20/11/2025

Message of Archbishop Makarios of Australia on the World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse



We are called to raise our voices against an abhorrent phenomenon, the abuse of children, which constitutes a brutal violation of our Christian values and an assault upon the future of humanity.

As Orthodox Christians, who place at the core of our faith and values love for our neighbour and respect for the human person, we cannot tolerate violence, exploitation, and abuse, especially when directed at the most vulnerable and defenceless members of this world.

At the same time, we do not forget that our Lord clothed childhood with sacredness, this innocent and tender stage of every human life. With His words, “Unless you turn and become as little children, you shall not enter the Kingdom of Heaven” (Matthew 18:3), He presented the innocence of the child’s soul as the model of virtue that unlocks the gates of Paradise.

How, then, can we allow innocent children’s souls to be wounded? How can we tolerate seeing children’s eyes radiate fear instead of light? And what future can humanity expect when, instead of adults striving to become like children, millions of children are forced to grow up prematurely under the shadow of traumatic

experiences?

It is essential that we recognise that the phenomenon of child abuse concerns us all, as does the responsibility to offer the tender seedlings of our society an environment of care, safety, and hope. Let us keep our eyes and ears open. Let us be present whenever needed, ready to intervene and inform the appropriate authorities. Let us not allow indifference and silence to nourish further the monster of child abuse.

vema.com.au