

Declaration of Voluntary Commitment

(Surname)

(First name)

(Date of birth)

The Catholic Church wishes to offer girls and boys, young women and men living spaces in which they can develop their personality, skills and aptitudes. These should be protected places in which young people feel accepted and safe. Children and adolescents need and find role models who respect and support them as independent personalities and whom they can trust. The responsibility for protecting girls and boys, young women and men rests with voluntary and full-time and part-time employees in the entire field of church work involving contact with children and adolescents. These employees are obliged to handle their wards in a reflected manner and to highlight promptly and appropriately any boundary violations that have been committed by their colleagues or by the girls and boys, young women and men entrusted to them. Signing this Declaration of Voluntary Commitment will provide corroboration hereof.

I undertake to do everything in my power to ensure that no one commits acts of psychological, physical or sexualized violence on the girls and boys, young women and men entrusted to me.

1. I will support the girls and boys, young women and men in their development into personally responsible individuals capable of faith and community life. I will encourage them in the effective defence of their right to psychological and physical integrity and their right to obtain help.

2. My work with the girls and boys, young women and men entrusted to me will be informed by esteem and trust. I will respect their rights and their dignity.

3. I will handle matters of physical proximity and distance carefully and responsibly. I will respect the privacy and the personal boundaries of shame of the girls and boys, young women and men entrusted to me and my own boundaries. I will also observe this when using the media, particularly mobile phones and the Internet.

4. I will endeavour to perceive any form of personal boundary violation consciously and to take the appropriate measures to protect the young people. I will take an active stand against discriminatory, violent and sexist behaviour, whether in word or deed. If the people in close contact with children and adolescents become sexually intrusive or physically violent, I will stand up for the protection of the girls and boys, young women and men. I will likewise intervene if those entrusted to me attack others in this vein. I will listen if they wish to give me to understand that they are the subject of psychological, sexualized and physical violence by other people. I am aware that psychological, sexualized and physical violence is committed not only by male, but also by female perpetrators and that not only girls, but also boys frequently become victims.

5. I am familiar with the procedural channels and the corresponding (initial) contacts for my bishopric, my association or my supporting organization. I know where to seek advice or to obtain help in terms of clarification and support, if need be, and will avail myself thereof.

The procedural channels, the (initial) contacts etc. can be found on our website at www.praevention.bistumlimburg.de

6. I am aware of my special position of trust and authority in relation to the girls and boys, young women and men entrusted to me and will act transparently and honestly. I will not take advantage of any dependents.

7. I am aware that any sexualized act with wards may have disciplinary consequences and/or consequences under criminal law.

8. I have been informed, by means of a handout, about issues relating to the protection of children and adolescents in accordance with the requirements of the ordinance for the prevention of sexual abuse of minors in my bishopric, have read this carefully and am aware that I can keep updated on professional development and further education programmes and issues pertaining to practical prevention on the bishopric's homepage at www.praevention.bistumlimburg.de.

The handout regarding the Declaration of Voluntary Commitment is available at www.praevention.bistumlimburg.de > Bestimmungen

9. I hereby confirm that I have not been convicted of any crime in connection with sexualized violence¹ and that no investigations have been opened against me in this respect. In the event that investigations are opened against me in this regard, I undertake to inform my superior or the person that has entrusted me to carry out my voluntary activity immediately thereof. I can also comply with my undertaking to provide notification of any ongoing investigations by sending a corresponding notice to the body that is responsible for checking my enhanced clearance certificate, in accordance with clause 3 of the implementing regulations to the prevention ordinance.

Place and date

Signature

¹ Sections 171, 174 to 174c, 176 to 180a, 181a, 182 to 184f, 225, 232 to 233a, 234, 235 or 236 of the *Strafgesetzbuch* (German Criminal Code - StGB) [see <http://www.gesetze-im-internet.de> (> Gesetze/Verordnungen > S > StGB)].