



UNABHÄNGIGE KOMMISSION
ZUR AUFARBEITUNG
SEXUELLEN KINDESMISSBRAUCHS

INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN GERMANY





DEAR READER,

Sharing your story may be hard. Perhaps it is the first time you have told 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 account 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 or cannot do.
- We guarantee your anonymity, even in the event that your experiences are published in the context of a summary.

Every account is unique. By coming to terms with these incidents, we seek to raise public awareness of this issue!

The Commissioners

THE INQUIRY

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

- in institutions
- by family members
- within a social context
- by unknown offenders
- in the context of organised crime

The Inquiry was established in 2015 based on a decision by the German Parliament.

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 in the past. We will listen to survivors of sexual abuse in their childhood throughout Germany and read their reports. 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 survivors and witnesses.

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

**WE WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO
THE RECOGNITION OF INJUSTICE
AND SUFFERING THAT HAS
HAPPENED TO SURVIVORS OF
SEXUAL ABUSE.**

THE COMMISSIONERS

The commissioners contribute expertise from various professional fields such as jurisprudence, social science, humanities, psychology and politics:



Silke Gahleitner

social worker and psychotherapist



Julia Gebrande

social pedagogue and consultant
for psychotraumatology



Ulrike Hoffmann

nurse and social scientist



Matthias Katsch

philosopher, management trainer
and consultant



Barbara Kavemann

social scientist



Heiner Keupp

social psychologist



Stephan Rixen

lawyer

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

PRIVATE HEARINGS

The private hearings are conducted in an informal setting and in safe and secure locations. These conversations are not open to the public. The private hearings are carried out by the members from the Inquiry or by hearing officers. Specialised counselling centres help during the hearing when required. The hearing summary, drafted in anonymous form, will be evaluated and fed into our reports.

WRITTEN REPORT

If survivors do not want a private hearing, they can write down their experiences and send the report via email 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.



CONTACT



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Service 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.