



Response to the Sexual Abuse Crisis in the Catholic Church: Perspectives from Theological Ethics

Leadership: [Dan Fleming](#) and [Jim Keenan](#)

The Virtual Table will be established in **two stages**.

In **stage 1**, the co-chairs will use the opportunity of the Centre for Child Protection's Rome conference on child sexual abuse in the Catholic Church to gather together the ethicists who will be presenting there to share their research and discuss possibilities for the conference.

This stage will be co-chaired by Dan Fleming and Jim Keenan.

Dan Fleming will act as secretariat.

This will allow the co-chairs to experiment with the Virtual Table methodology, test its strengths and weaknesses, and establish a group of interested CTEWC members who will continue in the group following the Rome conference.

In **stage 2**, Jim Keenan will step down as co-chair, and a co-chair will be selected from the attendees and/or presenters at the Rome conference with a view to ensuring appropriate geographical/linguistic diversity for the Virtual Table. At that time, an invitation will be sent to the whole CTEWC network for ongoing membership of the Virtual Table.

Languages: English (initially) will be the language of the VT until March. The initial members, which reflect both Global South and Global North CTEWC representatives, are all able to contribute in English.

Following the March conference, a co-chair will be selected who can ensure linguistic diversity and/or processes will be put in place to ensure that different linguistic backgrounds can contribute.

Purpose:

Stage 1 To provide a space for the CTEWC members who are presenting in Rome to share their research ahead of the conference and plan for possible collaboration.

Stage 2 To continue the discussion exploring issues, analysis, and research related to the sexual abuse crisis in the Catholic Church across CTEWC's international network.

Reporting methodology:

Stage 1 and Stage 2 co-chairs will share minutes of each meeting of the Virtual Table with the CTEWC Virtual Table co-ordinators.

Stage 2 co-chairs will provide a 6-monthly report for sharing amongst the network in The First.

Call for members: An initial invitation will be sent to those who are presenting in Rome.

Following the conference, a call for members will be distributed through The First in English, French and Spanish. The **Stage 2** co-chairs will agree on the invitation wording along the following lines:

The CTEWC network is invited to express their interest for joining the Virtual Table entitled *Response to the Sexual Abuse Crisis in the Catholic Church: Perspectives from Theological Ethics*. This Table builds on work undertaken by several CTEWC members at a recent conference in Rome on the same topic.

The Table will meet every two months via Zoom and will have a focus of sharing research and insights into this topic from around the CTEWC network. The Table will have a maximum of 20 members. All expressions of interest will be considered. Members will be invited based on their proposed contribution to the Table and with a view to ensuring representation from across the CTEWC network.

If you are interested in joining, please send an email expressing your interest to daniel.fleming@svha.org.au with no more than 150 words explaining why you would like to join. Expressions of interest are due by [DATE]

Duration and meeting frequency:

Stage 1

4 months duration (December-March 2019)

Monthly meetings

Stage 2

12 months duration

6 meetings (1 every 2 months)

Meetings will take place via Zoom. The Secretariat will provide the Zoom account.