PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clergy Abuse and Incest Survivors Join Cardinals and World Faith Leaders on Pathways to Prevention, Healing, and Justice Inaugural Sunrise Walk

BALTIMORE, MD (November 18, 2021) -- At sunrise, sexual abuse survivors from across the nation will walk to raise awareness in the role faith leaders can play in safeguarding children and advocating for survivor and family healing. They will be joined by local child advocacy organizations and world faith leaders, including: Cardinal Sean O’Malley, Cardinal Joseph Tobin, New York Board of Rabbi’s Executive VP Rabbi Joe Ptasnik, President of Islamic Relief USA Anwar Kahn, and Bishops attending the 2021 U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Participants invite members of the media and local advocacy organizations to join:

Pathways to Prevention, Healing and Justice Inaugural Sunrise Walk
Baltimore Inner Harbor
November 18, 2021

Group departs from Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel, Main Lobby at 7:00am EST
700 Aliceanna St, Baltimore, MD 21202

November 18 is the annual day of observance for the prevention of child sexual exploitation and abuse established by the Council of Europe in 2015. Survivors of child sexual abuse, incest and exploitation from around the world are calling on global leaders and the United Nations to recognize this day as an international day of observance. This Inaugural Sunrise Walk is part of a global collaborative to establish this day.

Dr. Jennifer Wortham, religion, spirituality, and health researcher at the Harvard University Human Flourishing Program, whose brothers are clergy abuse survivors, organized the event to highlight the important role faith leaders can play in helping survivors heal.

“My brothers experienced many challenges throughout their lives as a result of their childhood abuse, but I believe the most difficult challenge they experienced was the loss of their faith,” said Dr. Wortham. “This walk is just one way to show the collaborative work faith leaders and survivors are making to change the spiritual experience for every survivor and their family.”

Event partners include the Human Flourishing Program at Harvard University, The Catholic Project of The Catholic University of America, The Global Culture of Safeguarding Program of Georgetown University, the Interfaith Alliance for Safer Communities, and the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors.

More information about the International Day for Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Prevention, Healing, and Justice and how interested participants can join the Global Virtual Survivor Walk may be found at www.globalcollaborative.org.

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globalcollaborative.org
Join the Movement to Protect Children