

An overview of the status of Guidelines review in the local churches: Africa

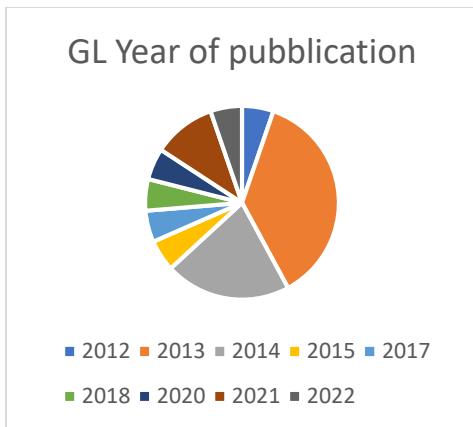
TO: Members of the Regional Group of Africa
FROM: Rev. Andrew Small, OMI, Secretary
CC: Cardinal Sean O'Malley, OFM. Cap., President
DATE: September 2023
RE: Policy review

1) List of countries analysed by DDF and PCPM before 2022:

ALGERIA (Cerna)	LIBYA (STATE OF) (Cerna)
ANGOLA (REP. OF) (SACBC)	MALAWI
BENIN (REP. OF)	MALI (REP. OF)
BURUNDI (REP. OF)	MAURITIUS
CAMEROON (REP. OF)	MOROCCO (KINGDOM OF) (Cerna)
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	MOZAMBIQUE
CONGO (DEM. REP. OF THE) (SACBC)	NAMIBIA
EGYPT (ARAB REP. OF)	RWANDA
EQUATORIAL GUINEA (REP. OF)	SIERRA LEONE (REP. OF)
ESWATINI (SACBC)	SOUTH AFRICA (REP. OF) (SACBC)
ETHIOPIA (FED. DEM. REP. OF)	SUDAN (REP. OF)
GHANA	TANZANIA
IVORY COAST (REP. OF THE)	TUNISIA (REP. OF) (Cerna)
KENYA (REP. OF) (SACBC)	UGANDA (REP. OF)
LESOTHO (KINGDOM OF)	WESTERN SAHARA (Cerna)
LIBERIA (REP. OF)	ZAMBIA (REP. OF)

2) List of guidelines analysed by the PCPM under *Praedicate Evangelium* art. 78 §2:

ALGERIA (Cerna)	MAURITIUS
ANGOLA (REP. OF) (SACBC)	MOROCCO (KINGDOM OF) (Cerna)
BURUNDI (REP. OF)	RWANDA
CAMEROON (REP. OF)	SOUTH AFRICA (REP. OF) (SACBC)
ESWATINI (SACBC)	TANZANIA
IVORY COAST (REP. OF THE)	TUNISIA (REP. OF) (Cerna)
KENYA (REP. OF) (SACBC)	WESTERN SAHARA (Cerna)
LESOTHO (KINGDOM OF)	ZAMBIA (REP. OF)
LIBYA (STATE OF) (Cerna)	ZIMBABWE (REP. OF)



3) General trends

After the analysis of guidelines received by the PCPM from the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, and its amendments, the Commission highlights the need to update policies after the promulgation of a series of new laws and procedures, and the development of safeguarding strategies.

However, the Commission notes that the approach to this matter has been, based on the circular letter forwarded by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in 2011, mainly juridical, and there is space to expand these documents in the areas of prevention, victims' outreach and training. About the development of easily accessible offices for complaints, the Commission considers a priority to foster a robust model for outreach and assistance: a consistent number of local Church is still working on the consolidation of such offices due to a lack of resources.

In addition, the Commission recognizes how the relation between civil authority and canon law poses a challenge to local Churches to maintain aligned standards and practices.

It is therefore planned by the Commission to collaborate with Bishops' Conferences in order to foster a comprehensive innovation in policies, on the basis of the most recent canonical regulations which have undergone considerable changes in the last five years, but also on the basis of the new UGF, which wants to promote a more proactive response by the Church, including prevention, victims' assistance, inculcation and education.

An overview of the status of Guidelines policy review in the local churches by region

TO: Members of the Regional Group of Asia
FROM: Rev. Andrew Small, OMI, Secretary
CC: Cardinal Sean O'Malley, OFM. Cap., President
DATE: Septemeber 2023
RE: Policy Review

1. List of countries analysed by DDF and PCPM before 2022:

AUSTRALIA
BANGLADESH
CHINA
INDIA - Catholic Bishops' Conference of India
INDONESIA
JAPAN
LAOS-CAMBODIA
MALAYSIA-SINGAPUR-BRUNEI
MYANMAR
PAKISTAN
PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND SOLOMON ISLANDS
PHILIPPINES
SOUTH KOREA
SRI LANKA
THAILAND
VIETNAM

2. List of guidelines analysed by the PCPM under *Praedicate Evangelium* art. 78 §2:

AUSTRALIA	PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND SOLOMON ISLANDS
BANGLADESH	PHILIPPINES
JAPAN	SOUTH KOREA
LAOS-CAMBODIA	SRI LANKA

MALAYSIA-SINGAPUR-BRUNEI	THAILAND
MYANMAR	VIETNAM
NEW ZEALAND	
PAKISTAN	



3. General trends

Although the PCPM's analysis of guidelines from the Asian region reveals a limited sample size, it is reflective of the complexities of a global outreach in safeguarding in this continent as a whole.

The Commission recognizes a notable difference in approaches among those that have been assessed. Some nations have very comprehensive sets of guidelines that have a strong focus on training and preventive measures, embodying the essence of empowerment and capacity-building. Other local Churches have guidelines more focused on procedural phases for dealing with cases of abuse.

Recognizing these disparities, the Commission is willing to collaborate to all Bishops' conferences as active contributors to this transformative journey, being encouraged to continue to develop and implement guidelines. It is important that this work puts an emphasis on both education and preventive strategies, serving to foster a culture of safeguarding, especially in parts of Asia where children's rights might be overlooked or not fully recognized.

In regions where children's rights remain not prioritized the Commission notes good chances to raise attention to this mission working with local Churches developing resources to nurture and fortify a culture of safeguarding. The emphasis should be on empowerment, education, and the unwavering commitment to the dignity of every individual.

An overview of the status of Guidelines policy review in the local churches by region

TO: Members of the Regional Group of Europe
FROM: Rev. Andrew Small, OMI, Secretary
CC: Cardinal Sean O'Malley, OFM. Cap., President
DATE: September 2023
RE: Policy review

1. List of countries analysed by DDF and PCPM before 2022:

ALBANIA	LATVIA
AUSTRIA	LITHUANIA
BELGIUM	LUXEMBOURG
BOSNIA ERZEGOVINA	MALTA
BULGARIA	MOLDOVA
CROATIA	POLAND
CZECH REPUBLIC	PORTUGAL
ENGLAND and WALES	ROMANIA
ESTONIA	SERBIA
FRANCE	SLOVAKIA
GERMANY	SLOVENIA
GREECE	SPAIN
HUNGARY	SWITZERLAND
IRELAND	THE NETHERLANDS
ITALY	UKRAINE

2. List of guidelines analysed by the PCPM under *Praedicate Evangelium* art. 78 §2:

AUSTRIA	ITALY	SCOTLAND
BOSNIA ERZEGOVINA	LATVIA	SERBIA
BULGARIA	LITHUANIA	SLOVAKIA
CROATIA	MALTA	SLOVENIA
ENGLAND and WALES	POLAND	SPAIN
ESTONIA	PORTUGAL	SCOTLAND
FRANCE	ROMANIA	
GERMANY	RUSSIA	

HUNGARY	ITALY	
IRELAND	LATVIA	



3. General trends

Considering that Europe is one of the continents where the Church has a longer history in developing policies with consistent resources, the Commission concentrated on analyzing the guidelines coming from other continents. For this reason, the number of guidelines analyzed on the European continent is lower than in other regions. However, from the analysis of the countries under focus, it is possible to see a good degree of development of policies. Most countries updated their guidelines following the promulgation of VELM by setting up easily accessible offices to receive complaints. Some local Churches are under the focus of the Commission for the next phase of work, such as Portugal and other Eastern European countries, like Slovenia.

The Commission recognizes the need to collaborate with Bishops' Conferences that have not updated their GLs according to the most recent normative reforms (in particular according to the reform of Book VI of the Code of Canon Law), and on the basis of the new UGF that will be presented by the PCPM. In fact, following to the Circular Letter of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith of 2011, the Commission aims to deepen and expand its set of principles beyond the main jurisdictional issues, focusing on victims/survivors inclusion, promotion of human rights, prevention and education strategies. The next phase of the UGF, including criteria for the implementation of policies, will be aimed to analyze the effectiveness of those GLs.

An overview of the status of Guidelines policy review in the local churches by region

TO: Members of the regional group of America
FROM: Rev. Andrew Small, OMI, Secretary
CC: Cardinal Sean O'Malley, OFM. Cap., President
DATE: September 2023
RE: Policy review

1. List of countries analysed by DDF and PCPM before 2022:

ARGENTINA	GUATEMALA
BOLIVIA	HAITI
BRAZIL	HONDURAS
CANADA	MEXICO
CHILE	NICARAGUA
COLOMBIA	PANAMA
COSTA RICA	PARAGUAY
CUBA	PERU
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	PUERTO RICO
ECUADOR	USA
EL SALVADOR	VENEZUELA

2. List of guidelines analysed by the PCPM under *Praedicate Evangelium* art. 78 §2:

BRAZIL
CHILE
COLOMBIA
CUBA
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
MEXICO
NICARAGUA
PARAGUAY
USA



3. GLs subjected to preliminary analysis pending finalization within the regional group:

ARGENTINA
BOLIVIA
COSTA RICA
ECUADOR
EL SALVADOR
GUATEMALA
PARAGUAY
PERU
URUGUAY
VENEZUELA

4. General trends

An analysis of the guidelines received by the PCPM from the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith shows that, in the American region, the development of guidelines has continued and there are many bishops' conferences that have continued to further develop and better implement their own guidelines. The Commission recognizes, however, the need for further collaboration with Episcopal Conferences to promote the next level of policies. In particular, several policies can expand the role of procedures according to the most recent canonical legislation, especially the reform of Book VI of the Code of Canon Law, which has led to considerable changes.

The Commission notes that also the parts of GLs dealing with prevention and formation can be further expanded with the new UGF. The development of offices for the reception of complaints, as envisaged by VELM, is under the attention of the Commission so that all Bishops' Conferences have standardized procedures for assisting victims/survivors and all parties involved, providing robust ways to assist victims/survivors.