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Member of the German Bundestag

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Berlin, 23 January 2017

**Nomination proposal for the Nobel Peace Prize:
Father Shay Cullen**

Dear Sir or Madam,

As a Member of the German Bundestag, I hereby nominate **Fr Shay Cullen** for the Nobel Peace Prize. The Bundestag Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development supports this proposal.

Explanatory statement

Since 1969, Irish priest Fr Shay Cullen has been committed to the protection and promotion of children's rights in the Philippines. In particular, he has been striving at many levels to combat the brutal violations of children's rights that occur when children are subjected to sexual abuse.

In 1974, Fr Cullen founded the People's Recovery, Empowerment and Development Assistance Foundation (PREDA), which is dedicated to helping victims of abuse and pursues the aim of helping to win freedom and a new life for children held in prisons and brothels, starving children, abandoned children and those trapped by poverty. PREDA helps abused women, supports the indigenous population, protects the environment and tries to alleviate poverty through microloan schemes and fair trade.



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In the performance of my duties as a Member of the Bundestag I have come to know Fr Cullen personally and have been highly impressed by his work and untiring commitment. In my role as Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid, I have also become aware of the outstanding impact of his life's work on the promotion of respect for human rights, particularly children's and women's rights.

It was thanks to Fr Shay Cullen that the hidden structures of organised child sex tourism in Olongapo in the Philippines were uncovered. At great personal risk, Fr Cullen conducts undercover investigations in the prostitution scene to expose pimps and child-traffickers. He presses vigorously, often at loggerheads with corrupt local authorities, for offenders to be brought to trial and convicted. His investigations not only bring him into conflict with the authorities in the Philippines but have also led to his being denounced as an alleged paedophile. He lives with constant death threats from the Mafia and international child-trafficking rings. He nevertheless continues his unrelenting efforts, including the exertion of political pressure, to defend the elementary rights of children, gives them a voice and speaks out fearlessly and publicly in international forums against sexual torture of children.

Under the leadership of Fr Cullen, the PREDA aid organisation has developed a programme to smooth the way to a normal life for victims, most of whom are street children. A home has been established for traumatised children where they are given safe refuge and protection. They receive therapy from trained psychologists as well as school education.

Because of Fr Shay Cullen's commitment to the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, regardless of the risk to his own life, I consider him a worthy candidate for the award of the Nobel Peace Prize.

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Awards:

- 2000 – Human Rights Award of the town of Weimar
- 2000 – Betinho Communications Prize of the Association for Progressive Communications (APC)
- 2001 – Premio Città di Ferrara
- 2003 – Prix Caritas Switzerland
- 2008 – International Person of the Year (Ireland)
- 2008 - The International Solidarity Prize (Spain), awarded by the Academy of Medical Practice in Barcelona.
- 2009 – Irish Music Awards, Humanitarian Award
- 2016 – The Monsignor Hugh O’Flaherty International Humanitarian Award 2016
- 2017 – Shalom Prize of the Catholic University of Eichstätt, 4-7 May 2017
- 2017 – Nominated for the Martin Buber Award 2017

Curriculum vitae of Father Shay Cullen

Born in Glasthule, Dublin, Ireland on 27 March 1943. Educated at Presentation College, Glasthule, Co. Dublin. He completed his college education at St Columban’s, Dalgan Park, Navan, Ireland, and was ordained a Catholic Missionary Priest in April 1969. He is a member of the Missionary Society of St Columban. He came to the Philippines in September 1969. In 1974 he established the People’s Recovery, Empowerment and Development Assistance Foundation (PREDA), of which he is the President.