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# Faith and Light International

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Paris, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## Statement from the Board of Directors of Faith and Light

Since the publication of the first findings of the investigation initiated by L'Arche International into Jean Vanier, Faith and Light has taken a clear stand.

Immediately after the revelations from l'Arche, **three letters were written** by the International Coordinators (Raúl Izquierdo and Maria-Silvia de Jesus Tavares), by the International Chaplain (Don Marco Bove) and by the co-founder of Faith and Light, Marie-Hélène Mathieu. These letters were issued with the full support of the Faith and Light Board of Directors.

At the last meeting of the Board of Directors on 14<sup>th</sup> November, we deemed it necessary to explicitly reaffirm:

1. Our clear condemnation of the abuses committed by Jean Vanier that were revealed by L'Arche International. We cannot tolerate this behaviour because it is against the spirit of Faith and Light and totally contrary to the teachings that Jean Vanier himself gave throughout his life.
2. Our shared pain with those abused by Jean Vanier. The Board of Directors assures them of the prayers of all Faith and Light members and of their gratitude for having had the courage to speak out about events that are incompatible with the rules of respect and integrity of others and contrary to the fundamental principles of Faith and Light.
3. Our rejection and zero tolerance of any kind of abuse, clearly expressed in the **Faith and Light Code of Conduct**, which was shared several months ago with all the provinces.
4. Our solidarity and fraternity with the large l'Arche family that has been so close to Faith and Light since its creation.

However, we cannot remove Jean Vanier from the history of Faith and Light. Together, with Marie Hélène Mathieu, he was the inspirer of our movement.