

INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN GERMANY



DEAR READER,

Sharing your story may be hard. Maybe it is the first time you are telling anyone about the abuse. Nevertheless your statement is very important to understand, why abuse could not be prevented in the past. We will help you every step of the way.

Our core commitment:

- We will listen to you and your evidence will not be challenged
- We understand that describing your experiences may bring back painful memories.
- We will not judge you
- We will be honest about what we can do or not.
- We guarantee your anonymity, even in case your experiences will be published in the context of a summary.

Every one of your accounts is individual. By coming to terms with these incidents we seek to raise public awareness of this issue!

Sincerely
Sabine Andresen
Chair of the Inquiry

THE INQUIRY

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in Germany investigates all forms of child sexual abuse in Germany, such as sexual abuse

- in institutions
- by family members
- by social environment
- by unknown offenders
- in context of organised crime

The Inquiry was established in 2016 based on a decision by the German Parliament. The Federal Government has extended the term for another five years until 2023.



THE COMMISSIONERS

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The Commissioners contribute expertise from various professional fields such as jurisprudence, pedagogy, social science, humanities, psychology, medicine and politics.

- Sabine Andresen, educational scientist, Chair of the Inquiry
- Christine Bergmann, Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, retd.
- Matthias Katsch, philosopher, management trainer and consultant
- Peer Briken, sexologist and psychotherapist
- Barbara Kavemann, social scientist
- Heiner Keupp, social psychologist
- Brigitte Tilmann, President of the Higher Regional Court of Frankfurt on the Main, retd.

There is a regular exchange of information between the Inquiry and the Independent Commissioner for Child Sexual Abuse Issues and members of his Survivor Council.

WHAT WE DO

We will investigate where systems have failed to protect children. We want to uncover the strategy behind sexual abuse and what prevented the process of revealing the past.

We will listen to victims and survivors of sexual abuse in their childhood throughout Germany. In this way we want to provide the possibility of also reporting on statute-barred injustice. We want to give special attention to testimonies of victims and contemporary witnesses.

Looking into the past and revealing the dimensions of sexual violence during childhood is meant to raise public awareness to prevent a better communal understanding of child protection.

PRIVATE SESSIONS

The private sessions are conducted in an informal setting and in confidential locations. These conversations are not open to the public, the statements are confidential. The private sessions are carried out throughout Germany by the Inquiry panel and their consultation team.

Specialised support services offer help during the hearing when required. The hearing summary, drafted in anonymous form, will be evaluated and fed into our reports.

WRITTEN REPORT

In case victims and survivors do not want a private session, they can write down their experiences and send the report via e-mail or by mail. Several questions may help to share the story with the Inquiry on our website www.aufarbeitungskommission.de.

PUBLIC HEARING

Some of the key issues will be examined in detail in public hearings. A public hearing allows survivors to tell their stories in public and improves community awareness of child sexual abuse.



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FURTHER INFORMATION

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Website: www.aufarbeitungskommission.de
Twitter: [@ukask_de](https://twitter.com/ukask_de)

INQUIRY HOTLINE

0800 40 300 40

(free of charge and anonymous from Germany)

Office hours: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays
from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.