



PONTIFICIA
UNIVERSITÀ
GREGORIANA

*Centre for
Child Protection*

Creating awareness and sensitivity to prevent child sexual abuse

Centre for Child Protection
Zentrum für Kinderschutz
Centro de protección de menores
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UMOFc/WUCWO
May 16, 2019

Examples for Safeguarding issues worldwide



- Child labour
- Child marriage
- Child protection in a digital world
- Child recruitment by armed forces or armed groups
- Children without parental care
- Children with disabilities
- Family separation in emergencies (migrants, refugees)
- Female genital mutilation/cutting
- Gender based violence in emergencies
- Human trafficking
- **Sexual violence against children**

Videos - Introduction



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_vl7C1Oswq0

<http://childprotection.unigre.it/our-purpose>

Learning from our Past

“In the past many institutions, including the Catholic Church, did not deal with these issues. And this led to big mistakes, ending up with failing in protecting children.” (Msgr Stephen Rossetti)

→ People need to be aware of the problem and need to understand the terrible (often long-lasting) effects of sexual abuse



Often repeated – yet not true!



- „It’s a Western problem, of secularized societies, we don’t have cases.“
- „Abuse of minors is forbidden in our culture.“
- „It’s worse in other institutions.“
- „There are many false accusations.“
- „Media want to destroy the Church.“

Definition of Child Sexual Abuse



Sexual abuse is defined as the involvement of a child in sexual activity that he or she **does not fully comprehend**, is **unable to give informed consent to**, or for which the child is **not developmentally prepared**, or else that **violates the laws or social taboos of society**. Children can be sexually abused by both adults and other children who are – by virtue of their age or stage of development – in a position of responsibility, **trust** or **power** over the victim.



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Child maltreatment is widespread.

Worldwide children report that they suffered some form of violence in the past year:



Physical abuse



Emotional abuse



Physical neglect



Sexual abuse

Why, the Centre for Child Protection?

In all of our work and endeavors, we strive to put victims and survivors first, an approach which involves contributing to:

- Increasing sensitivity in the Church and in society at large,
- Enabling safe discourse about the risk of abuse,
- Competence in therapeutic and pastoral care,
- The spiritual and psychological empowerment of those who have been or could be harmed,
- The creation of a global network of knowledge and best practices in safeguarding.



For more Information

childprotection.unigre.it

ccpblog.unigre.it

