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

Conference

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

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INTRODUCTION

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

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.

PROGRAMME

Tuesday 24 October 2017

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

Wednesday 25 October 2017

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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Mr Niels BAAS

Teacher and expert in cyberbullying and the online world, The Netherlands

Mr Baas is a university teacher and runs his own organisation on cyberbullying and the online world. He will be speaking on his own behalf as a witness of his experiences with the online world and the way children work with it. Mr Bass has been a researcher at the University of Twente and dedicates his time to teaching at university and teaching parents, children, teachers, governments, help-line agencies and other instances working with children. Mr Baas is also author of a book on the online world and on dealing with cyberbullying, sexting and grooming. In addition he has appeared in several television and radio programs.

Ms Gabriella BATTAINI-DRAGONI

Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Ms Battaini-Dragoni has served as the Council of Europe's Deputy Secretary General since 2012, where her responsibilities include oversight of the Secretary General's reform agenda and staff policy. Before her current post, Ms Battaini-Dragoni was Director General of Social Cohesion, then Education, Culture and Heritage, and Programmes, respectively. Ms Battaini-Dragoni has published widely on a range of issues relating to the Council of Europe's mission, including social rights and the role of intercultural dialogue in modern democracies. She holds a degree in foreign languages and literature from the University of Venice and a diploma from the Institut Européen des Hautes Etudes Internationales, University of Nice. She was born in Brescia, Italy and is married with three children.

Mr Tomáš BOČEK

Special Representative of the Council of Europe's Secretary General on Migration and Refugees

A lawyer by training and a career diplomat, Mr Boček studied at the University of Pilsen and has a degree in public international law from Paris I University – Panthéon Sorbonne. From 2004 to 2008, he was the Agent of the Czech Republic before the European Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance in Luxembourg. In 2007 and 2008, he was also Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs and, from 2008 to 2009, Deputy Minister for International Relations and European Affairs at the Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic. From 2010 until the end of January 2016, he was Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the Council of Europe. In January 2016, Mr Boček was appointed Special Representative of the Council of Europe's Secretary General on Migration and Refugees.

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

Ms de Boer-Buquicchio (the Netherlands), a lawyer by education, joined the Council of Europe in 1969 and worked in different capacities in the human rights protection mechanism set up under the European Convention on Human Rights. In 1998, she was elected Deputy Registrar of the European Court of Human Rights. Between 2002 and 2012, she served as Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the first woman elected for this post. She is President of the European Federation for Missing and Exploited Children ("Missing Children Europe") and on 8 May 2014 she was appointed UN Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other sexual abuse material.

Ms Christel DE CRAIM

Head of Service ad interim, Service for Criminal Policy, Ministry of Justice, Belgium

Ms De Craim holds a master degree in criminology. She started her career in an observation and treatment centre for children with multiple problems. Afterwards she went to work for the Belgian Federal Public Department for Justice, where she currently is in charge of the Service for Criminal policy. In the field of policy making she has expertise relating to violence towards

children, child abuse, child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, trafficking in children,… She is the representative of the minister of Justice to the National Commission of the Rights of the Child. During the Belgian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (2014) she was for the Justice Department in charge of the organization of the Conference "The Best Interests of the Child": a dialogue between theory and practice. Currently she is member of the bureau of the Lanzarote Committee and member of the bureau of the Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child (CAHENF).

Mr Bragi GUĐBRANDSSON

Director General of the Government Agency for Child Protection, Iceland

Mr Guđbrandsson is the Director General of the Government Agency for Child Protection, Iceland, since 1995 and has been actively involved nationally and internationally in children´s rights for many years. He is the founder of the Icelandic Barnahus (Children's House) which has been an inspiration for child-friendly and multidisciplinary responses to child abuse in many European countries. Mr Guđbrandsson has worked extensively within the framework of the Council of Europe, assuming various responsibilities, including as Chairperson of the Lanzarote Committee from 2014 to 2016.

Ms Pepa HORNO

Psychologist and consultant on childhood, affection and protection, *Consultoría Espirales*, Spain

Ms Horno is a psychologist and international consultant in childhood, affection and protection. She has been working coordinating national and international campaigns to prevent and eradicate violence against children, mainly corporal punishment and child sexual abuse and exploitation. She has been giving training and assesment to organisations, institutions, child protection centers and NGO working with children in more than 30 countries of Europe, Latin America, South Asia and South East Asia.

Mr Claude JANIZZI

Chairperson of the Lanzarote Committee and coordinator of children's rights policy at the Ministry of Education, Children and Youth, Luxembourg

Mr Janizzi, member since its creation and since 2016 Chairperson of the Lanzarote Committee, is currently the coordinator of Luxembourg's children's rights policy at the Ministry of Education, Children and Youth. Before that he was in charge of the development of Luxembourg's childcare, including through drafting legislation and organising inspections. He was also head of Luxembourg's international central adoption authority. He taught at the University of Luxembourg as well as at different institutes for professionals in the educational and social sectors. He is a father of three girls and holds a BSc in education sciences, and a BSc and MSc in clinical and child psychology.

Ms Kristina MARKU

Child Protection Coordinator, Hope for Children CRC Policy Center, Cyprus

Ms Marku is the Child Protection Coordinator at "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center, a humanitarian organisation based in Nicosia, Cyprus. Ms Marku is based at "Home for Hope" the shelters for unaccompanied children run by the Organisation in cooperation with the Social Services of the Republic of Cyprus. Kristina studied law at the University of Nicosia and qualified for the Cyprus Bar Association in 2013. She has worked with a number of local NGOs and national authorities and is active in the field of human rights protection.

Baroness Doreen E. MASSEY

Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Children of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, United Kingdom

Baroness Massey of Darwen has been member of the British Upper Chamber (House of Lords) since 1999, and currently holds the function of Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Children of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Trained as a teacher and education advisor, she taught French and English in Gabon, Central Africa, the US and United Kingdom. She occupied

different functions covering health, education and children, and worked as a trainer on health education for doctors and teachers in the UK and abroad. She speaks mainly on children and families in Parliament and is patron of a number of voluntary organisations for children. She chaired the All Party Parliamentary Group for Children for fifteen years. Baroness Massey holds an Honorary Doctorate at the University of Birmingham and a Fellowship at the University of Central Lancashire and is an Honorary Professor of Sociology at Nottingham Trent University.

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

Mr Nikolaidis was born in Greece. His studies include a PhD on Epidemiology, an MSc in Philosophy of Mental Disorder and an MA in Psychoanalytical Studies. His work focuses on violence, child abuse and neglect, public health sciences and epidemiology. He is the Director of the Department of Mental Health and Social Welfare as well as the Institute of Child Health. He also coordinates various international research and intervention projects. He is also the vice-Chairperson of the Lanzarote Committee.

Mr Ignacio ORIVE

CEO of Brands & Rights 360, founder of non-governmental organisation "*Pequeño Deseo*", Spain

Mr Orive Martín graduated from the USC Business School's Entrepreneur Program, in Los Angeles, in 1989. Since then, he has worked in the Entertainment industry in different areas such as talent management, programme acquisitions, programming, licensing and merchandising, production and distribution mostly related to TV programmes for children, youth and family audiences (animation and live action). He has worked in different companies such as *Prima Artists LA*, *Antena 3 Television* Spain and *BRB Internacional* Spain. Since 2001, he independently started and ran various companies focusing on brand management of children oriented TV properties; currently Brands and Rights 360 based in Spain (www.br360.tv). In addition, he founded *Fundación Pequeño Deseo* which has granted wishes to more than 4000 children in Spain over the last 17 years (www.fpdeseo.org).

Ms Elena RAPTI

Parliamentarian, Greece

Ms Rapti was born and raised in Thessaloniki. She is a graduate of the Department of Greek Civilization of the Open University of Cyprus and holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration. She was elected in the Council of the Municipality of Thessaloniki, first time in 1996 and re-elected in 2002, first among other candidates. Ms Rapti is a founding member of the Non-Governmental Organisation, "*Agapi*" and the voluntary group "*Omada mazi sas*", an information center for the voluntary movement in Greece. She was elected Member of the Greek Parliament with New Democracy party, in the constituency of Thessaloniki, first time in 2004 and re-elected three consecutive times, in the national elections of 2007, 2009, in double elections of May and June 2012 and in double elections of January and September 2015. As from 2004, Ms Rapti has been an elected secretary of the Parliament Secretariat, an appointed member of the Standing Parliamentary Committees on National Defense & State Affairs, on Educational Affairs, on Social Affairs, on Economic Affairs, the Special Standing Committees on European Affairs, on Equality, Youth and Human Rights and the sub-Committee on issues related to people with disabilities. For the years 2012-2016 Ms Rapti has been an appointed alternate Member of the Parliamentary Assembly for the Council of Europe, member of the Network of contact Parliamentarians to stop sexual violence against children and Coordinator of the "ONE in FIVE" campaign in Greece.

Ms Ally REDA

Activist and survivor of online grooming, Canada

Ms Reda began her career as a public speaker and activist at the age of 18. Surviving sexual assault and online luring at the age of 16 her voice and story shows how important it is to not be silent. She was victimised by one of

Canada's most notorious Internet sex predators. Her case made international headlines. Since 2008, she has travelled across Canada and the world, speaking with youth, adults, law enforcement who want to hear her experience. She encourages others to reach out for help when dealing with abuse. Ms Reda has one important message to get out to the Canadian citizens and the rest of the world: "Awareness and education about on all forms of sexual violence and mental health will slowly end the stigma of staying silent".

Mr Eric RUELLE

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

Mr Ruelle, a magistrate in the French judicial service, served as deputy public prosecutor at the regional courts of Nancy (1989-1995) and Rennes (1995-1997), before being seconded to the Ministry of Defence (1997-1999) and then to the Ministry of Justice as a judge in the Central Administration (1999-2009). There he served as Deputy Head and then Head of the Office responsible for negotiations in criminal law in the Department of European and International Affairs (SAEI) and *Chargé de mission* with responsibility for international negotiations in the criminal-law field in the Directorate for Criminal Affairs and Pardons (DACG). He was First Vice-President of the Meaux Regional Court (2009-2013), responsible for organising the criminal division and presiding over the criminal court, and then President of the Auxerre Regional Court (2013-2016). In February 2016, he was appointed Deputy Director of the Private Office of the Minister of Justice, and subsequently, in March 2017, Director. Since May 2017, he has been Inspector General at the Ministry of Justice. In the Council of Europe, he has held the positions of Vice-Chair of the European Committee on Crime Problems (CD-PC), Chair of the Committee of Experts on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PC-ES - 2006-2007) and Co-Chair of the Ad hoc Committee on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (CAHVIO - 2008-2010). He was Chair of the Committee of the parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Committee) from 2011 to 2014.

Ambassador Emil RUFFER

Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the Council of Europe

Ambassador Ruffer is the Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the Council of Europe since 2016. Prior to this he was Deputy Director (2007-2008) and then Director (2008-2016) of the EU Law Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. Among other diplomatic posts, he was Third Secretary at the Czech Embassy in London during the United Kingdom Presidency of the Council of the EU. He has carried out functions in Berlin and London during his time at the Diplomatic Academy of the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ms Marja RUOTANEN

Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Sport Values, Directorate General of Democracy (DGII), Council of Europe

Her responsibilities as Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Sport Values within the Directorate General of Democracy cover Violence against Women, Trafficking in Human Beings, Gender Equality, Rights of persons with disabilities, Children's Rights, as well as Sport. Ms Ruotanen joined the Council of Europe in 1990 and has held several positions, including Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General, and recently Director of Justice and Human Dignity within the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law. She has served as Secretary to various Parliamentary Assembly Committees, notably the Political Affairs Committee, Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population and the Committee on Gender Equality. She was born in Rovaniemi, Finland and studied International Relations (political science and law) at McGill University in Montreal (Canada).

Ms Gioia SCAPPUCCI

Executive Secretary to the Lanzarote Committee

Ms Scappucci is an administrator at the Council of Europe since July 2001. Since 2012, she works within the Children's Rights Division as Executive Secretary to

the Lanzarote Committee, i.e. the Committee of the Parties of the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Previously, she worked for the Secretariats of the European Committee of Social Rights, the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) and the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention on the protection of national minorities. Before becoming a Council of Europe staff member, Ms Scappucci worked several years as a Teaching Assistant at the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium. Ms Scappucci studied political sciences in Rome, La Sapienza University and European administration and policies at the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium.

Ms Katarzyna STACIWA

Strategic Analyst, Focal Point Twins, EC3, European Cybercrime Centre and fight against child sexual exploitation, EUROPOL

Ms Staciwa is a strategic analyst in the team dealing with child sexual exploitation at Europol - European Cybercrime Centre (EC3). She is responsible for delivering strategic documents in the area of child sexual abuse and exploitation, liaising with NGOs, hotlines, academia and the private sector involved in combating CSAE as well as scanning the horizon for future cyber-relevant developments. Ms Staciwa holds an MA in administrative law from the University of Lodz in Poland, where she also studied criminal law and criminology. As post graduate education she completed studies in pedagogy and obtained rights of a lecturer in system of higher education. As a graduate of the Helsinki Foundation Human Rights School she is also certified lecturer in the field of human rights. Before joining EUROPOL in 2006 as Polish Liaison Officer Ms Staciwa was in charge of international police cooperation in the trilateral cross-border region of Upper Silesia, in Poland including delivery of the EU law enforcement-oriented projects.

Ms Ina VERZIVOLLI

Chairperson of the State Agency for the Protection of Child Rights, Albania

Ms Verzivolli is the Chairperson of the Albanian State Agency for the Protection of Child Rights, the agency mandated with monitoring the implementation of the rights of the child in Albania as well as the lead agency in child protection. She is dedicated to strengthening the protection of children's rights in Albania, with a particular focus on building an effective and integrated child protection system. Ms Verzivolli has led the process of drafting the new legislation on child rights protection and is currently involved in the coordination of the plan of action for the protection of children in street situation. She is also involved with child rights at the international level and is currently the Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Rights of the Child of the Council of Europe (CAHENF), as well as member of the Lanzarote Committee. She is the national focal point for the Council of European Network of Children's Rights Coordinators. Ms. Verzivolli holds an MSc in International Development Studies Geneva Graduate Institute (HEID).

Ms Gloria VISERAS

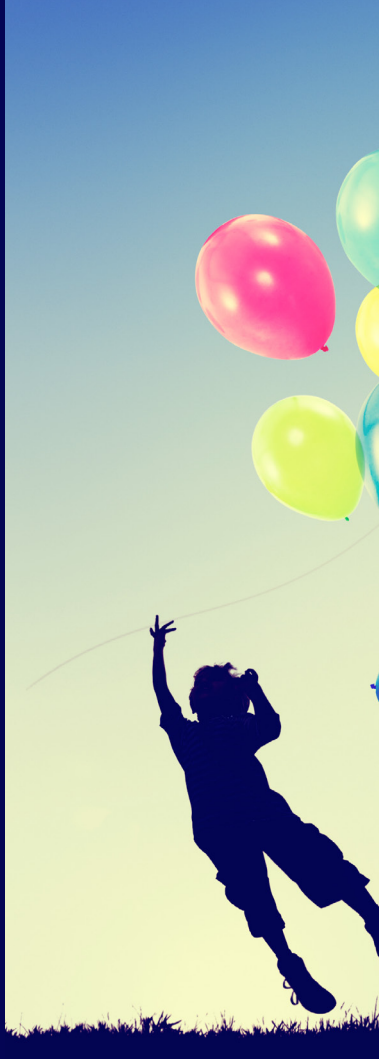
Former gymnast and activist for safe sport and the protection of children, Spain

Ms Viseras is a former (child) elite gymnast. At 15, she was national champion and one of the only nine women who represented Spain at the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow. She was a victim of child sexual abuse in sport and today she is an activist for safe sport and works for the protection of children against all forms of violence in sport.

Mr Gert WESTERVEEN

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Representative to the European Institutions in Strasbourg

Mr. Westerveen is a lawyer by training. He joined UNHCR in 1991, and has served with UNHCR in various functions in a variety of countries in Europe and Africa, including in the former Yugoslavia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. He is UNHCR Representative to the European Institutions in Strasbourg since January 2014.



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