



International Conference

INVITATION

The Council of Europe's Fight Against Child Abuse in Institutions in Europe

Palais de l'Europe, Room 7 - Strasbourg, France

5 December 2024 Welcome Dinner

6 December 2024 International Conference

On 26 January 2024, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) took a historic step by calling for the recognition of abuse in institutions across Europe (Resolution 2533). This decision emphasizes the need for comprehensive reparation for all forms of violence against children, including sexual abuse, physical violence, and mistreatment in public, private, and religious institutions. Drawing on the example of good practice in Switzerland, PACE called for “full reparation for all violence committed against children” that truly reflects the seriousness of and is proportionate to the harm done.

The member States of the Council of Europe face different challenges when it comes to dealing with past cases of abuse. To show the member States how reparation can be done on an individual basis, the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development is organising an international conference together with the Swiss delegation to the PACE and the Guido Fluri Foundation.

Palais de l'Europe, Room 7 - Strasbourg
6 December 2024

Prominent speakers, survivors, NGOs, academics, and politicians from various countries, will share insights, experiences, and strategies to guide member States in effectively addressing these critical issues and successfully take the path of reparation.

To read the Resolution 2533 adopted on January 26, 2024, click on this [link](#) or scan the QR code.



PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE (I)

5 December 2024

18.30 Welcome Dinner hosted by the Guido Fluri Foundation with short statements by:

- **Pierre-Alain Fridez** : Vice-president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and Rapporteur on child abuse in institutions in Europe (Resolution 2533), Member of the Swiss National Council
- **Aoife Nolan**, President of the European Committee of Social Rights
- **Dr. h.c. Guido Fluri**, Guido Fluri Foundation

Please register for dinner before 25 November 2024 by clicking on this [link](#) or scanning this QR code.



6 December 2024

11.30 Welcoming words

- **Chairperson** of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- **Alfred Heer**, Chairperson of the Swiss Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Member of the Swiss National Council
- **Dr. h.c. Guido Fluri**, Guido Fluri Foundation

11.45 RECOGNITION OF CHILD ABUSE IN SWITZERLAND, A MODEL FOR EUROPE

- **Dr. Susanne Kuster**, Deputy Director of the Swiss Federal Office of Justice, on the basis of a legislative act: how Switzerland has dealt with the cases of child abuse and compensated the survivors
- **Prof. Alexander Grob**, Head of NRP 76, on the scientific investigation and review
- **Survivors' perspective**: Why reparation is key for survivors
- Q&A session

13.00 Standing lunch hosted by the Swiss Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

14.00 CHILD ABUSE IN EUROPE - CURRENT SITUATION

- **Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid**, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on Violence against Children, Video message
- **George Nikolaidis**, Lanzarote Committee, Bureau member, Psychiatrist and Research Director of the Department of Mental Health and Social Welfare, Institute of Child Health, Greece

PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE (II)

6 December 2024

- 14.15
- **Eva Díaz Bethencourt**, Presentation of the European “Our Voice - Survey for survivors of sexual violence in childhood”
 - **Focus NGO**: Mie Kohiyama, executive member of the Brave Movement, co-founder of BeBraveFrance and Benjamin Moron, Professor of Law, University Lyon 2
- 14.45 IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 2533 IN MEMBER STATES
- **Serbia**: Tatjana Macura, Minister without portfolio in charge of gender equality, prevention of violence against women and economic and political empowerment of women
 - **Bosnia and Herzegovina**: Adnan Delić, Federal minister for labour and social affairs, Malik Garibija, national director of SOS Children's Villages in Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - **France**: Karine Lebon, Deputy of the French National Assembly - Réunion Island's 2nd constituency, French Overseas Delegation, Social Affairs Commission, Women's Rights Delegation
 - **Germany**: Kerstin Claus, Independent Commissioner for Child Sexual Abuse Issues
 - **Spain**: Maitane Ipiñazar Miranda, Basque parliamentary (Basque Nationalist Party, EAJ-PNV). President of the Well-being, youth and demographic challenge commission and Spokesperson of the Equality and Development Cooperation Commission
 - **Greece**: Eftychia Katsigaraki, General Director of Special Legal Affairs and Human Rights, Greek Ministry of Justice. Independent expert in ENF-VAE Committee, Council of Europe
 - **Romania**: Florin Soare, Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes (IICMER), expert IA/Head of Service: Special Investigations Office
 - **Ukraine**: Olena Khomenko, Member of Parliament of Ukraine and Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- 16.40 FOCUS ON CLERICAL ABUSE
- **Survivors' perspective**: testimonial
 - **Hans Zollner**, Director of the Institute of Anthropology. Interdisciplinary Studies on Human Dignity and Care, Pontifical Gregorian University, one of church's leading protagonists in the fight against clerical sexual abuse
- 17.00 CONCLUSIONS
- **Federal Councillor Beat Jans**, Head of the Federal Department of Justice and Police FDJP
 - **Alain Berset**, Secretary General of the Council of Europe (tbc)
- 17.30 **End of the conference**