



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 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 or cannot do
- We guarantee your anonymity, even in the event that your experiences are 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!

**The Commissioners**

## 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
- 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. The Federal Government has extended the term for another five years until 2023.

## 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 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 victims and contemporary witnesses.

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

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

## THE COMMISSIONERS

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



### Christine Bergmann

Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, retired



### Silke Gahleitner

social worker and psychotherapist



### Julia Gebrande

social pedagogue and consultant for psychotraumatology



### 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 his Survivor Council.

## 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

If victims and survivors do not want a private session, 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](http://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.



## IMPRINT



### Published by

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in Germany  
Kapelle-Ufer 2, 10117 Berlin  
Postal address: Post Office Box 110129,  
10831 Berlin, Germany

### As of

April 2023



[kontakt@aufarbeitungskommission.bund.de](mailto:kontakt@aufarbeitungskommission.bund.de)



[www.aufarbeitungskommission.de](http://www.aufarbeitungskommission.de)  
[www.geschichten-die-zaehlen.de](http://www.geschichten-die-zaehlen.de)  
Twitter: @Aufarbeitung  
Instagram: aufarbeitungskommission



### 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.

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