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## **AMRI calls for cooperation with Inquiry into historical abuse in religious run schools**

The Association of Leaders of Missionaries and Religious of Ireland (AMRI) calls for cooperation with the government's scoping inquiry into revelations of historical sexual abuse in schools run by religious orders; in the hope that it will contribute to justice and healing for those who were harmed as children.

AMRI is encouraging its members who were involved in the running of schools to cooperate fully with the inquiry by making records and documents available and engaging with the inquiry in an open and transparent way.

It is hoped that the inquiry will help frame a response that will meet the needs of survivors who should continue to be consulted in the planning and design of the inquiry.

"As Church leaders, we are committed to supporting the healing of survivors of abuse. Many leaders of religious orders have met with survivors to listen, to hear their concerns, to offer apology and to make restitution, and will continue to do so.

"Through our safeguarding officers, we are providing access to independent counselling and support with *Towards Healing* [www.towardshealing.ie](http://www.towardshealing.ie) and the support service *Towards Peace* [www.towardspeace.ie](http://www.towardspeace.ie)", said Abbot Brendan Coffey, President of AMRI.

Today, religious orders cooperate fully with the statutory authorities, An Garda Síochána and Tusla in their investigation of any reports of abuse that are received.

Safeguarding standards, advice and training are provided by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland [www.safeguarding.ie](http://www.safeguarding.ie). The Board conducts audits of safeguarding standards which are publicly available.

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