

INTERNATIONAL
ENGLISH-SPEAKING
CATHOLIC PARISH

St. Leonhard's St. Mary's Holy Cross

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

INSTITUTIONELLES SCHUTZKONZEPT (ISK)

FOR THE PROTECTION OF MINORS
IN THE
INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH-SPEAKING PARISH
FRANKURT, GERMANY

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1. INTRODUCTION

The International English-Speaking Catholic Parish holds the care, safety and wellbeing of children as a fundamental responsibility of the Church. This commitment is drawn from, and inherent to, the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the dignity of each human person at the heart of the Gospel. Indeed it was Jesus who, when his disciples were arguing among themselves about who was the greatest, directed his attention to a little child and said to his disciples:

'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me' (Mark 9.37).

A culture of safety within the Church ensures that children can actively and fully participate in the life of the Church and realize their potential in a faith community.

The purpose of this document is to provide an outline of the policies, procedures and strategies developed to keep children safe from harm, including all forms of abuse in our parish environment, on site, online and in other locations used by the parish. This policy applies to all parish personnel, including clergy, parish employees and volunteers within the jurisdiction of the International English-Speaking Parish, regardless of their role or level of responsibility.

We have ZERO tolerance of child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated seriously and reported in line with our legal obligations, our moral obligations and Diocesan policies set forth by the Diocese of Limburg.

2. Acceptable Behavior

All staff, volunteers, contractors, clergy, religious and parish council members are responsible for supporting the safety of children by:

- adhering to and upholding the parish's Statement of Commitment to Child Safety at all times
- taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse and harm
- treating everyone in the parish community with respect
- listening and responding to the views and concerns of children, particularly if they are telling you that they or another child have been abused or that they are worried about their safety/the safety of another child
- promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds (for example, by having a zero tolerance policy towards discrimination)
- promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of children with a disability (for example, by ensuring reasonable care is taken to cater for any additional needs being faced)
- ensuring that an adult is not alone with a child

- reporting any child safety concerns to the child safety officer and the parish priest, or (if the concern related to the parish priest) to the Diocesan Protection Department (Koordinatinsstelle Prävention von sexualisierter Gewalt)
- if an allegation of child abuse is made, ensuring as quickly as possible that the child is safe.

3. Unacceptable Behavior

Staff, volunteers, contractors, clergy, religious and parish council members must not:

- ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse
- develop any 'special' relationships with children that could be seen as favoritism (for example, the offering of gifts or special treatment for specific children)
- exhibit behaviors with children which may be construed as unnecessarily physical (for example, inappropriate sitting on laps)
- put children at risk of abuse (for example, by locking doors or being alone with a child with no good cause)
- initiate unnecessary physical contact with children or do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes
- manage disruptive or unsafe behavior by degrading or isolating a child; corporal punishment is never acceptable. Physical restraint should only be used as a last resort or in an emergency
- engage in open discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children (for example, personal details or social activities)
- use inappropriate language in the presence of children
- express personal views on cultures, race or sexuality in the presence of children
- discriminate against any child because of age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality, ethnicity or disability
- have any online contact (including by social media, email, instant messaging etc.) with a child
- exchange personal contact details such as phone number, social networking sites or email addresses with a child

- photograph or video a child without the consent of the parent or guardians
- work with children while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs
- wearing any type of clothing which could lead to the sexualization of the atmosphere
- giving or receiving of gifts between adults and minors, as this may lead to the risk of dependency

4. Parish Regulations

The following regulations have been implemented in our parish according to Diocesan regulations:

- All volunteers working with children must sign a Declaration of Voluntary Commitment (“Selbstverpflichtungserklärung”) in which they agree to all rules concerning working with minors. (see page 11)
- All volunteers working with minors must receive a “Erweitertes Führungszeugnis” from their local council, stating that they have no prior record of child abuse.
- During classes or class trips, there will always be a minimum of 2 adults present, to ensure that no adult is left alone with a child
- During overnight class trips, communal showering is not allowed and it will be ensured that adults (chaperons) and children sleep in separate rooms.
- No photos or videos of children may be published or posted on social media without the prior consent of the parents.
- Implementation of the Diocesan “Handlungsleitfaden bei Vermutung von sexualisierter Gewalt” (see page 7) respectively the English translation of that document, entitled “Guidelines for action in the event of suspected sexualized violence” (see page 8)
- Implementation of the Diocesan “Handlungsleitfaden bei Mitteilung durch mögliche Betroffenen (Verdacht)” (see page 9) respectively the English translation of that document, entitled “Guidelines for action in the event of suspected sexualized violence” (see page 10)

- This document will be reviewed by the Parish Council and Pastoral Team every 4 years (preferably after each Parish Council election) to see if any changes / updates are necessary.
- This document will be published in its entirety on our Parish website and also on the Diocesan website.

5. Contacts

1. Präventionsstelle Bistum Limburg
Coordination Office for Child Safety
Diocese of Limburg
Hotline: 0151-17 54 23 90
2. Wildwasser Beratungsstelle Frankfurt
Counseling Center against sexual abuse
Tel: 069 – 95 50 29 10
www.wildwasser-frankfurt.de
3. Jugendamt Stadt Frankfurt
Child Services City of Frankfurt
Hotline: 0800 – 20 10 111
4. Lori Bemb, Pastoral Associate
and Parish Child Protection Officer
Tel: 069-2193650-0
Email: l.bemb@parish-frankfurt.de

This Statement of Commitment has been approved by the Parish Council and Pastoral Team of the International English-Speaking Parish.

Approved by the Parish Council on: 17. February 2021

Responsible for the implementation of document:

Lori Bemb

Pastoral Associate / Gemeindereferentin and Parish Child Protection Officer

Formulations and working tools have been taken in part from

The Diocese of Limburg's Department of Child Protection

<https://praevention.bistumlimburg.de/>

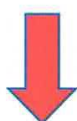
Handlungsleitfaden

bei Vermutung von sexualisierter Gewalt

Was tun...

...bei der **Vermutung**, Minderjährige oder schutz- oder hilfebedürftige Erwachsene
seien Opfer sexualisierter Gewalt?

STOPP!



Nichts auf eigene Faust unternehmen!

Keine direkte Konfrontation des / der
vermutlichen Täters/-in.

Keine eigenen Ermittlungen zum Tathergang.

Keine eigenen Befragungen durchführen.

Keine Informationen an den / die
vermutliche/n Täter/-in.

Zunächst keine Konfrontation der Eltern des
vermutlichen Opfers mit dem Verdacht.

Bei einer begründeten Vermutung...

....gegen eine/n haupt- oder ehrenamtlichen
Mitarbeiter/in des Bistums, sind umgehend
die Missbrauchsbeauftragten des Bistums

Hans-Georg Dahl, Tel.: 0172 - 3005578 ,

Dr. Ursula Rieke, Tel.: 0175 4891039

einzuschalten.

...außerhalb kirchlicher Zusammenhänge ist
diese unter Beachtung des Opferschutzes
dem Jugendamt zu melden.

GO



Ruhe bewahren! Keine überstürzten
Aktionen!

Zuhören, Glauben schenken, ernst nehmen.
Verhalten des potentiell betroffenen
Menschen beobachten. Notizen mit Datum
und Uhrzeit anfertigen.

Die eigenen Grenzen und Möglichkeiten
erkennen und akzeptieren.

Sich selber Hilfe holen!

Sich mit einer **Person des eigenen Vertrauens**
besprechen.

und / oder

Mit der **Ansprechperson des Trägers** Kontakt
aufnehmen.

und / oder

Externe Fachberatung einholen

Guidelines in the event of suspected sexualized violence

What to do ...

... if you **suspect** that minors or vulnerable adults are the victims of sexualized violence.

STOP!



Do nothing on your own!

Do not directly confront the suspected perpetrator.

No personal investigations into the cause of events.

Do not conduct your own investigation.

Do not give any information to the suspected perpetrator.

Do not confront the parents of the suspected victim with your suspicions.

In case of a justified suspicion against an employee of the Diocese or a volunteer, please contact the Diocesan Abuse Officer:

Hans-Georg Dahl Tel: 0172-30005578

Dr. Ursula Rieke Tel: 0175-4891039

... if the suspicion falls outside of a parish/church context, this must be reported to the state "Jugendamt" (Child Services), for the protection of the child.

GO!



Stay calm. Not rushed actions.

Listen, believe what you hear and take it seriously. Observe the behavior of the person in question and take notes with dates and times.

Recognize and accept your own limits and possibilities.

Ask for help!



Talk to a person you trust.

and / or

Contact the Parish Child Protection Officer.

and / or

Get expert advice from an external source.

Handlungsleitfaden

bei Mitteilung durch mögliche Betroffene (Verdacht)

Was tun wenn...

...Minderjährige oder schutz- oder hilfebedürftige Erwachsene **von sexualisierter Gewalt berichten?**

Stopp!



Nicht drängen. Kein Verhör!

Keine Suggestivfragen!
Keine überstürzten Aktionen!

Keine „Warum“-Fragen verwenden, sie lösen leicht Schuldgefühle aus.

Keine logischen Erklärungen einfordern.

Keinen Druck ausüben –
auch keinen Lösungsdruck .

Keine unhaltbaren Versprechungen oder
Zusagen machen: ehrlich sein!

Nach dem Gespräch:

Keine Informationen an die beschuldigte Person!

Keine Entscheidungen und weiteren Schritte
ohne altersgemäßen Einbezug des/der
Betroffenen.

Im Erstgespräch eine mögliche Strafanzeige
nicht thematisieren!

Direkte Einschaltung der Behörden nur bei
Gefahr im Verzug.

Go



Ruhe bewahren!

Zuhören, ernst nehmen, Glauben schenken.

Auch Erzählungen von kleineren Grenzverletzungen
ernst nehmen. Häufig erzählen Betroffene zunächst
nur Teile dessen, was ihnen widerfahren ist.

Grenzen, Widerstände und zwiespältige Gefühle
des/der Betroffenen **respektieren**.

Für den Mut und das Vertrauen, sich zu öffnen **loben**.

Eindeutig **Partei** für die betroffene Person **ergreifen**:
„Du trägst keine Schuld an dem, was vorgefallen ist!“

Versichern, dass das Gespräch vertraulich behandelt
und nichts ohne Information unternommen wird, aber
auch über Meldepflicht und über die nächsten Schritte
informieren.

Nach dem Gespräch:

Fakten dokumentieren.

Information an Ansprechperson des Trägers und
Leitung (sofern diese nicht Beschuldigte sind!) **und an**

Hans-Georg Dahl, Tel.: 0172 - 3005578 oder

Dr. Ursula Rieke, Tel.: 0175 - 4891039 oder

Koordinationsstelle Prävention vor sexualisierter
Gewalt, **Tel.: 0151 – 1754 2390.**

Guidelines for Action

in the event a victim reports a violation (suspicion)

What to do when ...

... a minor or vulnerable adult reports a case of sexualized violence.

STOP!



Don't push. It is not an interrogation. No suggestive questions. No rushed actions.

Do not ask "why" questions. These could trigger feelings of guilt.

Do not demand only logical explanations.

Do not pressure them. No pressure for a solution.

Make no promises or commitments which you can't keep. Be honest!

Do nothing on your own!

After you speak with the victim:

Do not give any information to the suspected person.

Do not make any decisions or take further steps without the (age-appropriate) inclusion of the victim.

At the initial meeting: the subject of possible legal action should NOT be discussed.

Direct involvement of the local authorities only in case of imminent danger.

GO!



Stay calm !!

Listen, take it seriously and believe them. Also take seriously reports of smaller (harmless) violations. Initially victims may only tell part of what actually happened to them.

Respect the limits, resistance and the ambivalent feelings of the person concerned.

Praise them for the courage and trust to open up.

Clearly take sides with the victim. "It is not your fault for what happened."

Assure them that your conversation will be kept confidential and nothing will be done without more information. However we have an obligation to report the matter and to inform ourselves concerning further steps.

Document all the facts.

Inform the Parish Protection Officer and the Parish Priest (as long as they are not the ones suspected) **AND** also:

Hans-Georg Dahl Tel: 01072-3005578
or

Dr. Ursula Rieke Tel: 0175-4891039
or

Diocesan Department for Prevention

Tel: 0151-17542390

Declaration of Voluntary Commitment

(Surname) (First name) (Date of birth)

The Catholic Church wishes to offer girls and boys, young women and men living spaces in which they can develop their personality, skills and aptitudes. These should be protected places in which young people feel accepted and safe. Children and adolescents need and find role models who respect and support them as independent personalities and whom they can trust. The responsibility for protecting girls and boys, young women and men rests with voluntary and full-time and part-time employees in the entire field of church work involving contact with children and adolescents. These employees are obliged to handle their wards in a reflected manner and to highlight promptly and appropriately any boundary violations that have been committed by their colleagues or by the girls and boys, young women and men entrusted to them. Signing this Declaration of Voluntary Commitment will provide corroboration hereof.

I undertake to do everything in my power to ensure that no one commits acts of psychological, physical or sexualized violence on the girls and boys, young women and men entrusted to me.

1. I will support the girls and boys, young women and men in their development into personally responsible individuals capable of faith and community life. I will encourage them in the effective defence of their right to psychological and physical integrity and their right to obtain help.
2. My work with the girls and boys, young women and men entrusted to me will be informed by esteem and trust. I will respect their rights and their dignity.
3. I will handle matters of physical proximity and distance carefully and responsibly. I will respect the privacy and the personal boundaries of shame of the girls and boys, young women and men entrusted to me and my own boundaries. I will also observe this when using the media, particularly mobile phones and the Internet.
4. I will endeavour to perceive any form of personal boundary violation consciously and to take the appropriate measures to protect the young people. I will take an active stand against discriminatory, violent and sexist behaviour, whether in word or deed. If the people in close contact with children and adolescents become sexually intrusive or physically violent, I will stand up for the protection of the girls and boys, young women and men. I will likewise intervene if those entrusted to me attack others in this vein. I will listen if they wish to give me to understand that they are the subject of psychological, sexualized and physical violence by other people. I am aware that psychological, sexualized and physical violence is committed not only by male, but also by female perpetrators and that not only girls, but also boys frequently become victims.

5. I am familiar with the procedural channels and the corresponding (initial) contacts for my bishopric, my association or my supporting organization. I know where to seek advice or to obtain help in terms of clarification and support, if need be, and will avail myself thereof.

The procedural channels, the (initial) contacts etc. can be found on our website at www.praevention.bistumlimburg.de

6. I am aware of my special position of trust and authority in relation to the girls and boys, young women and men entrusted to me and will act transparently and honestly. I will not take advantage of any dependents.

7. I am aware that any sexualized act with wards may have disciplinary consequences and/or consequences under criminal law.

8. I have been informed, by means of a handout, about issues relating to the protection of children and adolescents in accordance with the requirements of the ordinance for the prevention of sexual abuse of minors in my bishopric, have read this carefully and am aware that I can keep updated on professional development and further education programmes and issues pertaining to practical prevention on the bishopric's homepage at www.praevention.bistumlimburg.de.

The handout regarding the Declaration of Voluntary Commitment is available at www.praevention.bistumlimburg.de > Bestimmungen

9. I hereby confirm that I have not been convicted of any crime in connection with sexualized violence¹ and that no investigations have been opened against me in this respect. In the event that investigations are opened against me in this regard, I undertake to inform my superior or the person that has entrusted me to carry out my voluntary activity immediately thereof. I can also comply with my undertaking to provide notification of any ongoing investigations by sending a corresponding notice to the body that is responsible for checking my enhanced clearance certificate, in accordance with clause 3 of the implementing regulations to the prevention ordinance.

Place and date

Signature

¹ §§ 171, 174 bis 174c, 176 bis 180a, 181a, 182 bis 184g, 184i, 201a Abs. 3, 225, 232 bis 233a, 234, 235 oder 236 StGB. Stand: 29.11.2016. Es gilt die jeweils gültige Fassung. (siehe ggf. <http://www.gesetze-im-internet.de> > Gesetze/Verordnungen > S > StGB).