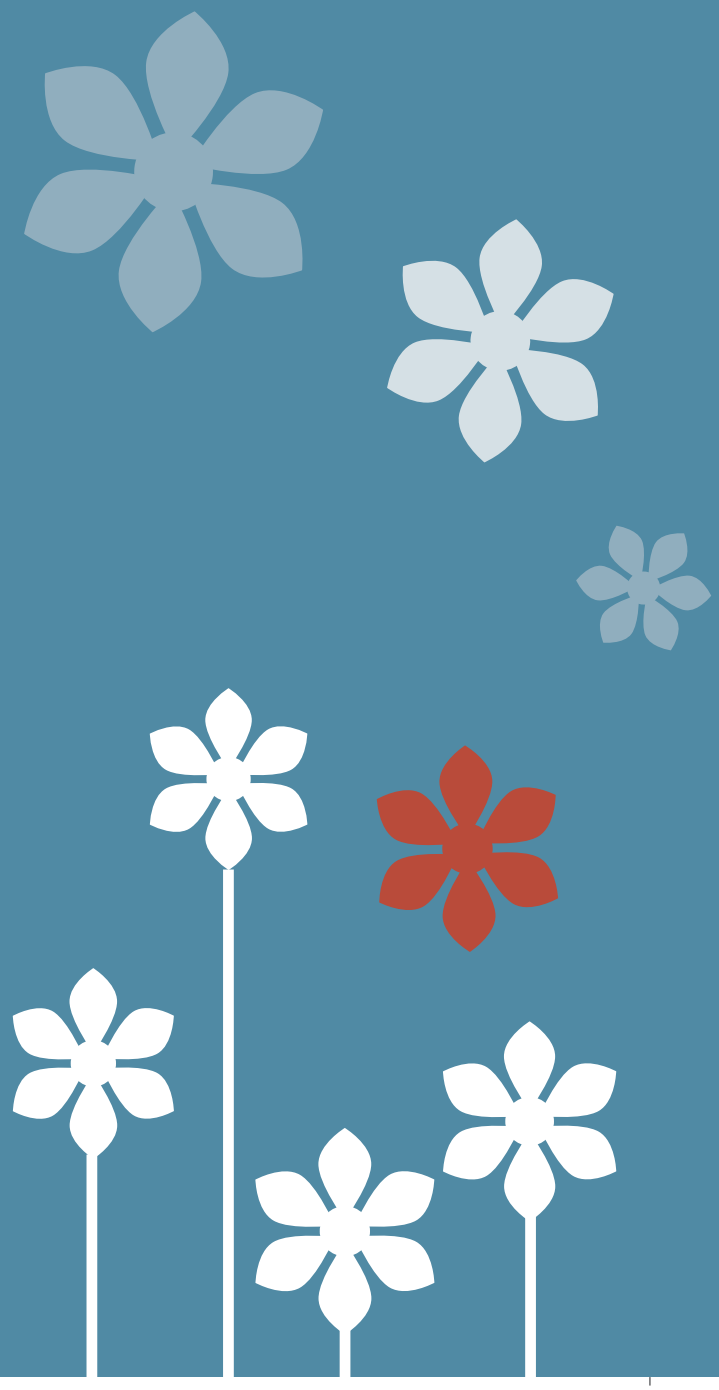


18 NOVEMBER

European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

www.coe.int/children

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Since 2015, 18 November is the European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse*

What is the purpose of the new European Day?

Sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children are still a tragic reality for all our societies. They are a serious violation of children's rights, and have long lasting and often detrimental consequences for their entire life.

To prevent these crimes, prosecute the perpetrators and protect the victims, the Council of Europe and its member States need to make sure that parents, educators, NGOs and decision-makers do not shy away from the problem, but bring it to light and discuss ways and take practical steps to solve it.

The objectives of the European Day are therefore to:

- raise public awareness of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, and the need to prevent such acts;
- facilitate open discussion on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and help prevent and eliminate the stigmatisation of victims;
- promote the ratification and implementation of the Lanzarote Convention – a unique legally-binding instrument that obliges states to criminalise all forms of sexual abuse of children and spells out the ways to fight it.

The European Day adds on to the work of the Council of Europe and its member States under the ONE in FIVE Campaign to stop sexual violence against children, which ended in November 2015. The European Day activities will help maintain the momentum it created.

It also offers an opportunity to explain what the Council of Europe does to protect the rights of the child, in line with the European Convention on Human Rights, the European Social Charter and the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child.

Who is the European Day for?

This day is meant for children and for everyone who interacts with children in their personal or professional capacity:

- parents;
- local, regional and national authorities;
- professionals working with children, including educators, sport coaches, law enforcement agents, etc.;
- non-governmental organisations;
- the private sector.

How can the European Day be marked?

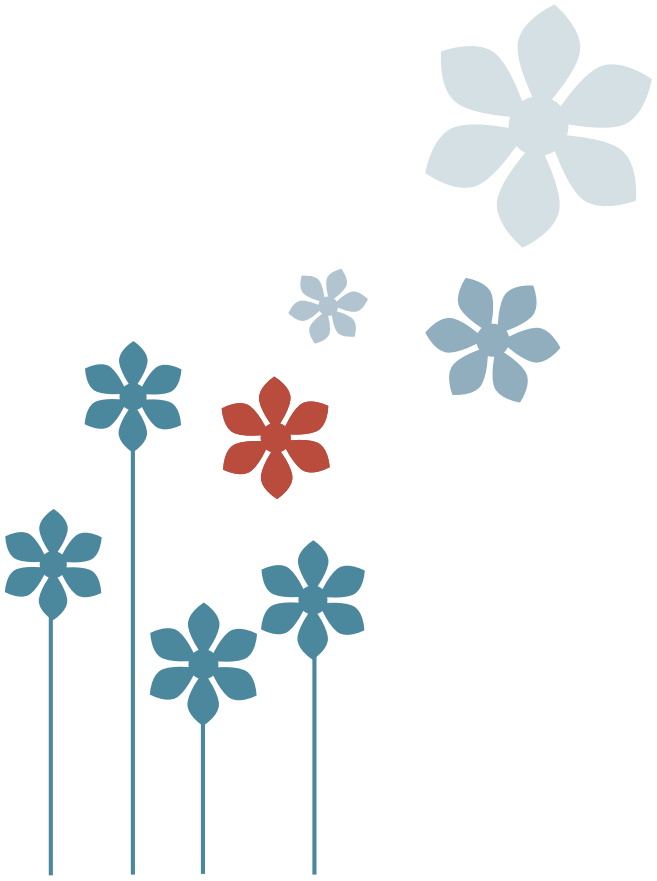
The European Day is to be organised in a flexible and decentralised manner.

Council of Europe member States and civil society take ownership for marking the European Day. They can hold national actions and decide themselves on the initiatives they wish to take, particularly through the use of social media and already existing networks. Possible actions include lectures at schools; discussions; flash mobs; road-shows; screening of films on the topic of sexual violence against children; creative initiatives and media events.

The Council of Europe has set up a dedicated web page containing:

- child-friendly awareness-raising material for parents, professionals and children;
- awareness-raising and other resources for local, regional and national authorities;
- a list of events organised at national level.

Contact : EndChildSexAbuseDay@coe.int



* As decided by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 12 May 2015.

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