



Lord, be for us the way, the truth and the life.

Make us eminently human and wholly of God

Madrid, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Addressed to: local leaders and ACIT presidents  
and all members and cooperators of the Teresian Association

**Subject:** The Commission's work plan and proposals for proper care and action to be taken in the event of abuse

Dear members and cooperators of the Teresian Association,

The Vatican has just held a summit on the abuse of minors within the Church, and we all hope for profound renewal. We on the Commission for proper care and action in the event of abuse are once again contacting you to let you know about the work we are doing since the General Council approved the work plan for 2019. This work plan was also sent to the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life as they requested in a letter to the TA President. The Commission met on 18 and 19 February. Estrella Sendra has joined us because of her experience in working with children and adolescents in TA projects in Guatemala and African countries. She is currently undergoing training on accompaniment and protection.

Here we will inform you about the points of our work plan and the progress being made. It takes into account the recommendations of the General Council during their recent meeting in February.

### 1. Compilation of good practices

We have received documents from various entities, schools and projects of the Teresian Association in different countries. We express our thanks for the documents received as they contribute much to our reflection and development of a general framework for our institutional Protection Policy.

We received documents from the following:

#### **Guatemala:**

- The Pedro Poveda Foundation Institutional Policy for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents.



#### Chile:

- The Alberto Pérez College (Maipú):
  - I. Protocol on School Violence.
  - II. Protocol on Child Sexual Abuse.
  - III. Protocol on Action against cyberbullying.

#### Spain:

- Profile of animators in the *ACIT Joven* Youth Movement.
- Escola Arrels (Barcelona):
  - I. Protocol on the prevention of sexual abuse in schools.
  - II. Protocol on bullying.
  - III. Protocol on the prevention and detection of cases of harassment at work (moral, sexual and gender related).
- Colegio El Armelar (Valencia):
  - I. Protocol on action in cases of child abuse.
- The InteRed Foundation:
  - I. Protocol on action against harassment in the workplace.
  - II. Protocol on the prevention of and action against sexual harassment or gender related harassment.

The Commission has also carried out a search for resources and good practices used by public administrations and other organisations of the Catholic Church that have a track record in this area.

## 2. Training process

It is planned to start this process by preparing two framework documents:

- The first will survey the life and writings of the Teresian Association to demonstrate our commitment to the dignity of persons and the defence of Human Rights.
- The second will identify the path taken by our societies (legal framework) in the defence of the rights of individuals, and especially children, women and the most vulnerable groups. For the formulation and revision of these documents we count on the collaboration of several people qualified in these subjects.

Other training activities being planned are seminar-workshops:

The first seminar-workshop will be international and is scheduled for 23 to 26 July 2019 in Los Negrales (Madrid).



The aim of this seminar-workshop is to motivate and train TA members whose institutional role means that they can be multipliers of this training (General Council, General Training Department, Council for Culture and other general offices, members of leadership teams or those involved in training at the local level and in ACIT associations). In March all the information will be given concerning topics, people who will speak at the seminar and logistical aspects.

A second seminar-workshop will take place in the last quarter of 2019 for TA members and cooperators directly involved in working with children and young people in schools, organisations and social and pastoral projects in Spain.

### 3. Institutional Policy for the Protection of Children

An important step in the process will be the development of a Child Protection Policy for the Teresian Association. It will include a code of conduct for all members and cooperators of the TA and a framework protocol for intervention in cases of abuse, taking into account the civil legislation of each country.

We recognise that the TA in certain areas is already carrying out what we are proposing to the whole Association, and we wish to build on this experience.

### 4. Establishment of an Advisory Commission

In addition to the commission responsible for initiating this process and drawing up an institutional policy for the protection of children, an advisory commission will be set up.

The tasks of the Advisory Committee are the following:

- Advise and give answers and technical support in response to consultations arriving from the TA around the world.
- Guarantee the protection of children wherever there are minors, and monitor the implementation of the protection policy.

The committee will report to the General Council on what has been done each year. The person who will liaise and coordinate between the TA President, the General Council and the Advisory Committee will be Carmen Serrano.

This commission, because of the scope of its mandate, will be made up of experts in the legal, psychological and educational fields. There will be people internal and also external to the Teresian Association.

Some contacts have already been made. Once the Advisory Commission is confirmed and set up, we will make this known and provide the relevant information.

### 5. Awareness, information and visibility

At the meetings of the Continental Platforms (Asia, Europe and America), a space will be allowed for reflection and exchange on this topic.



We remind you that on the public website there is an open space that is available for anyone interested. We are happy to receive suggestions sent to the email of the commission [buentrato@institucionteresiana.org](mailto:buentrato@institucionteresiana.org).

You can also send us resources to help us all in this joint commitment to proper care and prevention of abuse. By means of the webpage we will share the documents drawn up by the Commission.

To conclude, we take up the words that Francis addressed to the presidents of bishops' conferences and superiors of religious orders meeting in Rome recently:

“The holy People of God looks to us, and expects from us not simple and predictable condemnations, but concrete and effective measures to be undertaken. We need to be concrete.”

May the concrete measures that we undertake help us to better ensure the rights of children and adolescents and to protect them always in our institutional endeavours.

With warm best wishes,

Cecilia Padvalskis, María del Mar Palacios, Carmen Serrano, Estrella Sendra