

SCLA

Survivors and Clergy Leadership Alliance

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A national commission to investigate and prevent child sex abuse in our country, especially in institutional and organizational settings, is long overdue. Literally decades of public revelations and headlines have demonstrated a systematic and depressingly predictable pattern of institutional failure to adequately address these crimes in educational, religious and civic organizations. All children have an inalienable right, guaranteed in the values and laws of every civilized nation, to grow, flourish and worship free from the threat of sexual violence. Being the most vulnerable members of our society, all of us have a sacred obligation to come to their aid. We simply must do better as a nation to protect our children, regardless of where the violation occurs or who is committing that violation. We cannot afford to leave children in vast regions of our social and institutional space undefended and unprotected. Similar and successful efforts in recent years by leading democratic governments prove that such a commission will decisively intervene to help uncover how extensive the problem is and bring transparency and accountability where it has been seriously lacking. Most importantly, however, it will directly prevent these crimes from plaguing another generation of our nation's children.

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