

CONFERENCE ON SAFEGUARDING AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CHURCHES

WARSAW, 19-21 JUNE 2026



Gemeinschaft Evangelischer Kirchen in Europa (GEKE)
Communion of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE)
Communion d'Eglises Protestantes en Europe (CEPE)



Guido Fluri Stiftung

Many churches in Europe are currently grappling with the issue of sexual violence: in terms of addressing and acknowledging it, as well as preventing it and intervening in suspected cases. At its 9th General Assembly in Sibiu in 2024, the CPCE called on its member churches to raise awareness of sexual violence and to take action to combat it. At this conference, representatives of Protestant churches in Europe will share their experiences of safeguarding measures, assess their suitability for different contexts, and establish networks to support each other in implementing proven concepts. The focus is therefore explicitly on prevention and intervention. Churches with little experience in this area are particularly encouraged to attend. The conference marks the start of a multi-year implementation process. The conference is being held in cooperation with the Guido Fluri Foundation in Switzerland.

The Guido Fluri Foundation's popular initiative led to a comprehensive reappraisal of past cases of abuse in Switzerland. The redress also covered abuse in a church context. The foundation subsequently launched the European Justice Initiative with the aim of comprehensively improving child protection. In 2024, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe voted in favour of a resolution by the European Justice Initiative. Resolution 2533 requires member states to review cases of abuse in their own countries based on the Swiss model.

Consultation facts

Venue:	Christian Theological Academy, ul. Broniewskiego 48, 01-771 Warsaw
Date:	19–21 June 2026 (arrival: 18 June, departure: 21 June)
Target group:	Those responsible for safeguarding concepts and prevention in the member churches and church leaders who deal with sexualised violence in the church environment.
Language:	The conference languages are English and German, with simultaneous interpretation between the two.
Accommodation:	Hotel Ibis Warszawa Stare Miasto, ul. Muranowska 2, 00-209 Warsaw
Capacity:	70–100 participants
Travel:	Organised independently

Provisional programme

Thursday, 18 June 2026

Arrival at the Ibis Warszawa Stare Miasto Hotel.

Friday, 19 June 2026: Focus on „structures“

Christian Theological Academy

- 9.00 – 10.15 **Opening plenary session**
- 10.15 – 10.45 **Coffee break**
- 10.45 – 11.15 **Short plenary session on power asymmetries**
- 11.15 – 12.30 **Working groups (1) on areas of church activity**
(pastoral care, worship, children's and youth work including religious education, church music, church structures)
- 12.45 – 14.00 **Lunch and break**
- 14.00 – 14.30 **Short plenary session: Examples from churches of prevention tools**
- 14.30 – 16.00 **Working groups (2) Prevention tools**
(Safeguarding concepts, training and further education, background checks, etc.)
- 16.00 – 16.30 **Coffee break**
- 16.30 – 17.00 **Short plenary session: Examples from churches of intervention tools**
- 17.00 – 18.30 **Working groups (3) Intervention**
(Reporting channels, dealing with affected persons, dealing with accused persons, crisis communication, victim protection, data protection, cooperation with law enforcement authorities, levels of responsibility)
- 18.30 – 19.30 **Dinner**
- Free evening

Saturday, 20 June 2026: Focus on „Cultures“

Christian Theological Academy

- 9.00 – 9.45 **Plenary session with review of the previous day**
- 9.45 – 11.00 **Plenary session “Why is cultural change so difficult? How can we become articulate?”**
- 11.00 – 11.30 **Coffee break**
- 11.30 – 12.30 **Working groups (4) Challenges**
(Challenges and hurdles to implementation in different national or cultural contexts in Europe)
- 12.45 – 14.00 **Lunch and break**
- 14.00 – 16.00 **Clarification of the possibility of stronger cooperation**
- 16.00 – 16.30 **Coffee break**
- 16.30 – 17.00 **Short plenary session: What still needs to be clarified?**
- 17.00 – 18.30 **Closing plenary session with final declaration**
- 19.15 – 21.30 **Closing dinner: Restaurant in the city centre**

Sunday, 21 June 2026

Church in the city centre

- Closing service (optional)
- Departure

Deadline for nominations: 28 February 2026¹

Deadline for registration: 10 March 2026

Churches can nominate a maximum of two people by 28 February 2026, stating the name, position and email address of the nominee, who will then receive a registration link from the CPCE office. (Nominations are made by the churches, registration by the participants.)

Nominations and questions: o.engelhardt@leuenberg.eu

Conference costs for participating delegates:

The participation fee includes three nights' accommodation at the Hotel Ibis Stare miasto, all conference costs and meals on 19 and 20 June 2026.

Thanks to the generous support of the Guido Fluri Foundation, the participation fee has been greatly reduced.

Regular participation fee: EUR 300,00

Reduced participation fee: EUR 75,00

The reduced participation fee applies to delegates from churches who can only make a symbolic contribution and who need support. In order to enable as many representatives from churches as possible to participate who would otherwise be unable to travel to the conference for financial reasons, a travel allowance can also be granted upon application.

¹ A maximum of two persons may be delegated per church, whereby churches should be enabled to participate with at least one person. Nominations will be considered in the order in which they are received.

