

Reports Reception and Monitoring Team: Safeguarding report for 2025

Introduction:

This report outlines our team's activities during 2025. The year was marked by a significant increase in the number of cases we had to handle, totalling 84. Consequently, we have not yet completed our work on many of these cases, which will be concluded in 2026.

We would like to reiterate that our mission is to put victim-survivors at the centre and take them seriously, to work independently, and to be aware of our limitations.

1. Reports received in 2025

During 2025, our team received 84 reports.

We should always emphasise the relative nature of this figure. It does not represent the full extent of what may have happened in Taizé. But we must also be aware that the painful incidents that occur are an extremely small minority compared to the large number of young people who come to Taizé each year, and for whom this stay is life-changing. At the same time, we must also recognise that for the victim-survivors, when the week goes badly, this trauma not only shatters the hope they had placed in their stay, but will often linger for years. This awareness justifies the work carried out by the brothers, the meeting support team and our team, so that Taizé remains as safe a place as possible.

2. Content of the reports

Women, whether adults or minors: the primary victim-survivors

- Among adults, women remain the main victim-survivors, as evidenced by a number of cases.
- Incidents between minors (male and female): In 2025, our team received nine reports of incidents between young people under the age of 18
- Adult men in relation to underage girls: This category comprises 16 cases involving adult men and underage girls that came to the team's attention in 2025.

Volunteers continue to command our attention

Firstly, we would like to highlight the progress made in drawing up a charter for volunteers, which now provides a framework for their stay in Taizé. It clarifies the relationships between volunteers, the sisters and the brothers.

Of the reports examined this year, 13 concerned situations involving volunteers, including 7 in which they were victim-survivors and 5 in which they were perpetrators of inappropriate behaviour.

Priests and pastors

Our attention was drawn to seven priests or pastors in 2025:

- For a confession that prompted questions.
- For behaviour that suggests a situation of emotional manipulation of a volunteer.
- For a priest who has already been stripped of his priesthood, accused by someone of rape in Taizé a few years ago. That same person reportedly saw him hearing confessions in Taizé, although his presence there could not be confirmed.

Brothers

During 2025, no brother was implicated in any incidents relating to their ministry or pastoral work. However, incidents from the past – some dating back a very long time – have come to light and been brought to our attention.

- The team was informed of a relationship that had existed between a brother, who has since left the community, and a young woman. It transpired that the relationship was consensual.
- The brothers also informed us of a complaint made by a young brother (during 1970–1971). He states that during this period, a brother – who subsequently left the community and has since passed away – made an inappropriate gesture whilst out walking. He accuses another brother, now deceased, of sexual assault, and a third, also deceased, of making overly affectionate remarks. Finally, he feels that he was not properly supported. The community put this person in touch with the Recognition and Reparation Commission (CRR). This person refused the offer of compensation made by the CRR. Following a further review by the Commission, he again refused the offer made to him. This case was the subject of a press article last July.
- Someone wrote to us with questions about a former brother who had been implicated (see the reference in the 2019–2022 Report, p. 17: 'In addition, a testimony...'). We have answered their questions.
- A former volunteer, who wished to remain anonymous, wrote to us to bring to our attention the behaviour of a former brother between 2004 and 2005. This former brother is alleged to have harassed her after he left the community. Our task is regarding this is not yet complete.
- Brothers can also be victim-survivors of harassment, as happened this year.

- An agreement has been reached, through the CRR, between the community and the person who was the victim-survivor of a brother (see the reference in the 2023 Report, p. 1: 'In the case of...'; the brother has been distanced from the community since 2023).

The sisters of St Andrew

No recent incidents were reported in 2025, but several old cases have resurfaced. The team has been contacted:

- By a former volunteer, regarding non-sexual incidents dating back many years.
- By a young woman regarding a refusal to allow her to volunteer on the grounds of her age.
- Regarding a complaint about the conditions of personal accompaniment support whilst volunteering.

Miscellaneous

Taizé – a place where victim-survivors of sexual assaults that occurred elsewhere share their stories:

- 13 people have shared their stories of what happened to them elsewhere than in Taizé. In several cases, we keep these accounts on record so that they are available to the victim-survivors.
- This year, 18 cases have been brought to our attention, either by the meeting support team or by the individuals themselves, and we have classified them in this category.

3. Recommendations made to the community in 2025

During 2025, we made six recommendations to the community: three relate to 2024, one relates to both 2024 and 2025, and two relate to 2025.

- Regarding a female volunteer who had been verbally assaulted by a meeting participant and about whom we had already made a recommendation in 2024, we made a new recommendation to the brothers.
- Regarding the week of silence for a non-gendered person.
- Regarding the welcome given to a non-binary person.
- Regarding listening within the church.
- Regarding the organisation of accommodation for minors.
- Regarding the functioning of the 'meeting support' team.

We also drew the brothers' attention to:

- Certain group leaders or animators who behave inappropriately towards women.
- The need for training to better support people who require special attentiveness.
- Cultural issues.
- A highly complex situation involving emotional manipulation that raises questions about the limits of our team.

Conclusions

Having reviewed the team's activities throughout 2025 and noting the persistence of certain behaviours towards women, particularly minors, the team has put forward a proposal.

This proposal would involve dedicating Monday to the theme 'how to live together in Taizé for a week in mutual respect' . This would provide an opportunity to address the issue of respect for women,

and even more so for minors, as well as the role of group leaders and coordinators.