

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

[May 2024]

Between

The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors (PCPM)

and

The Episcopal Conference of Malawi

and

The Association of Men Religious Institutes in Malawi

and

The Association of Women Religious Institutes in Malawi



COMMISSIO
TUTELA MINORUM

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PARTIES

The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors

and

The Episcopal Conference of Malawi

and

The Association of Men Religious in Malawi

and

The Association of Women Religious in Malawi

- i) Whereas the Apostolic Constitution *Praedicate Evangelium*, in Article 78, §1 establishes the ministry of safeguarding as a specific and permanent activity of the Roman Curia;
- ii) Whereas the Supreme Pontiff enumerated to the Commission “I urge you to assist the Conferences of Bishops – this is very important: to assist and oversee in dialogue with the Conferences of Bishops – in establishing suitable centres where individuals who have experienced abuse, and their family members, can find acceptance and an attentive hearing, and be accompanied in a process of healing and justice” (Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Commission, 29 April 2022);
- iii) Whereas the Apostolic Constitution *Praedicate Evangelium*, in Article 78, §2 establishes the Commission’s mandate to “assist diocesan/eparchial bishops, Bishops Conferences and Eastern Hierarchical Structures, Superiors of Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life and their Conferences in developing appropriate strategies and procedures, through Guidelines to protect minors and vulnerable persons from sexual abuse”;
- iv) Whereas the Supreme Pontiff, explicitly instructed the Commission “on an annual basis, to prepare a report on the Church’s initiatives for the protection of minors and vulnerable adults.” (Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Commission, 29 April 2022);
- v) Whereas the Supreme Pontiff outlined that “This report will be a factor of transparency and accountability and – I hope – will provide a clear audit of our progress in this effort. Without that progress, the faithful will continue to lose trust in their pastors, and preaching and witnessing to the Gospel will become increasingly difficult.” (Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Commission, 29 April 2022);

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- vi) Whereas the Motu Proprio *Vos Estis Lux Mundi*, in Article 2, §1 requires that “the Dioceses or the Eparchies, individually or together, must provide for institutions or offices that are easily accessible to the public for the submission of reports”;
- vii) Whereas to “propose better methods to enable the Church to protect minors and vulnerable persons and to assist the healing of survivors, in the recognition that justice and prevention are complimentary” (Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Commission, 29 April 2022);

establish by this Memorandum of Understanding a collaboration in which they agree to jointly pursue the realization of the Canonical, spiritual, pastoral, and human rights requirements, surrounding the protection of minors and vulnerable adults.

INTRODUCTION

The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors (Commission) hereby sets out to establish a Memorare Initiative (MI) with the Episcopal Conference of Malawi, in collaboration with the Conferences of Religious of Men and Women, partially financed by the Commission’s Memorare Fund. This MI is designed to:

- i. Provide outreach to victims and survivors (V/S) of abuse and receive them in a safe environment, by providing material and human resources in a stable and accessible structure. In this pursuit, it will listen and care for persons who have experienced abuse, facilitating reporting in a non-judgmental and discrete environment.
- ii. Assist the needs of V/S, their family and community by offering pastoral, medical, legal and informational support to persons impacted by primary and secondary abuse. This assistance will be offered through providing referral services, for professional treatment, free of charge for V/S. As such, the MI might help V/S access local resources and professionals, while also monitoring the effectiveness of these services.
- iii. Enhance and facilitate access to reporting systems for V/S, consistent with Article 2 of the Motu Proprio *Vos Estis Lux Mundi*. Promote and oversee follow-up communications, after the submission of a report to afford V/S information on the status of their reports.
- iv. Provide advanced formation courses to specialized staff, focusing on safeguarding practices and philosophy, while still considering locally, personally, and culturally sensitive aspects of the material. The primary objective of these courses will be to train

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safeguarding practitioners in the local church, to lead the creation of a safe environment for all involved. It will also form Church authorities on their engagement and communications with survivors.

- v. Provide basic formation courses to the wider Church community, especially all clergy, religious, lay movements, Catholic school teachers, Catholic hospital operators, etc. The primary objective of these courses will be to train the whole local church on the safeguarding paradigm so as to promote an integral culture of protection.
- vi. Commemorate the experiences of V/S to elevate social consciousness and promote healing, to recognize, acknowledge, and honour their experiences without stigmatization.
- vii. Develop tools and initiatives to spread understanding of the existence and extent of the phenomenon of abuse, to facilitate protective measures, and to publicize these initiatives by the Church.

KEY PARTIES

The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors (Commission)
The Episcopal Conference of Malawi (ECM)
The Association of Religious Men Institutes in Malawi (AMRIM)
The Association of Women Religious Institutes in Malawi (AMRIM)

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

1.0 The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors (Commission) will:

- i) Promote and facilitate a collaboration among the actors in this MoU, and subsequent Memorare Plan, by supporting and encouraging the One Church collaborative model, between the Bishops and Religious
- ii) Provide the MI with information about good practices formulated by the Universal Church in the protection of minors and vulnerable adults
- iii) Screen and certify candidates for the position of Memorare Advisor (MA), responsible for the mapping and designing of the MI
- iv) Administer the Memorare Fund (MF) to:
 - i) Provide the Bishops' Conference with initial grant money to fund:

- a. A consultancy contract for a Memorare Advisor (MA) to:
 - i. Facilitate a collaboration between Bishops and Religious
 - ii. Map safeguarding programs and stakeholders in Malawi
 - iii. Develop customized training curriculum and materials
 - iv. Develop a Memorare Plan, detailing all cost and revenue streams, proposing cost sharing models as appropriate.
 - v. Recruit, nominate and train all qualified personnel to work in the MI
- ii) Provide additional grant funding, based on the needs outlined in the Memorare Plan, produced by the Memorare Advisor.

2.0 The Episcopal Conference of Malawi will:

- i) Submit potential MA candidates to the Commission, for pre-approval
- ii) Promote and facilitate a collaboration among the actors in this MoU, and subsequent Memorare Initiative (MI), by negotiating and signing onto a collaborative partnership with the Religious
- iii) Support the faithful workings of Memorare Initiative
- iv) Commit to reporting requirements to the Commission

3.0 The Conferences of Religious will:

- i) Jointly with the Episcopal Conference of Malawi identify a potential MA candidate to the Commission, for pre-approval
- ii) Promote and facilitate a collaboration among the actors in this MoU, and subsequent Memorare Initiative (MI), by negotiating and signing onto a collaborative partnership with the Bishops
- iii) Support the faithful workings of Memorare Initiative
- iv) Commit to reporting requirements to the Commission

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SIGNED BY:

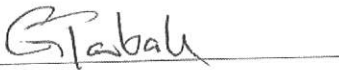
The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors

Signature: 

Name: H.E. Cardinal Seán O'Malley

Date: 12-12-2024

The Episcopal Conference of Malawi

Signature: 

Name: Most. Rev. George Desmond Tambala

Date: 15-5-2024

Episcopal Conference of Malawi
Off-Chimutu Road, Area 11
P.O. Box 30384
Lilongwe 3, Malawi

The Association of Men Religious Institutes in Malawi

Signature: William J. Turnbull

Name: Rev Fr. Bill Turnbull

Date: 20/05/2024

Association of Women Religious Institutes in Malawi

Signature: 

Name: Rev Sr. Janepher Selemani

Date: 20/05/2024