



PONTIFICIA
UNIVERSITÀ
GREGORIANA

*Centre for
Child Protection*

Zentrum für Kinderschutz
Centro per la protezione dei minori
Centre for Child Protection
Centro de protección de menores
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Press Release - English

Safeguarding 2.0

Launch of the new Licentiate in Safeguarding & Diploma Course Graduation Ceremony

- Presentation of the new two-year **Licentiate (Master) in Safeguarding**, annually offered by the Pontifical Gregorian University starting in October 2018.
- 18 Graduates of the **third Diploma Course in Safeguarding of Minors** of the Centre for Child Protection from the Pontifical Gregorian University successfully graduate.
- Graduation ceremony and presentation of final papers and posters of the Diploma students at the **Pontifical Gregorian University, Piazza della Pilotta, 00187 Rome, on 9 February 2018, at 10:30 a.m.**

Rome, February 9, 2018 – The graduation ceremony for the conclusion of the Diploma Course in Safeguarding of Minors of the Centre for Child Protection (CCP) will take place at the Pontifical Gregorian University on 9 February 2018.

At the graduation ceremony, the new two-year Licentiate (Master) in Safeguarding will be presented. In October 2018, it will be offered for the first time by the Pontifical Gregorian University as an interdisciplinary university degree. In keeping with the educational approach of the CCP, the Licentiate aims at responding to the need expressed by those who work in the field of safeguarding for thorough theoretical and practical formation. Addressing this manifest need, the CCP hopes that its students, through their participation in its formation programmes, may in turn respond and contribute to a shared commitment to safeguarding, creating a proactive network dedicated to promoting a culture of prevention.

The Licentiate will be taught in English. During one of the four semesters, the students will participate in an internship, according to their respective academic backgrounds.

Fr Hans Zollner, SJ, president of the CCP, is pleased with the approval of the Licentiate programme by the Congregation for Catholic Education, the Holy See's office for education: "We will be able to offer a high-level programme of academic and transformative formation and education. In its multidisciplinary approach and as a full-time academic degree it is the first of its kind worldwide. We want to make our contribution to a safer world for young people."

The graduation ceremony will honor the third class of 18 international students who have concluded the one-semester diploma programme, which, since 2016, has been held annually at the Pontifical Gregorian University in order to educate experts for the prevention of sexual abuse of minors and is based on a victims-first approach. Coordinated by Prof. Dr. Karlijn Demasure, executive director of the CCP, and Dr. Katharina A. Fuchs, the Diploma Course includes interdisciplinary classes given by international experts, who focus on different topics related to the safeguarding of children and adolescents.

By completing the Diploma Course, the students acquire the knowledge and competences, which make them able to return to their countries and make a substantial contribution to their local churches in the field of safeguarding and child protection. For this reason, the Diploma Course is a crucial part of the educational strategies promoted by the Centre for Child Protection to encourage and improve the prevention of child sexual abuse.

This year the students who participated in the course came from Czech Republic, Ghana, India, Japan, Lebanon, Mozambique, Nigeria, Slovakia, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, United States. In previous years, there have also been students from Belgium, Cameroon, Congo, Croatia, Italy, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Poland, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

The Diploma Course will be offered alongside the Licentiate programme.

Applications for the Diploma Course as well as for the Licentiate can be submitted until 30 June 2018.

The Centre for Child Protection (CCP) of the Institute of Psychology of the Pontifical Gregorian University was founded in January 2012 and is among the global initiatives within the Catholic Church for the prevention of sexual abuse of minors. In addition to training programmes for the prevention of sexual abuse, the CCP conducts interdisciplinary research and organizes international conferences on safeguarding of minors.

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