

International Action Alert

The Call to Accountability Campaign

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A CALL TO ACCOUNTABILITY **Tell the Vatican to Stand Up for Women**

End Sexual Violence Against Catholic Sisters-In Religious Life and in the World Community

Sign on to a petition and/or have your organization sign on to a petition

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We are deeply troubled and saddened by recent reports published in the *National Catholic Reporter* of March 16, 2001, of the sexual harassment, exploitation and even rape of Roman Catholic nuns by priests. They serve as a stark and horrifying example of the global problem of violence against women that is the daily reality for millions of women of all ages, classes, races and religions.

Accounts of the humiliation and even deaths of women whose human rights have been violated by Catholic priests are harrowing:

- In Latin America, a priest demanded sexual "favors" in exchange for clothes for a girl and her family.
- In Africa, some priests seeking partners free of HIV/AIDS have sexually exploited nuns. Some of these priests have actually transmitted HIV to the nuns or made them pregnant. Tragically, some nuns have died.
- In Europe and the United States, priests and seminarians have demanded sexual "favors" from nuns in exchange for assistance with studies.
- In the United States, church authorities shielded a parish priest from prosecution by returning him to the Philippines so that he could elude a lawsuit filed by a woman, who as a teenager, was sexually abused by him.

This is a worldwide problem. Reports cite incidents in 23 countries: Botswana, Burundi, Brazil, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, India, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Tonga, Uganda, United States, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. We deplore the Vatican's false claim that this problem is limited to sub-Saharan Africa in an attempt to dismiss or cover up the problem.

That this sexual violence occurs in the context of the worldwide AIDS pandemic is especially disturbing. HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death in Africa and the fourth most common cause of death in the world (United Nations Population Fund, 2000). Therefore, we condemn the hypocrisy of church policies that deny life-saving condoms and contraceptives, responsibly chosen by women and men.

These policies knowingly put women's lives at risk in the name of a culture of life. Furthermore, the sexual exploitation by priests of nuns has also resulted in pregnancies; some nuns have been dismissed from their communities; others have been forced to have abortions. At least one nun died as a result of an abortion. We condemn such coercive practices.

We are appalled that church authorities were formally and fully briefed on these problems in 1995 and up to now have taken no public action to end the abuse, treating the perpetrators with impunity. Vatican secrecy and inaction have surely contributed to sexual abuse. The Vatican must be accountable for these tragedies. Church officials must do all in their power to bring an end to violence against women in the church.

We join with the European Parliament, the National Coalition of American Nuns, the Association for the Rights of Catholics in the Church, the Latin American Network of Catholics for the Right to Decide, and the International Movement We Are Church, in this call to accountability.

We call on the Vatican to be accountable:

- To reveal the measures it has taken to eliminate violence against women by Catholic clergy, and measures it proposes to take in order to secure justice for women;
- To cooperate with local civil authorities by providing evidence and assisting with the prosecution of Catholic church officials involved in rape and other sexual violence;
- To provide reparations for the victims of sexual abuse and exploitation by church officials;
- To provide medical care for those nuns and other women who have been infected with HIV by Catholic clergy;
- To immediately reinstate nuns who were dismissed from their communities and/or jobs because they brought attention to such abuses;
- To reinstate those nuns dismissed from their orders due to pregnancy, and to provide financial support for the care of children fathered by priests;
- To adopt a policy on sexual conduct that seeks to eliminate all forms of violence against women in the church and society; and
- To issue a public apology in the form of a pastoral letter from the Holy See for all forms of violence against women, including sexism, committed by its church officials.

We call on the world's religious leaders:

- To give their unqualified support to women who are the victims of violence within their institutions or in other faith groups; and
- To speak out against such abuse whether it occurs in their faith or another faith. Respect for the autonomy of other faith groups cannot serve to mute the voice of religious leaders on this grave sin against women.

8th Day Center for Justice, United States
Abortion Rights Mobilization, United States
Acasac, San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico
Acción Ciudadana para la Tolerancia, A.C., Mexico
Acción Educativa por la Salud Sexual, Mexico
Acht Mei Beweging (Eighth of May Movement), The Netherlands
Acosida, Mexico
ACUSE, Mexico
Adivac, Mexico
Afluentes, Mexico
African American Women's Clergy Association, United States
African Center for Empowerment Gender and Advocacy (ACEGA), Kenya
Al Sur del Sur, Spain
Alab K/CSPDI, the Phillipines
Alaide Foppa, A.C., Mexicali, Mexico
Amatlalli, Texmixco, Mexico
AMBAR, Profesionistas por una Vida Digna, Mexico
American Humanist Association, United States
Americans for Religious Liberty, United States
Amigos Contra La Sida, S.C., Mexico
And You Gave Me Food, Inc., United States
The Annie Appleseed Project, United States
Apendo Me Divierto y Sigo Viviendo Uga, A.C., Mexico
Apures, Aguascalientes, Mexico
Articulación de Mujeres por la Equidad y la Igualdad, Bolivia
La Asociación de Teólogas Españolas, Spain
Asociación de Mujeres Profesionales de las Ciencias Económicas (AMCEN), Nicaragua
Asociación Elizandrea, Grupo de Mujer y Teología, Spain
Asociación Mexicana de Educación Sexual, A.C. (AMES), Mexico
Asociación Mexicana de Profesionales en Educación y Salud Sexual, A.C. (AMMPES), Mexico
Asociación Mexiquense Humanista de Sexualidad, A.C., Mexico
Asociación para el Formento a la Salud y Planificación Familiar, A.C., Mexico
Asociación por la Vida, Venezuela
Asociación Queretana de Educación para la Sexualidad, A.C. (AQUESEX), Mexico
Asociación Regional del Sureste contra El SIDA "Ya Ax Che", Yucatán, Mexico
Asociación Sonorense para la Salud Reproductiva A.C., Mexico
Association des Anciennes Eleves de la Sainte Famille (ASEF), R.D. Congo
Association des Femmes Africaines Face au SIDA/Katanga (SWAA), R.D. Congo
Association of Feminist Theologians in Austria
BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights, Nigeria

Boys and Girls Clubs of San Francisco, United States
BMP, Quezon City, Philippines
Buenas Intenciones, A.C., Yucatán, Mexico
Call to Action of Northern Virginia, United States
Call to Action of Philadelphia, United States
Call to Action of San Antonio, United States
Call to Action of South Carolina, United States
Casa Amiga Centro de Crisis A.C., Mexico
Casa de la Mujer "Azucena Villaflor", Argentina
Casa de la Mujer Juana Ramírez "La Avanzadora", Venezuela
Casa de la Mujer Rosario, Argentina
Catequistas Isidro Fabela, México
Catholic Network for Women's Equality, Canada
Catholic Women's Ordination, United Kingdom
Catholics for a Free Choice, Canada
Catholics for a Free Choice, United States
Catholics for the Spirit of Vatican II, United States
Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir, Latin America
Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir, Spain
CCIDD., Cuernavaca, Mexico
CEB'S, Tejalpa, Mexico
C.E.D., Cuernavaca, Mexico
CEDEMAC, Aguascalientes, Mexico
Cendoc-Mujer: Centro de Documentación Sobre la Mujer, Peru
Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence, United States
Center for Reproductive Law and Policy, United States
Center for Women's Global Leadership, United States
Center for Women Policy Studies, United States
Centro de Apoyo a la Mujer Maltratada (C.A.M.M.), Argentina
Centro de Capacitación y Apoyo Sexológico Humanista A.C. (CECACH), Mexico
Centro de Capacitación para le Desarrollo Comunitario, A.C. (CECADEC), Aguascalientes, Mexico
Centro de Derechos Constitucionales, Nicaragua
Centro de Desarrollo Jalisco, Jcotapepec (CEDEJO), Mexico
Centro de Desarrollo la Familia y la Mujer (CEDEIFAM), Argentina
Centro de Documentación Sobre la Mujer (CENDOC-MUJER), Peru
Centro de Estudios para el Desarrollo Rural, A.C., Mexico
Centro de Investigación Social Formación y Estudios de la Mujer, Trujillo, (CISFEM), Venezuela
Centro de Investigaciones en Salud de Comitan, CORSA, Chiapas, Mexico
Centro de Mujeres, A.C., La Paz, Bolivia
Centro Interdisciplinario, Colombia
Centro las Libres A.C. de Información en Salud Sexual, Guanajuato, Mexico
Centro para el Desarrollo de la Mujer, Mexico
Cercle des Theologiennes Africaines, R.D. Congo
Chicago Women-Church, United States
CHILTAK, A.C., Chiapas, Mexico
CIDEM, Jalapa, Mexico
Ciudadanas en Movimiento por la Democracia, México
CLADEM, México
Closet de Sor Juana, México
Close the SOAWHISC Watch-San Jose, United States
Colectivo de Educación y Formación Intergral para la Salud A.C., CEFIS, Morelia, Mexico
Coalición de Jóvenes por el Respeto a la Diversidad Sexogenerica, Mexico
Colectivo Feminista, Veracruz, Mexico
Colectivo de Mujeres y Hombres por los Derechos Sexiales, A.C., (CODESEX), Mexico
Colectivo Rebeldía, Bolivia
Collectiu de Dones en l'Eglésia, Spain
Commission FEMME-EDUCATION-PAIX de l'Institut de Spiritualité Maria Malkia Lubumbashi, R.D. Congo
Commission FEMME-VIOLENCE-PAIX de l'Institut de Spiritualité Maria Malkia Lubumbashi, R.D. Congo
Commission FEMME-LEADERSHIP-PAIX de l'Institut de Spiritualité Maria Malkia Lubumbashi, R.D. Congo
Compañeros en Ayuda Voluntaria Educativa A.C. (AVE DE MEXICO), Mexico
COMPASS, Inc., United States
Comunidad Teológica de México, México
Comunidades Eclesiales de Base, Argentina Congregación Inmaculada Concepción de Castres,

México
Congregación de Jesús y María, México
Congress of Women, Philippines
Conseil Provincial de la Femme/Katanga, R.D. Congo
Consejo Guerrerense, México
Consorcio para el Diálogo Parlamentario y la Equidade, Mexico
Convergencia de Organismos Civiles por la Democracia, A.C., Coyoacan, Mexico
Coordinadora de Organismos Civiles por la Democracia, A.C., Mexico
Coordinadora del Programa para América Latina y el Caribe, Mexico
Coordinadora Nacional de Mujeres Indígenas, México
CORPUS, United States
CORPUS, Canada
Corpus Ministries, United States
DECA, Equipo Pueblo, A.C., Mexico
Defensoras Populares, A.C., Mexico
Delivery of Justice to Disadvantaged Women Coalition Project, Philippines
Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), Fiji
Difusión Cultural Feminista, A.C., Revista FEM, México
Dignity/Ft. Lauderdale, United States
Dignity/USA, United States
DiVersa, A.P.N., México
Droits et liberté dans le Églises, France
El Armario Abierto, S.A. de C.V., Mexico
Elige, México
Equal Partners in Faith, United States
Equality Now, United States/Kenya
Equidad de Género: Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia, A.C., México
Federation of Christian Ministries, United States
Federation of Women Lawyers, Kenya
Feminist Majority Foundation, United States
Femmes et Hommes en Eglise, France
Femmes et integrismes religieux, France
El Foro La Queencia, Aguascalientes, Mexico
El Foro Nacional de Mujeres y Políticas de Población, México
El Lugar de la Tía Juana, A.C., Tijuana, México
Equidad Política, A.C., Yucatán, México
Fiji Women's Crisis Centre, Fiji
Frente Nacional de Personas Afectadas por el VIH/SIDA (FRENPAVIH), Mexico
Fundación Chiapaneca para la Salud Integral, A.C., Chiapas, México
Fundación de Aguascalientes contra el Sida, A.C., México
Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer (FEIM), Argentina
Fundación Mexicana para la Pleneación Familiar, A.C. (MEXFAM), Mexico
Fundación Mujeres en Igualdad, Argentina
Fundación Quillahue, Argentina
Girls Power Initiative, Nigeria
Grassroots Women Foundation, Nigeria
Greater Cincinnati Women-Church, United States
Grupo CD4, Morelos, México
Grupo 8 de Marzo, Ciudad Juarez, Mexico
Grupo de Catequesis de Coatepec B. Alto, México
Grupo de Educación Popular con Mujeres, A.C., GEM, Coyoacan, Mexico
Grupo de Estudios sobre la Mujer "Rosario Castellanos," A.C., Oaxaca, México
Grupo de Estudios Sociales para la Transformación (GEST), Argentina
Grupo de Información en Reproducción Elegida (GIRE), Mexico
Grupo de Mujeres Mana Juana, Venezuela
Grupo Diversidad Sexual, A.C., Guadalajara, México
Grupo Ghandi de Educación Sexual, La Paz, Bolivia
Grupo Interdisciplinario de Sexología A.C. (GIS), Mexico
Guanaxhii, Aguascalientes, Mexico
Herakles Safo, Spain
Hijos La Plata Organismo de Derechos Humanos, México
Iglesia Shaloom (Bautista), México
IGLHRC, Argentina
Initiative Christenrechte in der Kirche, Germany
Instituto de Constelaciones Familiares y Sistemicas de Mexico, Mexico
Instituto de Liderazgo Simone de Beauvoir, México

Instituto Mexicano de Investigación en Familia y Población, A.C. (IMIFAP), Mexico
Intercommunity Center for Justice and Peace, United States
Inter-European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development, Belgium
International Council of Jewish Women, United Kingdom
International Federation of Married Catholic Priests, United States
International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network (IPPFEN), Belgium
International Movement We Are Church
Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence, United States
Isis - Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE), Uganda
Izquierda Unida, Spain
Jóvenes Unidos por una Misión, México
JPICC-AMRSP, Quezon City, Philippines
K'inál Antzetik, A.C., México
Kalayaan, Philippines KAMPI, Quezon City, Philippines
Korean Association of Women Theologians, Korea
L'Horeb, Laics Claretians de Catalunya, Spain
La Manta de Mexico, Mexico
Letra "S" Salud, Sexualidad y Sida, Mexico
LIHUEN, Argentina Linangan ng Kababaihan (Likhaan), Philippines
Little Flowers Parish Regina, Canada
Lobby des Femmes pour la Paix/Katanga, R.D. Congo
Lower Mainland Sustainable Population Society, Canada
Loretto Network for Nonviolence, United States
Loretto Women's Network, United States
MADRE, United States
Massachusetts Women-Church, United States
MHMSJ, Mexico
Milenio Feminista, D.F., Mexico
Misioneras del Espiritu Santo, México
Misioneras Eucaristicas Franciscanas, México
Misioneras Guadalupanas, México
Misioneras Guadalupanas del Espiritu Santo, México
Misioneras Hijas del Calvario, Mexico
Misioneras Hijas Mínimas de San José, México
Misioneras Laicas de San Cristóbal de las Casas, México
Modemujer Red de Comunicación, Mexico
Movimiento Ciudadano por la Democracia, A.C., Mexico
Mujeres al Oeste, Argentina
Mujeres por el Diálogo, México
Mujeres Trabajadores Unidas, A.C., Mexico
Mujeres Trabajando-Asociación Civil, Argentina
Mujeres y Desarrollo Económico Integral, A.C., Coyoacan, Mexico
Musas de Metal, Mexico
National Abortion Federation, United States
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health, United States
National Association of Women and the Law, Canada
National Coalition of American Nuns, United States
National Organization for Women, United States
Newman Catholic Center Peace and Justice Ministry, United States
Netzwerk Katholischer Lesben (Network of Catholic Lesbians), Germany
Noi Siamo Chiesa, Italy
Nous sommes aussi l'Eglise, France
Nuns Welfare Foundation of Nepal
Pacific Women's Network on Violence Against Women, Fiji
PARROS, Mexico
Partido Comunista de España, Spain
Patlatonalli, A.C., Mexico
"Pavés," Belgium
Pax Area, School Sisters of St. Francis, United States
Piglas, Manila, Philippines
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
ProChoice Resource Center, United States
Profesionistas ante la Violencia Intrafamiliar y Sexual, A.C., PAVIS, Mexico
Proyecto Servandus, México
Red de Mujeres del Sur, Comitan, Mexico
Red de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos, Mexico

Red Democracia y Sexualidad (DEMYSEX), Mexico
Red Mexicana de Acción Frente al Libre Comercio (RMALC), Mexico
Red por la Salud de las Mujeres del Distrito Federal, Mexico
Religiosas del Verbo Encarnado, México
Quest for African Ideas (Questafid), Senegal
Quixote Center, United States:
--Catholics Speak Out
--Haiti Reborn
--Priests for Equality
--Quest for Peace
Red de Salud de las Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe, RSMLAC, Chile
Red de Mujeres del Sur, Mexico
Red Nacional de Abogadas, México
Red Nacional por la Salud de la Mujer, Argentina
Red Luz, México
Religious Consultation on Population, Reproductive Health and Ethics, United States
Réseau Résistances" Bruxelles, Belgium
REVISTAFEM, Mexico
Salud Integral para la Mujer, A.C., México
SANLAKAS-Youth, Quezon City, Philippines
Servicios Humanitarios en Salud Sexual y Reproductiva, Yucatán, Mexico
Servicios Integrales para la Mujer-SI Mujer, Nicaragua
SISEX, Mexico
--Abrazo A.C.
--Chiltak A.C.
--Colectivo Feminista de Xalapa A.C.
--COSAI
--Comision de Promoción Humana Integral
--Compañeros
--Colectivo Ollin A.C.
Sistema Nacional de Promoción y Capacitación en Salud Sexual, A.C. (SISEX), Mexico
Sisters Against Sexism, United States
Sisterhood Is Global Institute, Canada
Sisters In Islam, Malaysia
Solidarité Namur-Luxembourg (So-Na-Lux)
Somos Iglesia, Venezuela
Spiritus Christi, United States
Stichting Play Fair Europe, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Swedish Association for Sexuality Education, Sweden
Tertulia, Guatemala
Thais Consultaría en Desarrollo Social, S.C., THAIS, Mexico
Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC), United States
UNASSE, A.C., Yucatán, Mexico
Unidad de Capacitación e Investigación Educativa para la Participación UNCIEP, A.C., México
Union de Lucha Vecinal Valle de Anahuac, D.F., Mexico
Vereda Themis, México
Viajes Excelsior R.R. Inmaculada Concepción, Mexico
Voters for Choice Fund, United States
We Are Church, Austria
We Are Church, Portugal
We Are Church South Tyrol, Italy
We Are Church, United Kingdom
WIDE-Women in Development Europe, Belgium
Wisconsin Chapter, National Organization for Women, United States
Women-Church Convergence, United States
Women in Spirit of Colorado, United States
Women Living Under Muslim Laws, International Solidarity Network (WLUML), United Kingdom
Women's Alliance for Peace and Human Rights in Afghanistan (WAPHA)
Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual (WATER), United States
Women's Ordination Conference, United States
Women's Ordination South Africa
XochiQuetzal, Centro de Estudios Sociales, A.C., México
Yaocíhuatl, A.C., México

The Call to Accountability Campaign is an ad hoc coalition of religious, women's rights and human rights groups whose goal is to raise public awareness about sexual violence against women in the

Catholic church and hold accountable the individuals and institutional leadership involved or complicit in this problem.

The Call To Accountability Campaign

c/o Women's Ordination Conference

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Email: cs@quixote.org

If you would like to make a financial contribution to the Call to Accountability Campaign, make checks payable to Women's Ordination Conference, and include "Call to Accountability" in the memo line.