

“With this in mind, I can already promise for myself personally, but also for the Archdiocese of Munich and Freising, that we will continue to support the CCP and provide financial support,” Cardinal Marx said.

“Educating professionals on child safeguarding techniques is critical to the development of broader prevention strategies. If we are to prevent harm from occurring in the first place, we need to ‘grow’ or increase the professional capacity to address child sexual abuse as the preventable public health problem that it is,” emphasizes the international renowned expert **Professor Elizabeth J. Letourneau**, Director of the Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA. She also stresses the fact that: “Child sexual abuse is a preventable public health problem, yet the world continues to address it almost exclusively after the fact, with a focus on criminal justice and victim services. While these are essential foci, a paradigm shift is long overdue, in which nations and governments expend resources up front, to prevent harm from occurring in the first place, as well as after harm has already occurred.”

The current global debate on child abuse by representatives of ecclesiastical institutions shows how important it is to train those who have an influence on the procedures in institutions and can proactively protect potential victims. Since its foundation, the CCP has made an important contribution to this purpose.

The *Child Dignity in the Digital World Congress* in October 2017 impressively demonstrated that interdisciplinary and international cooperation is needed to fight child abuse.

Major Dana Humaid, Director of the Project Management and Shared Services Office, Acting Director of the Child Protection Centre at the General Secretariat of the Ministry of Interior, United Arab Emirates, emphasizes the important interfaith dimension in protecting children: “In today’s complex world, there is an urgent need for action on emerging issues that are central to the health and safety of society; issues that are foundational to the morality of humanity. Building on last year’s pioneering World Congress organized by the CCP, The Interfaith Alliance for Safer Communities and its first forum, ‘Child Dignity in the Digital World’ have been established to provide a platform for facilitating positive action amongst faith communities and global leaders worldwide.”

About the Centre for Child Protection (CCP)

The Centre for Child Protection was established by the Pontifical Gregorian University (PUG), the Archdiocese of Munich and Freising, and the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychotherapy of the State University Clinic of Ulm. During its pilot phase from 2012 to 2014, the Centre was based in Munich. The CCP was officially launched in Rome in February 2015.

The overall objective of the CCP is the academic and professional promotion of safeguarding through education, formation programmes, conferences, communication, and research.

The new Licentiate builds on the already established Diploma in Safeguarding of Children that was established at CCP in 2016.