



High Level-Cross Regional Meeting on Protection of Children from sexual abuse

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



Strategies and good practices for the protection of Children from sexual violence in the circle of trust



Latin America and Caribbean
Movement for Children

- International Support/ regional platform
- Strategies implemented by the region
- Main challenges for the region



Movimiento Mundial por la
Infancia de Latinoamérica
y el Caribe

International Support/ regional platform

- The Latin American and Caribbean Movement for Children is a strategic alliance of civil society organizations, international agencies, and multilateral and regional organizations and networks from throughout the region, which works with and for children and adolescents, for the promotion, protection and defense of children's rights in the region, under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights instruments.
- The main issue that the LAC movement has been working on since its inception is violence against Children. In follow up to the UN study on VAC we have been collaborating closely with the special rapporteur in this issue.

International Support/ regional platform

For our region, it is very important for all the work we are undertaking related to vac to highlight the importance of these three elements

- We have as a basis an international study
- We have a special representative to the Secretary General responsible for the follow up to this study, with a great commitment to her role
- We have a regional platform of collaboration that involves states, un agencies, INGOs, regional networks and child led organizations

These three elements are important keys we have to make changes in the lives of children and adolescents especially on issues of violence, and specifically the issue we are discussing at this moment, child abuse.

Strategies implemented by the region

- First step : subregional mappings
- Second step : Subregional events and Roadmaps
- Third step : intergovernmental bodies are committed to the process
- Four step: last but not least : develop a regional tool to monitor the follow up

First step : subregional mappings

- As a first step it was necessary to undertake a mapping of the current situation of legislative frameworks, policies, monitoring systems and practices on the issue of violence in the region and at country level, in order to build a baseline from which to work together in the region.
- Three mapping were undertaken: in South America; Central America, Mexico, Cuba and Dominican Republic and the Caribbean. (In July 2011, April 2012 and August 2013 respectively) and an executive summary of the three was developed. In addition, success stories and good practices were presented in these documents as important references for the other countries in the region.

Second step : Subregional events and Roadmaps

- The information collected in the mappings set the stage for mobilizing different actors to organize a meeting for each subregion (made between 2011 and 2012 in Asuncion, Paraguay, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and Kingston, Jamaica) that allowed the region to undertake further analysis, share best practices and make recommendations adapted to the reality of each country and sub-region.
- Through these regional meetings, LAC generated a joint mobilization of States, civil society and children, and at the same time political commitments “roadmaps” were approved by consensus by all the participants. .
- If you read each subregional road map you will see that sexual abuse was one of the important issues that all the subregions included as one of their concerns to be addressed at multiple levels and by a diversity of actors

CARICOM

- “States are urged to enact legislation explicitly prohibiting all forms of violence against children, in all settings. This includes the prohibition of sexual abuse against boys and girls, without any type of discrimination. The current legislation in many countries is in effect denying boys who are sexually abused the same protection offered to girls -- legislation should therefore be made gender neutral in Caribbean countries. It is also recommended to ensure that all types of sexual acts perpetrated against children are spelt out, as separate offences –using terminologies based on human rights instruments - with corresponding penalties -- there should be no disparity in sentencing between offences.”

CENTRALAMERICA

- "The legislation must also provide protection to victims and witnesses, enabling reporting and redress, and supporting both legal and psychological assistance, recovery and reintegration. Reporting mechanisms should be developed and these should be easily accessible, child-friendly, confidential, safe, and independent and legal guarantees should be established to protect child victims and prevent all risks of manipulation or reprisals"

SOUTHAMERICA

“1. Generate a coordination group specializing at the national and regional levels on violence, that has a specific budget and utilizes technologies to facilitate communication between specialists from the region.

2. Each representative at the country level should mobilize a process for developing a roadmap at country level that has a committed budget for its implementation, and involve the highest authorities, considering the realities of multiculturalism. This process should involve the participation of different actors:

State, organized civil society and children and adolescents to reach common goals and objectives, with a clear division of responsibilities”

Third step : intergovernmental bodies are committed to the process

- As a first initiative MERCOSUR shared their interest in the topic and they decided to develop a tool to follow up the south america roadmap.
- At the same time the central America integration system, SICA and CARICOM , have also had several conversations around this and have shown much interest in this regard.
- To count on the interest and support of these three intergovernmental bodies is very important and strategic to ensure the further development of these processes.

Four step: last but not least : develop a regional tool to monitor the follow up

- Provides information to enable policy makers to address violence in an informed manner
- Conduct advocacy actions with States and civil society organizations in those countries where it is required
- Share and widely disseminate good practices of countries with significant achievements
- Enables more children and adolescents to live protected from all forms of violence

Main challenges for the region on violence against children, including sexual abuse

- We need to focus of our work specifically on this and other major issues of violence against children that are of major concern in the region
- It is important not only to work on changing legal and policy frameworks but also on changing social and cultural practices
- We need to engage not only government and CSO actors who work on children's issues but also civil society in general.
- We need to have accessible and friendly reporting mechanism for child victims
- We need to demand the political will to change the situation and ensure the investigation and penalization of those who are responsible for this crime

Main challenges for the region on violence against children, including sexual abuse

- Ensure that our regional platform continues to work together and is linked with the national and international levels
- -Ensuring the latest scientific research on the issues of sexual abuse and other types of violence against children are reflected in laws and public policies.
- -Ensure children participate in the formulation of public policies and programs-especially child victims who can help to inform these from their own experience.
- - Increased involvement of sub-regional political bodies (Mercosur, SICA, CARICOM) would do a great deal to help push us forward towards the elimination of violence against children in the region



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Movement for Children

***I THANKS FOR
YOUR
COMMITMEN
T AND
SUPPORT!***

***Dr. Jorge Freyre
junio 2015***

