



**ENDING SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION AND
ABUSE OF CHILDREN :**
TOWARDS
A WORLD OF TRUST

**Conference
Programme**

Strasbourg
24-25 October 2017



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Conference

**Ending sexual exploitation and abuse of children:
Towards a world of trust**

23-24 October 2017

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Council
of Europe Convention for the protection of children
against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

ABOUT THE CONTEXT

■ Sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children are blatant human rights violations and serious offences to the child's dignity and integrity. They often leave scars for life. Sexual violence against children is underreported and the lack of data makes it difficult to grasp the real dimension of the problem, its impact and the effectiveness of measures taken to address it. It is estimated that around 1 in 5 children would be victims of sexual violence.

■ States have the primary obligation to protect children from violence, including through measures to prevent it, prosecute it and to support victims and their families. Through the adoption of the Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in 2007 (the Lanzarote Convention), the Council of Europe member states took a bold step by scaling up their efforts to comply with that obligation. As a result, legislations and policies have been improved, awareness has been raised and the capacity to prevent and respond to sexual offences against children has increased. Thanks to its Committee of the Parties (the Lanzarote Committee), international cooperation is also greatly facilitated, leading to the exchange of good practices, the identification of gaps, emerging challenges and possible solutions as well as to concerted action. The report on the protection of children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust and the urgent monitoring report on the protection of children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse are perfect examples of this work.

■ The "Lanzarote community" includes representatives from governments, parliaments, civil society, child rights advocates, researchers, the private sector and other international networks and organisations, all mobilized to put an end to sexual abuse and exploitation of children. The success of the ONE in FIVE Campaign to stop sexual violence against children is largely due to these stakeholders' participation in the promotion of its messages and communication materials. Within the Council of Europe, the unprecedented commitment of the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and

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Regional Authorities boosted politicians' support to the Convention, which today has been signed by all member States and ratified by 42.

■ During the last ten years, the implementation of the Convention has made a world of a difference, by breaking taboos, raising awareness amongst different age groups and by helping to build and reinforce various circles of trust. These include children's trust in the adults who surround them, trust in the institutions' capacity to identify and address the problems, in the various stakeholders' willingness to be part of the solution and in the efficiency of an ever-growing circle of States committed to join forces in Europe and worldwide. The Lanzarote Convention is used and promoted at global level by the UN and other organisations and several non-European States are committed to become a party to this treaty.

■ As the world has started its journey in the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development, the Lanzarote Convention is well positioned to play a major supportive role in States' efforts to reach a number of targets, in particular target 16.2 (end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children).

■ The Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse was opened for signature on 25 October 2007 in Lanzarote (Spain). To mark this important milestone exactly 10 years afterwards, the Council of Europe invites the partners in the implementation of the Convention to gather in Strasbourg on 24 and 25 October 2017. The objective is to reflect on the results achieved, discuss the remaining challenges and guide future action. Through the stories of key witnesses and experts' insight in various issues, we aim at provoking a dynamic dialogue and results-oriented action. The organisation of a "Good practices circuit" will allow participants to discover actions undertaken by a number of key stakeholders which contribute to keeping children safe from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

9.30 Registration of participants
"Good practices circuit"

10.30 **Opening session**

- ▶ **Ms Gabriella BATTAINI-DRAGONI**, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe
- ▶ **Ambassador Emil RUFFER**, Chairman of the Committee of Ministers' Deputies of the Council of Europe, Czech Republic
- ▶ **Baroness Doreen MASSEY**, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Children, Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, United Kingdom
- ▶ **Mr Claude JANIZZI**, Chairperson of the Lanzarote Committee, Luxembourg

11.00 **Session 1: The Lanzarote Convention: making a world of difference!**

The adoption of the Lanzarote Convention in 2007 is considered a milestone in the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse both at European and global level.

This session will recall the genesis of the Convention and the legal gaps it was designed to fill. It will also examine the first challenges met by the Lanzarote Committee in its monitoring and capacity building roles, as well as the impact of this work and its relevance for both European and non-European countries. The aim is to show how the Lanzarote Convention makes a world of difference!

Moderator **Baroness Doreen MASSEY**, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Children, Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, United Kingdom

Witness **Ms Maud DE BOER-BUQUICCHIO**, UN Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children. Former Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe

"From denial to concerted action". Genesis and negotiation, strengths and weaknesses of the Lanzarote Convention, added value at national and UN level.

► **Mr Eric RUELLE**, Magistrate, *Inspecteur général de la justice*, former Chairperson of the Lanzarote Committee (2011-2014), France

"Driving for change: the first challenges of the Lanzarote Committee". Changes in legislation, child friendly justice.

► **Ms Marja RUOTANEN**, Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Sport Values, Directorate General of Democracy (DGII), Council of Europe

"A world of difference : The Lanzarote Convention and the global commitment to end sexual violence against children". 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. Universal benchmarks and indicators. Accession by non-European States to the Lanzarote Convention.

► **Ms Elena RAPTI**, Parliamentarian, Greece

"The ONE in FIVE Campaign in Greece". Value and impact at national level.

Debate

12.30 Lunch break and "Good practices circuit"

14.15 Session 2: Making the "circle of trust" the safest world for children

Available data indicates that most sexual abuse inflicted on children is committed by persons close to the child or by those in the child's family and social environment. Unfortunately, laws and policies in many countries do not take into account this data and fail to take the measures needed to address this problem, thus exposing many children to a form of abuse that can often last several years. This prompted the Lanzarote Committee to devote its first monitoring round to the sexual abuse of children in their "circle of trust".

This session will concentrate on some specific aspects of this issue. It will address the conditions that increase children's vulnerability to abuse, the specific needs of victims and how to empower children, parents and professionals working with them to reduce vulnerabilities and thus strengthen the protective role of the circle of trust so that it becomes the safest place for children.

Moderator **Mr George NIKOLAIDIS**, Director, Department of Mental Health and Social Welfare, Centre for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, Institute of Child Health, Greece

Witness **Ms Gloria VISERAS**, Former child Olympic athlete, Spain

“The Voices Project”. Giving a voice to victims and survivors of sexual abuse of children in sport, specificities of abuse in the context of elite sport, whistle blowers, screening of professionals working with children and statute of limitations.

▶ **Mr Bragi GUÐBRANDSSON**, Director General, Government Agency for Child Protection, Iceland

“Towards an integrated and child-centred response to child sexual abuse”. The impact and experiences across Europe in setting up children’s houses, child-friendly support and justice, multidisciplinary cooperation.

▶ **Ms Pepa HORNO**, Psychologist and consultant on childhood, affection and protection, *Consultoría Espirales*, Spain

“Strengthening the circle of trust”. Empowering children, parents and professionals working with them, breaking taboos everywhere.

Debate

16.00 Coffee break and “Good practices circuit”

16.30 **Session 3: Trust without borders: Protecting migrant and refugee children from sexual exploitation and abuse**

The “refugee crisis” hit Europe with waves of migrants and refugees escaping their countries of origin and then facing the risk of being victimised while on the move. Concerned by the precarious situation refugee and migrant children find themselves in, as well as the human rights violations they are confronted with, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe proposed an Action Plan to protect children affected by the refugee crisis. Alarmed by the vulnerability of these children to sexual violence, the Lanzarote Committee decided to conduct an urgent monitoring round on “Protecting children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse”.

In this session, speakers will address the overall issue, describe their first-hand experiences and present the work carried out by the Council of Europe in this field. The latter includes the special report adopted by the Lanzarote Committee in March 2017 and the work on safeguards carried out by the ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child (CAHENF).

The commitment to cooperate at global level is paramount. The rights of migrant and refugee children apply to all children on the move or affected by migration. All countries should make sure that solid measures are in place to protect migrant children from sexual exploitation and abuse, no matter where the children come from. By working together, States can build trust without borders.

Moderator **Mr Tomáš BOČEK**, Special Representative of the Council of Europe's Secretary General on Migration and Refugees

Witness **Ms Kristina MARKU**, Child Protection Coordinator, Hope for Children CRC Policy Center, Cyprus

"Receiving children affected by the refugee crisis". First-hand experience, key challenges.

▶ **Ms Christel DE CRAIM**, Head of Service ad interim, Service for Criminal Policy, Ministry of Justice, Belgium

"Protecting children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse". Main outcomes of the special report of the Lanzarote Committee, other Council of Europe efforts.

▶ **Mr Gert WESTERVEEN**, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Representative to the European Institutions in Strasbourg

"Putting children at the heart of global efforts". Children's vulnerability to violence at global level, global context and mobilisation, end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against children (Goal 16.2 of Agenda 2030).

Debate

18:00 End of the first day

9.00

Session 4: Protecting and empowering children in the digital world

The Internet, social media and the increased use of information and communication technologies are bringing new challenges to child protection, in particular in the field of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Children are particularly vulnerable to new forms of sexual violence, such as bullying, sex chatting, sexting, grooming and sexual coercion and extortion and they therefore need strengthened protection and empowerment.

During this session, experts will explain how new forms of sexual exploitation and abuse of children can best be fought. It will also be the occasion to present recently developed material and tools which can be used to raise awareness and guide policy makers to improve the protection of children. This session will end with a presentation of the monitoring round which the Lanzarote Committee has just launched, focusing most specifically on sexual images, videos and other content made by children and on how to protect them against the possible criminal exploitation of this material.

Moderator **Mr Ignacio ORIVE**, CEO of Brands & Rights 360, founder of NGO *"Pequeño Deseo"*, Spain

Witness **Ms Ally REDA**, Activist and survivor of online grooming, Canada

"Behind the webcam: the on-going journey of a survivor of sexual exploitation". Specificities of abuse of victim-generated content, social pressure, victim support and resilience issues.

▶ **Mr Niels BAAS**, University teacher and author of a book for parents and teachers to deal with bullying, sexting and grooming, The Netherlands

"My experience in the online world". Understanding children's new reality, communicating with children and helping them to overcome violence.

▶ **Ms Katarzyna STACIWA**, Strategic Analyst, Focal Point Twins, EC3, European Cybercrime Centre and fight against child sexual exploitation, EUROPOL

"Strengthening the protection of children in the digital environment". Law enforcement's role in raising awareness of children against online dangers.

10.15 Coffee break and "Good practices circuit"

10.45 **Session 4 (continued): Protecting and empowering children in the digital world**

▶ **Ms Ina VERZIVOLLI**, Chair of the Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child (CAHENF), Albania

"Towards comprehensive Guidelines for Council of Europe member States to empower, protect and support children's safe access to their rights on the Internet". The work of the Drafting Group of Specialists on Children and the Digital Environment (CAHENF-IT).

▶ **Ms Gioia SCAPPUCCI**, Executive Secretary of the Lanzarote Committee

"Protecting children against ICTs-facilitated sexual exploitation and abuse". The Lanzarote Committee's 2nd monitoring round.

Debate

12.00 **Conclusions and closing remarks**

▶ **Mr Claude JANIZZI**, Chairperson of the Lanzarote Committee, Luxembourg

▶ **Ms Marja RUOTANEN**, Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Sport Values, Directorate General of Democracy (DGII), Council of Europe

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