



July 18th, 2023

Listening Service
Mission statement - May 2023

Context

The Study Commission completed its work with the publication of its report on 30 January 2023. But anyone with relevant information about Jean Vanier, Thomas Philippe or, more broadly, about situations of psychological control and sexual abuse should be able, if they so wish, to access a place of listening that is not part of L'Arche's operational structures.

Aim

The listening service is a "first point of contact". Its aims are as follows:

- to offer a space where those who come to it can be heard,
- to confidentially receive the testimonies that are sent to it,
- and to offer guidance.

The listening service does not provide long-term support, but it can, if necessary, refer people to the most appropriate place of support or to other bodies. These could include judicial bodies or bodies like the Catholic Church's *Commission Reconnaissance et Réparation* (which operates in France).

The listening service is independent. It guarantees the anonymity of the people who contact it and the confidentiality of all conversations. In order to ensure independence from L'Arche structures, the listening service is run by people external to L'Arche or people with no operational responsibility within the organisation.

If they so wish, a person supported by the listening service can ask the service to pass on a message or request from them to the leadership of L'Arche International.

This listening service is not the same as the "*I report*" service: the latter only deals with current or recent situations. It is not designed to collect testimonies about Jean Vanier, Thomas Philippe, or more generally about those situations of control and sexual abuse in the particular context described by the Study Commission's report.

Who is this listening service for?

This listening service is aimed at people with relevant information about Jean Vanier, Thomas Philippe or, more generally, about situations of control and sexual abuse in L'Arche in the particular context described by the Commission of Study's report, whether or not they are members of L'Arche today.



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Confidentiality

Discussions with members of the listening service are strictly confidential.

All supporting documents will be accessible only to cell members, cell members will share information only when necessary, and information will be anonymized as much as possible.

Requests addressed to the listening service should be sent mainly to the following e-mail addresses:

- In French: espaceparole2@gmail.com
- In English: givingvoice2@gmail.com

Reference persons

A member of the L'Arche International leadership team is the reference person for the members of the cell. Its role is to ensure the link between the cell and the authorities of L'Arche.

At the request of the members of the listening cell, he may collect information or requests from the people interviewed by the listening cell, so that they are properly relayed and instructed by the management bodies of L'Arche International.

In the absence of international leaders, the International Stewardship Board of L'Arche ultimately ensures the integrity of the system and its proper functioning.