

Statement regarding the Abuse Committed by Priest Fr. P.

Kindermisssionswerk responds to the abuse at the hands of Father P. and simultaneously disseminates the appeal made by the Archdiocese of Cologne.

29. June 2022

In an appeal today, Wednesday, June 29, 2022, the Archdiocese of Cologne addresses possible further victims of abuse by Father P., who died in 2019. The Kindermisssionswerk is also disseminating this appeal. Father P. was president of the Kindermisssionswerk 'Die Sternsinger' from 2000 to 2010. In the 1970s, prior to his tenure with the Kindermisssionswerk, P. committed sexually abusive behavior toward a vulnerable person. There was no way to conclusively determine whether the person in question had already reached the age of 18 at the time of the crime.

The following is the statement issued by the Kindermisssionswerk:

The protection of children and vulnerable individuals is a top priority for the Kindermisssionswerk. The Kindermisssionswerk 'Die Sternsinger' is actively involved in the prevention of sexualized violence and is committed to the disclosure of any form of abuse. Therefore, the Kindermisssionswerk also disseminates the current appeal by the Archdiocese of Cologne. The abuse at the hands of Father P. has been documented by the Archdiocese of Cologne's investigation into reported case.

We are deeply saddened by the act of abuse committed by Father P. We cannot comprehend the suffering of those affected by sexual abuse. We are simultaneously shocked, saddened and enraged by this act. It is now important to encourage possible further victims to come forward and thus unravel possible further cases of sexual abuse.

The reported case is also a tremendous shock for our employees. Especially for those who worked with the late Father P., during his tenure as the president of the Kindermisssionswerk from 2000 to 2010. We call on our employees to actively contribute to the investigation and reappraisal.

The Kindermisssionswerk was informed by the Archdiocese of Cologne in September 2021 about the case of P. and thereupon Kindermisssionswerk lobbied the Archdiocese for an appeal to be published promptly in order to encourage possible further victims to come forward and to create the greatest possible transparency in the case. Based on evidence from 2021, with preliminary groundwork and investigation completed, the Archdiocese has scheduled the release of a related appeal for the summer of 2022.

The Kindermisssionswerk has been working for the protection of the rights and welfare of children and young people for more than 175 years. As a relief organization for children, child protection has always been the foundation, motivation, goal and mission of our work. We stand shoulder to shoulder with those who have been affected.

If you are directly affected or have any information, please contact the corresponding offices of the Archdiocese of Cologne:

Ms Tatjana Siepe

Phone 0172 290-1248

tatjana.siepe@erzbistum-koeln.de

Mr. Peter Binot

Phone 0172 290-1534

peter.binot@erzbistum-koeln.de

The protection of children and vulnerable persons is a central task of the Kindermissionswerk. Hence, the Kindermissionswerk has a standardized and transparent procedure that takes effect every time a suspected case of child welfare endangerment is reported. The Child Protection Unit within the Kindermissionswerk takes every suspicion most seriously, by investigating and documenting it. All employees of the organization regularly attend prevention-training seminars and submit an "extended certificate of good conduct" to their employer before they are hired and again after a statutory period of five years.