport Chaplain always respects the values and beliefs of the organisation or the person they are serving

The most important task of the Airport Chaplain is to be present in an unhurried way in exceptional circumstances.

A source of support in crisis situations

In major crisis situations as well as in various crises faced by individuals, the Airport Chaplain cooperates with other crisis preparedness actors at the airport as agreed.

You can reach the Airport Chaplain by phone or email

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Special parish work services, The Parish Union of Vantaa

More than 100 airports around the world offer Airport Chaplain services to support passengers and those working in the aviation industry in a variety of challenging situations. www.iacac.aero

The purpose of the Airport Chaplain's work is to serve everyone working at or visiting the airport, regardless of their beliefs. The Airport Chaplain always respects the values of the organisation or the person they are serving.

Modelling the Airport Chaplain operations at other airports around the world, while taking into account the unique profile of Helsinki Airport, the Parish Union of Vantaa and Finavia have signed a cooperation agreement on Airport Chaplain services.

Helsinki Airport's Airport Chaplain Hanna Similä:

I'm Hanna Similä, and as far as I know, I'm the first Airport Chaplain in Finland. I have a master's degree in Theology and a professional supervision qualification (STOry). For nearly all of my career, I have been able to work with a community-oriented approach, serving different communities. I have worked as a University Chaplain since 2010, first at Laurea and Metropolia Universities of Applied Sciences and then at the University of the Arts Helsinki.

When working with different communities, I feel the best thing is the different conversations I get to have with people: the corridor and coffee room conversations that arise during everyday work, the conversations about working life or the diverse spectrum of life in general during appointments, and walking alongside people in both joy and sadness at life's turning points.

There is only one of me, but of course I couldn't do this job alone. That is why my work is supported by a diverse network that includes, for example, representatives of other religions through which I can try to find you someone to talk to who has the same beliefs as you. To help passengers, I also work with the Social Emergency and Crisis Centre of the City of Vantaa, the Church's various fields of work and the Finnish Seamen's Mission.

Don't hesitate to contact me, and if you see me at the airport, feel free to come and talk to me, no matter what you want to talk about!