



PRESS RELEASE

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From the Pope to the President: World Leaders Stand With April 8 World Day for Child Sexual Abuse Prevention, Healing and Justice

April 8, 2021: During one of the largest international gatherings of child sexual abuse survivors, prevention organizations, world religious communities and advocates, Pope Francis and the Biden Administration shared their support by acknowledging the April 8 World Day for Child Sexual Abuse Prevention, Healing and Justice and highlighting the importance of this monumental gathering.

The White House Gender Policy Council tweeted:

"In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month and @April8WorldDay, the Administration joins efforts in calling everyone to stand against every form of child abuse and to protect all children from child sexual abuse."

President Joe Biden responded to an open letter signed by a coalition of more than 40 CEO's from child welfare advocacy groups and faith-based organizations requesting he acknowledges the April 8 World Day for Child Sexual Abuse Prevention, Healing, and Justice as a national day of observance in the U.S.

Only two hours later, Pope Francis offered his official blessing for the Harvard University's Human Flourishing Program Symposium on Child Abuse:

"By bringing together Religious Leaders, Scholars, and experts from various fields in order to share research, clinical and pastoral experiences and best practices, the Symposium will contribute to a greater awareness of the gravity and extent of child sexual abuse and promote more effective cooperation at every level of society in eradicating this profound evil."

After a visit with Pope Francis in 2018, Jennifer Wortham, founder of the April 8 World Day, dedicated her life to establishing April 8 as a United Nations recognized World Day. There are currently 129 World Days.

The Harvard University virtual 'Symposium on Child Abuse' is sponsored by 45 non-profit and interfaith organizations. More than 1600 participants will gather from April 8-10 to hear from 73 speakers from around the world, as well as discuss how to further the work of preventing child sexual abuse.

April 8
World Day for Child Sexual Abuse
Prevention, Healing and Justice



<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2021-04/pope-message-symposium-child-sexual-abuse-cardinal-omalley.html>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/31/a-proclamation-on-national-child-abuse-prevention-month-2021/>

<https://april8worldday.org/>

<https://hfh.fas.harvard.edu/Faith-Flourishing-Symposium-On-Child-Abuse>