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PROT. N. 160-25

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

[06.05.2025]

The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors (PCPM)

The Roman Catholic Episcopal Conference in Ukraine



PARTIES

The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors and

The Roman Catholic Episcopal Conference in Ukraine

- 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 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;
- iii) 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 special grant funding in Ukraine, in collaboration with the Roman Catholic Episcopal Conference in Ukraine, financed by the Commission. This special grant funding is designed to support formation programs that target the following:

- a. Promote the prevention of sexual abuse of minors in the pastoral and educational practice of the Church.
- b. Assist the outreach of the formation programme to those working with minors within the Church.
- c. Ensure the formation programme provides knowledge of existing rules, procedures, legal consequences of negligence, and safeguarding philosophy/practice, while considering local, cultural, and personal sensitivities.
- d. Assist the outreach of the formation programme to minors.
- e. Ensure the programme educates minors on safe behavior skills (online/offline), symptom recognition of abuse, reporting mechanisms for harassment, and contributes to creating/maintaining safe environments.

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KEY PARTIES

**The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors (Commission)
The Roman Catholic Episcopal Conference in Ukraine**

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 Formation Plan.
- ii) Provide the actors with information about good practices formulated by the Universal Church in the protection of minors and vulnerable adults.
- iii) Administer the special grant funding to:
 - i) Provide the Bishops' Conference with initial grant money to fund:
 - i. Develop customized training curriculum and materials to the formation program.
 - ii. Develop a Plan, detailing all cost and revenue streams, proposing cost sharing models as appropriate.
 - iii. Recruit, nominate and train all qualified personnel to work in formation.
 - ii) Evaluate to provide additional grant funding, based on the needs outlined in the Plan.

2.0 The Roman Catholic Episcopal Conference in Ukraine will:

- i) Promote and facilitate a collaboration among the actors in this MoU, and subsequent Formation Plan.
- ii) Commit to reporting requirements to the Commission.
- iii) Share with the Commission the results of this collaboration, with particular reference to challenges and opportunities that can be part of future collaboration between the Parties and should be addressed in the respective ecclesial mission.

SIGNED BY:

The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors

Signature + Luis Manuel L. Herrera

Name LUIS MANUEL L. HERRERA

Date 12.05.2025.

The Roman Catholic Episcopal Conference in Ukraine

Signature Wocid

Name F. Michol Wocid

Date 06.05.2025