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In partnership with



March 2025



Women and global safeguarding

In the spirit of International Women's Day celebrated on 8 March, we dedicate this newsletter to women. It was wonderful to see so many messages across the globe championing the rights, equality, and dignity of women and girls.

Young women and adolescent girls are not just the future – they are the present. We need to amplify their voices and give them opportunities for leadership more than one day a year.

We will be hosting a webinar on 30 April by Katharina Ahmadi-Wachter, MA, University of Hildesheim, who will share her findings from an evaluation of safeguarding in early childhood centres. [Read on](#) for more details about the webinar.

We also have a fascinating spotlight on Coleen Ramirez-Panahon, Director for Safeguarding Research and Reflection at the Catholic Safeguarding Institute in the Philippines.

[Read on](#) for other stories ...



Webinar on early childhood centres

We are delighted to announce that Katharina Ahmadi-Wachter, University of Hildesheim, will be presenting a webinar on 30 April 2024, 8 pm to 9pm (AEST). Katherina's topic is: Preventing harmful educator behaviour in childcare – a public health approach. She will talk about findings from a pilot project called *Mutausbruch* that developed and tested a prevention program in 25 childcare settings across Germany. One of the key findings is that preventing harmful educator behaviour requires more than policies and training—it demands a shift in institutional culture. We will send you an invitation to the zoom event soon.

[Read more](#)



Spotlight on Coleen Ramirez-Panahon

We'd like to introduce you to a highly motivated woman, Coleen Ramirez-Panahon, a member of the Global Safeguarding Alliance. Coleen has a deep understanding of the sensitivities needed in safeguarding practice, and the need for compassion when we engage in dialogue, knowledge building and reflection.

[Read more](#)



Women of faith, women of strength

The annual **International Safeguarding Conference** will be held in Rome on 17 - 20 June 2025 at the Pontifical Gregorian University in the heart of Rome's historic Trevi neighbourhood.

The conference will address the theme: **Women of faith, women of strength**. The conference will address issues of abuse and women from multiple perspectives, bringing together experts, faith leaders, safeguarding professionals, trauma specialists, academics, researchers and advocates to discuss, learn, and collaborate on solutions.

[Read more](#)



Community of Practice

We are looking at establishing a Community of Practice (CoP) for our Global Safeguarding Alliance network – we are learning about a very active one operating in the Catholic Safeguarding Institute and would like to learn about other options. If you know about a platform that we could use for our own CoP please get in touch with **Douglas Russell**.



Rev. Fr Hans Zollner visit to Australia

One of the Global Safeguarding Alliance founding members Rev. Fr Hans Zollner was down under in February, giving talks in the major cities of Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne and Adelaide. His trip was supported by Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Catholic Religious Australia and Australian Catholic University.

In his usual trademark honest appraisal of the state of safeguarding, Fr Zollner acknowledged that while much is being done to safeguard children and adults at risk in the Church, there is much more that can be done to share knowledge and resources, and a lot more that the Church must do to address its past failings. For a summary of his visit to Australia [read this article](#).



Webinars from 2024

In 2024, we presented three webinars. Presenters and attendees from all over the globe tuned in, engaged with challenging issues, and asked tough questions during Q&A time.

1. **What is a good measure?** presented by Gabrielle Hunt, PhD Candidate and Researcher, Institute of Child Protection Studies, Australian Catholic University, 25 March.
2. **Global study of Church leaders and safeguarding capabilities**, presented by Douglas Russell, PhD Candidate and Senior Researcher, Institute of Child Protection Studies, Australian Catholic University, 24 September.
3. **Boundary breaking: the crisis of child sexual abuse in the Catholic community in England and Wales**, presented by Dr Marcus Pound, A/Professor of Catholic Theology at Durham University, 10 December.



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