**Conference on Protection in the Catholic Church in Europe**
13-15 November 2024

We, the participants of the Conference on Guardianship in the Catholic Church in Europe, held in Rome 13-15 November 2024, wish to come together with a shared commitment to improve the protection and safety of all persons within our communities, especially children and vulnerable adults. Recognizing the different cultural contexts in Europe, we stress the importance of promoting a common language on protection that respects these differences. The Church must work collaboratively to eliminate multiple forms of abuse through institutional and community conversion.

**Key Commitments**

1. **Promotion of Advocacy Initiatives**
We are committed to promoting a positive narrative on advocacy, emphasizing our willingness and commitment to continue efforts in prevention, intervention and training. We recognize the power of small initiatives and spontaneous networking to drive meaningful change.
2. **Safe Environments and Advocacy**
We recognize that abuse is widespread in the Church and society and are committed to promoting a safe environment, including addressing online abuse and the challenges of the digital world.
3. **Healing and Wholistic Support**
Our intention is to support a path of integral healing of victims and survivors, focusing in particular on the spiritual dimension. The Church must be at the forefront of spiritual healing, offering compassion and understanding to those who have been hurt.
4. **Collaboration and Communication**
We will support improvements in communication and collaboration between stakeholders both at the level of the Holy See and at the level of nations. This includes promoting better communication between Dicasteries and between different cultures, creating space for conversation and conversion.
5. **Vulnerable Adults**
We extend our advocacy efforts to include vulnerable adults, deepening our understanding of abuse and vulnerability. This involves promoting a culture of protection within Church law and ensuring that all members of the Church community are protected.
6. **Complementarity between the legal and pastoral response**
We emphasize the **c**omplementarity between pastoral care and the accountability process, ensuring that neither prevails over the other. This balance is based on the experience and missions of various organizations and actors within the Church.
7. **Transparency and Accountability**
We advocate transparency and accountability in disciplinary sanctions. This includes addressing difficulties in the interpretation of Canon Law and ensuring that independent commissions on sexual abuse in European countries are established with clear criteria.
8. **Supporting Caregivers**
Recognizing the psychological and spiritual impact on those who care for the abused, we emphasize the importance of providing guidance and support to caregivers at all levels of society.
9. **Sustainability and Resource Sharing**
We emphasize the importance of sustainability of local initiatives and the importance of sharing resources and experiences across Europe to be more effective in our advocacy efforts.
10. **Networking and Learning**
We are committed to networking across Europe, learning from each other's experiences, sharing resources, to be more effective both in society and within the Church. Recognizing that a wound inflicted on one member is a wound inflicted on the whole body of the Church, we seek to grow in protection between wounded parish and religious communities and the families involved.

We recognize the need to address that perpetrators in the Church must be subjected to due process and require support and supervision to reduce the likelihood of recurrence of abuse.

In conclusion, we express our sincere gratitude for the sensitivity, dedication and professionalism with which all participants engage in this vital work. Together, we strive to protect the most vulnerable and promote a culture of care within the Church through conversion, based on truth, justice, reparation, non-recidivism and institutional reform.