

Basel, 23. Oktober 2023

### **To the people of Basel-Stadt**

We in the Roman Catholic Church of Basel-City stand up for a peaceful, social life in harmony with creation and supported by our faith. The results of the pilot study of the University of Zurich on sexual abuse in the environment of the Catholic Church in Switzerland contradict this. We are saddened and concerned that even in the recent past our church leaders have not done everything to prevent abuse and disclose offences.

Abuses in a church that stands up for the well-being of people must never be allowed to happen again. We will work for this with all our strength.

Specifically:

- We stand for a complete disclosure of all cases.
- We will continue to play an active role in coming to terms with what has happened, in listening to those directly or indirectly affected, in helping them as best we can and in punishing those responsible.
- We expect an assessment of the cases and the perpetrators by an authority also outside the Catholic Church.
- We advocate that in addition to consistent criminal prosecution, additional measures in the Church must be examined.
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We are convinced: The Church must be constituted in such a way that the integrity of all people is preserved at all times and their freedom is respected. In addition to prevention, we must reform our church quickly and sustainably. Therefore, the Church Council supports the wishes and demands of our Bishop Felix Gmür as head of the Swiss Bishops' Conference and those of the Roman Catholic Central Conference.

As a church in our society, we would like to continue to be committed to the values of the Christian faith in our city. We therefore ask you, as residents of the Canton of Basel-Stadt, to continue to place the necessary trust in our church.

We are happy to receive concrete suggestions and concerns and will respond to them promptly: [kontakt@rkk-bs.ch](mailto:kontakt@rkk-bs.ch)

Those affected can find various contact points, both within and outside the church, on the following website: [www.missbrauch-kath-info.ch](http://www.missbrauch-kath-info.ch) under "Information for those affected".

On behalf of the Church Council and the Pastoral Area Management of the Roman Catholic Church Basel-City



Dr. Christian Griss  
President



Sarah Biotti  
Pastoral Area Management