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*Centre for  
Child Protection*

Centro per la protezione dei minori  
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Centro de protección de menores  
Zentrum für Kinderschutz  
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## Centre for Child Protection renews and expands international prevention work

- The CCP has new premises in Rome
- Network of international partners is to be increased significantly
- E-learning programme to be thoroughly revised and internationalised
- New "Diploma in Safeguarding of Minors and Vulnerable Persons" interdisciplinary course starts in 2016
- Cardinal O'Malley: "Prevention of sexual abuse and other forms of violence of paramount importance for the universal Church."

**Rome, 16 February 2015** - The *Centre for Child Protection* (CCP) is undergoing a repositioning and is expanding its work on the prevention of sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable persons on an international scale. For this purpose, the Centre, which is part of the Pontifical Gregorian University, has now moved into new premises in Rome – the centre of the universal Church – after completing a three-year pilot phase, and has begun a fundamental revision of its programmes.

"The prevention of sexual and other kinds of abuse of minors is of greatest importance for the universal Church. I am confident and pray that the CCP will make a substantial contribution to this long-term effort," said Cardinal Sean O'Malley, OFM Cap, head of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, at the opening of the new location in Rome.

The CCP plans to significantly expand its network of partners around the world and intensify cooperation with them. Religious and non-religious institutions, especially in Asia, Africa and South America, are to be included as new partners – such as academic and other educational institutions, local churches, congregations and religious orders, and other non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The collaboration follows the principle of subsidiarity: the partners share responsibility for the project and contribute to the development of the programme. "The CCP's prevention and education work is only possible in collaboration with our partners. By significantly expanding our network, we want to increase the reach and impact of our efforts," said Father Hans Zollner SJ, President of the Centre. "We also expect to gain new insights of a scientific nature from our global cooperation with other institutions, such as the *Jesuit Refugee Service*, in particular with regard to cross-cultural differences in dealing with sexual abuse," added Father Zollner SJ.

The e-learning programme developed by the CCP over the past three years is currently being revised in collaboration with the prestigious Georgetown University in Washington. The goal is an interdisciplinary practical, interactive online course based on the Jesuit learning model of 'Experience – Reflection – Action'. The online qualification programme sensitises people who work with minors to the problem of sexual abuse and trains them to relate to victims/survivors of abuse. "The new e-learning course will be even more modern, more realistic and more accessible to different cultures. Our goal is to carry forth the content and expertise especially to regions where little attention has been paid to the issue of sexual abuse so far," said Prof. Dr. Karlijn Demasure, Executive Director of the CCP. In addition to this e-learning programme, the Centre is stepping up its research and teaching activities, and will interact closely with other academic institutions. "There are great opportunities in creating a network of academic institutions around the globe that engage in research concerning safeguarding of minors. The CCP can

become an important tool in such an effort for the Church and for society," said Professor Sheila the Baroness Hollins, Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board of the CCP. To further strengthen its teaching, from 2016 on the Centre will offer a new diploma course on safeguarding at the Pontifical Gregorian University. The "Diploma in Safeguarding of Minors and Vulnerable Persons" aims primarily at students who work in abuse prevention or want to specialise in it. Every year, a selected group of 15 to 18 students will be able to get a diploma in a one-semester programme.

"With its new initiatives, the CCP sees itself as at the forefront of the fight against sexual abuse. We will continue down our successful path unswervingly and quickly, because we are convinced that 'healing and renewal' are possible if we trust in the power of God and at the same time use our strength and the strength of those who accompany us," said Father Hans Zollner SJ, adding: "At the new location in Rome we can also count on the generous support of the Archdiocese of Munich and Freising, which alongside the Archdiocese of Luxembourg, Pontifical Missionary Childhood of Germany "Die Sternsinger", the German Bishops Conference and the Papal Foundation deserve our sincere thanks for their support. We would be delighted if more donors help us to expand our work."

The Centre for Child Protection was first opened in Munich in January 2012 by the Institute of Psychology of Pontifical Gregorian University in cooperation with the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry/Psychotherapy at the University Hospital of Ulm, and with the support of the Archdiocese of Munich and Freising. The founding of the CCP was part of a global initiative for the prevention of sexual abuse of minors. After successful completion of the pilot phase at the end of 2014, the CCP relocated its headquarters to Rome in January 2015. In addition to training programmes for the prevention of sexual abuse, the CCP conducts interdisciplinary research and doctoral programmes and organises international conferences on abuse prevention and safeguarding.