Reviewer's report

Title: Patterns of Child Sexual Abuse in Religiously-affiliated and Non-religiously-affiliated Institutions: Results of the Liaison Office of the Independent Commissioner for Victims in Germany

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Reviewer: Kate Walsh

Reviewer's report:

I am recommending two additional revisions of the current manuscript. My comments are below:

1. The last paragraph of the introduction suggests that abuse in religiously affiliated institutions might be associated with worse outcomes. However, the only statements in the introduction that potentially support this hypothesis refer to studies of physical abuse (e.g., "A U.S. study [27] found that extreme religiosity was found to raise the risk for child maltreatment, but there has not been enough research to be able to determine the extent of this factor"). Risk factors for physical and sexual abuse can be quite different. Are there any studies showing increased risk for sexual abuse in religiously affiliated institutions?

2. On page 17, I would caution against using the term "representative" in the phrase "representative number of victims of institutional abuse" as the current study cannot be considered truly representative due to the methodology (i.e., victims could call in to a hotline; this sample is only representative of individuals who were aware of and chose to call the hotline, etc).