


# TOWARDS A SAFEGUARDING CULTURE ENCOMPASSING THE WHOLE PERSON



Report on cases  
of abuse of children  
and vulnerable adults;  
spiritual abuse  
and abuse of authority  
in the Focolare Movement  
with reference to restorative measures,  
to new investigative procedures  
and formation activities  
for the safeguarding of the person  
(as of December 2022)



Rocca di Papa, 31 March 2023

Dear friends,

*We are writing to give you a public account of information regarding the reports we have received and the measures we have taken as the Focolare Movement in response to the scourge of the sexual abuse of children and vulnerable adults and the abuse of conscience, spiritual abuse, and the abuse of authority regarding adults, which has also affected us.*

*Today marks one year since the publication of GCPS Consulting's Inquiry into serious cases of child sexual abuse by a former French focolarino, J.M.M., which led us to take necessary and decisive steps for the prevention and integral safeguarding of the individual person in all spheres of the Movement.*

*Our deepest gratitude goes first of all to the victims, survivors, their families and communities, both in France and in several countries where other cases of abuse have come to light. We are grateful for the courage they continue to show in facing and bringing these crimes to light. We reiterate that their help and collaboration is crucial.*

***To each victim and survivor, we once again sincerely ask forgiveness on behalf of the Focolare Movement.***

*There are no adequate words to express the pain and the shame we continue to feel in this regard. This new awareness has strengthened in us the determination to act so as to condemn without reserve these actions which are totally incompatible with respect for the integrity of the person and therefore contrary to the principles that animate our Movement.*

*What we are presenting below is **an initial summary report on the measures for prevention, investigation, transparency, formation and change that have been undertaken by the Focolare Movement**, to combat this crime. Starting this year, it will be made public annually on the official Focolare web site and is addressed primarily to all victims and survivors.*

*We are more than aware that, in the life of our Movement, this is an important period from which we do not want to flee and for which we are grateful to God, who is leading us back to Himself, with humility, repentance and hope.*

**Margaret Karram**  
President of the Focolare Movement

**Jesús Morán**  
Co-president of the Focolare Movement

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	Timeline: the journey of the Focolare Movement (FM) towards integral safeguarding of the person.....	<b>4</b>
<b>2</b>	The recent context – a summary .....	<b>7</b>
<b>3</b>	Data on reported cases of abuse within the Focolare Movement .....	<b>8</b>
	Premise .....	<b>8</b>
	Key issues .....	<b>8</b>
	Sexual abuse of children or vulnerable adults .....	<b>10</b>
<b>4</b>	The bodies responsible for the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults in the Focolare Movement .....	<b>12</b>
	4.1 Independent Central Commission .....	<b>12</b>
	4.2 National Independent Commissions .....	<b>13</b>
	4.3 Supervisory Board .....	<b>14</b>
<b>5</b>	Responses and priority measures in the process of being implemented based on the recommendations of the Independent Inquiry by GCPS Consulting .....	<b>15</b>
	A premise: putting at the centre those who have been abused ..	<b>15</b>
	5.1 Guidelines on support and financial reparation in the case of sexual abuse of children and vulnerable adults ..	<b>16</b>
	5.2 Promoting reflection and a change of culture above all in the leadership of the Movement .....	<b>17</b>
	5.3 Publication of an annual report available worldwide .....	<b>17</b>
	5.4 Listening points to welcome victims .....	<b>18</b>
	5.5 Formation of members of the Movement on safeguarding .....	<b>18</b>
	5.6 New procedures of the focolare Movement for safeguarding .....	<b>20</b>
<b>6</b>	Contacts .....	<b>22</b>
	APPENDIX: Reference to the recommendations made by GCPS Consulting .....	<b>23</b>

# TIMELINE:

## THE JOURNEY OF THE FOCOLARE MOVEMENT (FM) TOWARDS INTEGRAL SAFEGUARDING OF THE PERSON

1

2000-2010

The handling of a number of allegations and complaints against lay and consecrated members began at the national level, in collaboration with the FM's international centres for consecrated members. For the most part, the allegations were dealt with in accordance with Church regulations, both local and international; according to the law of the individual countries, taking into account the requests of the victims and their families. Around the year 2000, in some Anglo-Saxon countries, teams of experts were established and good practices for safeguarding the person were put in place, in accordance with national legal requirements, including mandatory reporting to judicial authorities.

2011

First international course on prevention, and on safeguarding of children, for formators and accompaniers of children and adolescents in the FM.

2012

Establishment of an international group of experts for the development of child safeguarding measures.

2013

Use *ad experimentum* in Italy of the first FM "Guidelines for the Wellbeing and Safeguarding of Children". Establishment of the Central Commission for the Wellbeing and Safeguarding of Children (CO.BE.TU.) and subsidiary commissions at the local level, which collaborate with the international one. First international conference on child safeguarding; the Guidelines are presented *ad experimentum* for all the countries in which FM operates.

2014

Publication of the "Guidelines for the Wellbeing and the Safeguarding of Children", applicable in all the countries where the FM is present. Planning and implementation of a Basic Course on the Safeguarding of Children for formators and accompaniers of children and the creation of a Practical Handbook for Animators. Establishment of the Supervisory Board in matters of Safeguarding.

2015

Creation of the Body for the Safeguarding of the Person, tasked with receiving instances or reports of abuse of conscience, spiritual abuse and abuse of authority, concerning adults belonging to the FM.

2019

First international congress for representatives and local commissions for the promotion of child wellbeing and safeguarding, with 162 experts from 39 countries. First update of the Guidelines and its subsequent publication. Maria Voce, then President of the Focolare, and Jesús Morán, Co-President, wrote a [letter](#) to all members of the FM on the situation regarding child abuse and the commitment to “zero tolerance”.

2020

Initial report to the leaders of the FM from the Co-President, Jesús Morán, with binding indications regarding sexual, spiritual and authority abuses. Establishment of a Commission to revise the General Statutes of the FM and the Regulations of the different branches, for the specific study of the distinction that is needed between the “sphere of conscience” and the “sphere of governance” in community life, and therefore with regard to the safeguarding of persons.

The French media publish the news about a case of sexual abuse of children committed by J.M.M., a former member of the FM. In a worldwide videoconference with Focolare members, the then-President Maria Voce and Co-President Jesús Morán ask for forgiveness from the victims for crimes of abuse committed within the Movement.

The FM commissions the independent company GCPS Consulting to carry out an investigation into the J.M.M. case in France.

2021

In the Final Document of the General Assembly, the FM declares its commitment to strengthen prevention and support measures, explicitly asking for forgiveness from victims.

President Margaret Karram, in agreement with Co-President Jesús Morán, plans the unification of the Commission for the Wellbeing and Safeguarding of Children and the Independent Commission for the Safeguarding of the Person. A single Central Commission for the Promotion of Wellbeing and Safeguarding of the Person was created, with experts in law, education and psychology, coming from different geographical and cultural areas.

2022

Publication on the FM website of the result of the Independent Inquiry conducted by GCPS Consulting.

The Movement establishes a commission to develop measures in response to the recommendations of the independent Inquiry.

Expansion of the Supervisory Board to 5 members, all of them from outside the FM.

First intensive formation for FM leaders and General Council members on leadership, sexual abuse and abuse of conscience.

# THE RECENT CONTEXT - A SUMMARY

## 2

On 30 March 2022, the Focolare Movement published the results of an [independent inquiry](#) commissioned on 23 December 2020 into cases of child sexual abuse by a former French focolarino, J.M.M.

At the request of the victims, the investigation was entrusted to a body outside the Focolare Movement, and the UK company [GCPS Consulting](#), an independent body whose mission is to help institutions improve their systems for preventing and reporting abuse, was selected.

The task of this inquiry called: *“Report of an independent inquiry into historical child abuse - Results of the investigation into allegations of sexual abuse committed by JMM and the Focolare Movement’s handling of these events”*, was: *“to listen to the victims and gather further testimony, as well as to investigate whether there were any omissions, cover-ups or silences on the part of those responsible for the Movement”*, as stated in the document’s initial summary.

Over a period of 15 months, GCPS Consulting heard numerous testimonies covering the period 1958-2020, which clearly and unequivocally showed that J.M.M. had been responsible for different levels of abuse of at least 26 people.

The conclusion of the inquiry gave the Focolare Movement a series of [recommendations](#) so as to strengthen the safeguarding environment and the preventive measures, to put victims and survivors at the centre, and, consequently, actions of reparation, monitoring and review, including those related to fundamental changes at the cultural and leadership level.

In the [press release](#) of 19 May 2022, Margaret Karram, President of the Focolare Movement, announced that following the results of the GCPS Consulting Inquiry, a “decisive process began of re-orienting the life and activities of the Movement where the child and indeed all persons, in their complexity, are at the centre of every care, safeguarding, reparation and renewal process”.

**This report intends to reiterate the centrality of all the victims and survivors in this process to implement a culture of acceptance, of utmost respect for the dignity of the person and of ‘zero tolerance’.**

# DATA ON REPORTED CASES OF ABUSE WITHIN THE FOCOLARE MOVEMENT

## 3

### Premise

It is important to repeat that this process of purification and justice started with the people who courageously denounced the crime they had suffered. It is thanks to them that the Focolare Movement was able to begin a process of increasing awareness. Moreover, listening to those who had suffered abuse opened the way to the creation of the first instruments of assistance, psychological support and accompaniment.

### Key issues

As specified above, the following data concerns all the reports received by CO.BE.TU. since 2014, the year in which the international commission began its work of collecting reports and taking up cases. The report looks at cases of abuse that occurred between 1969 (the year of the first case known to the Focolare Movement, whereas GCPS stated that the testimonies they collected refer to abuses that occurred from 1958 onwards) and 2022.

We realise that the data tells only part of the story; even the time span in which the reports were collected may appear too limited (2014-2022), but these are the statistics we have available. However, we have tried to present as complete a picture as possible, including reports that concern people who have abused, who are not members of the Focolare Movement, but who committed the abuse in Focolare environments or during Focolare-promoted events (reported under “other”). We are ashamed of the lack of vigilance and safeguarding of children.

Some perplexity may arise because of the small number of referrals to the judicial authority (9). It should be specified that a choice had previously been made not to transmit to the judicial authority cases that would have been closed by the latter, without any verification, because they were prescribed under national laws. With the [Procedures for handling cases of abuse in the Focolare Movement](#), which is now taking effect, this practice changes because it is stipulated that all cases must be reported to the authorities. Other variables may concern cases where victims are unwilling to report or the fact that reporting is not required by law. Finally, cases defined as ‘closed’ are those for which it has been established that



there are insufficient grounds to proceed.

The internal investigation within the Focolare Movement concerning abuse of conscience, spiritual abuse and abuse of authority is even more recent, as shown by the date when reports began to be collected, 2018. Therefore, the data on people who have abused (31) concerns only those identified; some are still in the process of being identified.

## Sexual abuse of children or vulnerable adults

The following data refer to reports received by CO.BE.TU. (and not to actual facts) in the period 2014 -2022.

<b>Total number of reports</b>	61
Distinction of reports according to age of victims at the time of abuse	
	17 vulnerable adults
	29 (between 14 and 18 years of age)
	13 (under 14 years of age)
	2 reports for possession of child pornography material

<b>Total number of people who have abused</b>	66 <sup>1</sup>
	of whom:
	53 lay persons (32 with vows)
	5 priests/religious
	4 minors
	4 others <sup>2</sup>

Distinction of people who have abused by gender	63 men	3 women
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### Measures taken by the Focolare Movement

- 20 dismissed (i.e. the consecrated person is released from his or her vows following conviction for having committed an offence against a minor or vulnerable adult)
- 9 subjected to sanctions
- 19 pending cases
- 9 reported to the judicial authorities
- 6 suspended because they are awaiting other judgement (for the most part by the ecclesiastical authority)
- 12 closed, of which 1 deceased (these are cases in which it was established that there were insufficient grounds to proceed with the investigation)

Distribution of reports by geographical area:	39 Europe	15 America	3 Asia/Oceania	4 Africa
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- 1 The number of people who have abused is higher than the number of reports because some of them involved several people who abused.
- 2 People who have abused who are not members of the Focolare, but who have committed abuse within the premises or on the occasion of activities promoted by the Movement.

## Sexual abuse, abuse of conscience, spiritual abuse and abuse of authority towards adults

The following data refer to reports received by CO.BE.TU. (and not to actual facts that occurred) from 1 September 2021, and those received by the previous committee from 2018 until 31 December 2022.

**Total number of reports** 22

### Total number of people who have abused

31 plus some not yet identified<sup>3</sup>  
 of whom: 28 lay persons with vows  
 3 priests/religious

### Distinction of people who have abused by gender

12 men  
 19 women

### Measures taken by the Focolare Movement

14 pending cases  
 4 subjected to sanctions  
 4 closed, of which 2 deceased  
 (cases for which it was established that there were insufficient grounds to proceed with the investigation)

### Distribution of reports by geographical area

16 Europe  
 3 America  
 2 Africa  
 1 Asia/Oceania

<sup>3</sup> The number of people who have abused is higher than the number of reports because some reports indicate multiple people who have abused, some of whom are not identified, because the reports are not limited to individuals, but to the behaviour of groups of members.

# THE BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS IN THE FOCOLARE MOVEMENT

## 4

### 4.1 Independent Central Commission

Until 30 April 2023 the Commission for the Wellbeing and Safeguarding of Persons (CO.BE.TU.) will be responsible for handling reports of abuse within the Focolare Movement, as well as prevention, formation and accompaniment. From 1 May 2023, the Independent Central Commission will become operational and will deal exclusively with the handling of reports. It is divided into two distinct sections: the assessment section, which carries out the preliminary inquiries; the other, the investigative section, which conducts the evidence-gathering and decision-making phase of the proceedings.

The Independent Central Commission is composed of a minimum number of eight members, including a coordinator, three investigators and four who are responsible for inquiries all of whom have proven moral integrity, competence and professional experience in some of the following fields: medical/psychiatric, psychotherapeutic, pedagogical/formative, legal or moral, from different international backgrounds.

They are all appointed by the President and can be either people from outside or members of the Focolare Movement, but they cannot be members who hold governance positions at the central or local level, or who represent the Movement at any level.

The term of office is three years and may be renewed not more than once. It may be revoked by the President at any time for serious reasons, as provided for in the Regulations of the Independent Commission.

The Commission is autonomous and independent from any governing body of the Focolare Movement and is subject only to the control of compliance with the Guidelines and the Internal Regulations, by the Supervisory Board.

The Independent Central Commission performs the following roles:

- it collects reports of any kind of abuse known in any way, through its two sections (the assessment section and the investigative section). It conducts proceedings in cases within its competence as indicated in Article 4 of the Procedures for the handling of abuse cases in the Focolare Movement;
- it takes care to report the cases within its competence to the ecclesiastical and state authorities;
- if necessary, it draws on the advice of specialists and experts, entrusted with specific issues;

- on its own initiative or at the request of the national commissions, it assists and supports the activities of the national commissions, when necessary, by offering them appropriate indications and guidelines, taking into account the cultural sensitivity of the area, in order to implement consistent criteria in the handling of cases worldwide;
- it draws up and publishes an annual report on the activities of both the Independent Central Commission and the national independent commissions, sending a copy to the Presidency and the Supervisory Board.

E-mail: [abusereport.foc@gmail.com](mailto:abusereport.foc@gmail.com)

## 4.2 Independent National Commissions

The national commissions are composed of at least four members, appointed by those responsible for the Movement in the different geographical areas, according to criteria laid down for the composition of the Independent Central Commission: a coordinator, someone who carries out an assessment and two for the investigation.

Independent commissions will be set up in the Movement's international little towns, with the same characteristics as the national commissions, whose members will be appointed by those responsible for the Little Town. The national commissions and those of the little towns shall perform the roles recognised by the Independent Central Commission, within the limits of their competence, as set out in Article 4 of the Procedures for the handling of cases of abuse, adapting them appropriately to the territorial governmental structures, in agreement and in an atmosphere of continuous dialogue and consultation with the Independent Central Commission. To this end they will communicate every report they receive to the Independent Central Commission.

At present, national commissions or persons responsible for the safeguarding of persons (present where commissions have not yet been set up) are located around the world as follows:

- 15 America
- 12 Africa
- 15 Europe
- 6 Asia/Oceania

### 4.3 Supervisory Board

The [Supervisory Board](#) is appointed by the President and is made up of at least five members from outside the Focolare Movement, all of them of proven moral integrity, competence and experience in some of these fields: medical/psychiatric, psychotherapeutic, pedagogical/educational, legal or moral, from different international backgrounds, ensuring, as far as possible, gender parity in the composition.

The term of office is three years, renewable not more than once. The appointment can always be revoked by the President for serious reasons.

The Supervisory Board:

- Monitors the correct application of procedures by the Independent Central Commission and the national independent commissions, without, however, entering into the assessment of individual cases.
- Meets, at least twice a year, with the Independent Central Commission.
- Monitors the abuse prevention policy of the Focolare Movement, to which it gives appropriate recommendations if necessary.
- Assesses and expresses an opinion on complaints filed by victims, accused persons, or anyone with a legitimate interest regarding the work of the Independent Central Commission and the national independent commissions, as well as on the implementation of abuse prevention by the Focolare Movement;
- Draws up an annual report on its activities, which will be sent to the President, the Co-President and the Independent Central Commission and released to the public by the Focolare Movement.

E-mail: [supervisoryboard.cobetu@gmail.com](mailto:supervisoryboard.cobetu@gmail.com)

## RESPONSES AND PRIORITY MEASURES IN THE PROCESS OF BEING IMPLEMENTED BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY BY GCPS CONSULTING

### 5

We express our deep sadness and pain to the victims and survivors of sexual abuse by members of the FM and we thank GCPS for having brought to light the suffering inflicted on them. We commit ourselves to learn lessons from this inquiry and to do all that is possible to help those who belong to the Movement to embrace a culture of safeguarding and care at every level.

The recommendations by GCPS have put into evidence in a detailed way a series of key points that require a complete and exhaustive response. After analysing all the recommendations, we have begun working on those that require an immediate response and we have set up a working group to develop the responses and put them into practice.

Below we have listed the measures – in different phases of implementation – which are considered the most urgent and necessary, so that the Movement can firmly establish a process of reparation and make a positive new start. The new procedures for internal inquiries, together with guidelines for support and financial reparation in cases of sexual abuse of children and vulnerable adults, revised and renewed in 2023, represent the process offered by the Focolare Movement to victims and survivors from the moment of reporting the abuse incurred to eventual reparation.

### **A premise: putting at the centre those who have been abused**

People who have suffered abuse are at the centre of every process and are the priority. To open up about abuse takes enormous courage and a high level of trust. Therefore, when someone is ready to share their own story, it is indispensable that the one who is listening responds with great sensitivity and empathy. It is through meeting, listening to people and asking for forgiveness that the process of reparation can begin, and this can be followed by offering help and support.

Moreover the Focolare Movement wants to offer its complete availability to provide help, accompaniment and to guarantee justice to the victims, always respecting their desire to maintain anonymity.

## 5.1 Guidelines on support and financial reparation in the case of sexual abuse of children and vulnerable adults

During 2022 the Focolare Movement developed guidance for the support and the financial reparation of victims. At the end of the process (which can take place with the support of the internal commission or external organisations), if it is declared that abuse is likely to have occurred, a request for financial reparation should if possible be inserted in a process of reparative justice. In fact the Focolare Movement is aware that support for the victims should be carried out in a much more ample way than economic help and that no reparation can eliminate or compensate for the serious harm caused by the abuse. However listening, assistance and accompaniment are aimed as far as possible at the healing of the person, so as to heal, at least partly, such painful wounds in the person.

The [guidelines for support and financial reparation of victims of sexual abuse on children and vulnerable adults](#) have been implemented in several countries since the beginning of 2023 and will be gradually updated focussing on criteria which will enable a personalised approach for each individual situation.

The document illustrates, in summary form, a complete picture of the above-mentioned directives. For each country there can be different modalities, bearing in mind the obligations relative to the specific requests of the victims.

Victims who wish to ask for financial reparation regarding sexual abuse of children and vulnerable adults can send their requests to the following email address: [riparazione.mdf@focolare.org](mailto:riparazione.mdf@focolare.org).



## 5.2 Promoting reflection and a change of culture above all in the leadership of the Movement

The President and Co-president of the Focolare Movement immediately encouraged the members, especially the leadership, to study in depth the results of the Inquiry by GCPS Consulting. This has taken place through press releases to the international media, the website and official social media of the Movement and through world-wide video conferences with Focolare members. In the different groups and communities of the Movement, people continue to dedicate time to reflection and sharing. For example, in various countries in Western Europe, under the title “Speaking freely” meetings have been held in which to share one’s own experience in the Movement.

During the annual meeting of the General Council and of the people responsible for the different geographical areas, formation in matters concerning abuse was given by experts (from outside the Movement). Of particular importance were eight sessions entitled “The courage to listen, the courage to speak”, dedicated to a sincere and deep dialogue which offered the opportunity to look at one’s own story, and that of the community, in the perspective of the greater awareness that we have acquired today. This practice has been extended to the various communities of the Movement around the world and is being put into practice in small groups.

## 5.3 Publication of an annual report available worldwide

We confirm the publication, each year, of a summary of the work carried out by the Independent Central Committee, with reference to abuse cases, to measures of safeguarding and care in the Focolare Movement and the activities of formation of its members in the area of safeguarding.

***For a direct comparison with the recommendations of the GCPS Consulting survey see the Appendix section.***

## 5.4 Listening points to welcome people who have been abused

At the listening points it is possible to share traumatic experiences and distress in an atmosphere of trust and privacy. In Europe, several have been set up: one offering support to members of the Focolare in Austria, Germany and Switzerland, one for the other 14 countries of Western Europe, with experts for the different geographical areas who offer a service in different languages. In Central Europe there are listening points in Slovak and Polish.

A team of experts is developing a procedures to accompany victims and they are collaborating with other agencies, as is happening in France with [CRR \(Commission Reconnaissance Réparation\)](#).

## 5.5 Formation of members of the Movement on safeguarding

### Formation to prevent sexual abuse

Beginning in 2011, we felt it was urgent to establish a programme of formation to prevent abuse, especially aimed at the people in the Movement who work with young children and teenagers (who are not adults).

In order to do this, since 2013 the central team of CO.BE.TU has begun to establish environments that are formative and enable prevention at international level, through the following instruments:

- The **creation of commissions or local reference people** (at national level or for groups of countries) to whom is entrusted formation for accompaniers and people in contact with children;
- The **production of formation material**, which is available especially in the “**Basic Course for Safeguarding of Children**”. This is a training programme lasting for about six hours which presents the participants with the basic principles from the educational, psychological, medical and legal points of view, which are useful for prevention of abuse. There is also a “Manual for Assistants and Accompaniers” which offers practical and concrete ideas for implementing prevention effectively.

Work has also been done on a process of ‘inculturation’ of the formation content, to make it user friendly in many geographical areas and to create a network of experts for the specific formation of members of the Movement working with children.

By December 2022, **17,000 people had attended the basic course**, on all continents, with participants belonging to various Christian Churches and some from other religions. The course was translated into several languages and was conducted both in person and online.

The Safeguarding Commissions of Brazil and Mexico jointly presented a training project to CELAM (*Consejo Episcopal Latino-americano y Caribeño*), (The Council of Bishops' Conferences of Latin America and the Caribbean) which was approved by all the Bishops' Conferences of the continent.

In addition, since the year 2000, local training courses have taken place in some countries, offered, for example, by the Christian Churches (in some cases this was an essential prerequisite for working with children), or by associations dedicated to this purpose.

In **May 2022**, the President of the Focolare Movement formally and publicly declared her **commitment to make it compulsory for every member** worldwide, including children themselves, to **attend at least one basic course** on the protection of children and vulnerable adults. In order to fulfil this commitment, an international commission is being set up, which reports to the Focolare Movement governance and is separate from the Independent commission for Inquiries.

### **Formation for the prevention of spiritual abuse or abuse of authority**

The approach to this area is much more recent and is being implemented gradually.

Since June 2022, training courses have been taking place, **aimed above all at people in positions of responsibility at various levels**.

These courses have taken place also on line in various European countries and, through the cultural agencies of the F.M. (such as the Sophia University Institute and the Evangelii Gaudium Centre), or the centres of the branches through which the Movement is organised. Some of the topics covered were: spiritual abuse, the dignity of the person, the distinction between the sphere of governance and the sphere of conscience, spiritual accompaniment, participatory leadership.

Work is currently in progress on the planning and preparation of a booklet bringing together courses dedicated to the safeguarding of the person, and which will include various possibilities of training that already exist, or that can be followed in synergy with the local Church and/or other organisations working in these spheres. It will be possible to use them to supplement and complete the basic module, and they will be dedicated above all to those with positions of responsibility in the Movement.

## 5.6 New procedures of the Focolare Movement for safeguarding

The main new features concern:

1. Reporting, allegations and investigation procedures;
2. The brief of the Independent Central Commission;
3. The composition of the Independent Central Commission and its tasks.

### Procedures for Reporting, Allegations, and Investigations

In countries where mandatory reporting is required, the information is immediately forwarded to the judicial authorities. If national law does not provide for mandatory reporting, but the facts nevertheless constitute a crime, the commission will make the report to the judicial authorities immediately after ascertaining the likelihood of the facts, unless the victim or his/her parents object. Speed is an important element at this stage and every effort will be made to respect it, in order to facilitate immediate contact with the victim.

In line with international legislative standards, also highlighted in GCPS Consulting's recommendations, the reporting of abuse will also take place if the offence is statute-barred (it happened many years ago).

Sending the report to the ecclesiastical authorities will follow the norms of canon law.

Following the decisions of the judicial or ecclesiastical authorities, the Focolare Movement will apply measures and sanctions against the person accused.

The Independent Central Commission consists of two sections: one dealing with the assessment and the other conducting the preliminary investigation. In parallel, there are activities to accompany the victims and provide economic support.

### Tasks of the Independent Central Commission

In order to strengthen the independence of the Independent Central Commission and to increase the effectiveness of its work, the new procedures stipulate that the commission will only deal with the assessment and preliminary investigation reports.

The Movement will follow the activities of prevention, formation of the Movement's members and accompanying victims.

### **Composition of the Independent Central Commission**

Following the changed tasks of the International Commission, a renewal of its composition is underway. Two new qualified members, not belonging to the Movement, who are experts in handling cases of abuse and come from different countries, are being sought in order to increasingly promote an approach that is objective, independent and relative to different situations.

# CONTACTS

## 6

The information published in this document is available on the official [Website](#) of the Focolare Movement. In addition to English, translations of the original Italian document will soon be available in French, Spanish and Portuguese.

Communications, observations and questions on the content of this document can be sent to the following email address: [segreteria.tutela@focolare.org](mailto:segreteria.tutela@focolare.org).

To report abuse, write to: [abusereport.foc@gmail.com](mailto:abusereport.foc@gmail.com).

To contact the Supervisory Board: [supervisoryboard.cobetu@gmail.com](mailto:supervisoryboard.cobetu@gmail.com).

Victims who wish to ask for financial reparation for sexual abuse of children and vulnerable adults should write to the following email address: [riparazione.mdf@focolare.org](mailto:riparazione.mdf@focolare.org).

# APPENDIX:

## REFERENCE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY GCPS CONSULTING

The inquiry by GCPS gave the Movement a series of recommendations on various aspects. These are mainly from page 59 onwards. Since the recommendations were not numbered, below you will find in brackets the page or pages on which they can be found, in the Italian version.

In this document, many of the responses to these recommendations can be found, as indicated below.

### **Where action has already been taken**

- Modifications to the Guidelines and to the Independent Central Commission (p. 65).
- Modifications to the procedure regarding the reporting of cases (p. 64-65).
- Public communications, including the publication of an annual report (p. 66).
- The inclusion in the Supervisory Board of other experts from outside the Movement (p. 64).

**Processes underway** (many are already at an advanced stage and are described in the present document)

- Days for listening and reflection (p. 60).
- A plan for the accompaniment of victims/survivors (p. 62).
- A plan on prevention and for the training of those who belong to the Movement worldwide (p. 60-62);
- A plan for training the Movement's leaders (p. 60-62);
- Changes to the tasks and resources of the Independent Central Commission (p. 64-65);
- Mechanisms for support and reparation (p. 67-68).



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