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PRO SAFE SPORT +

Put an end to sexual harassment and abuse against children in sport (PSS+)

1st Workshop

24-25 April 2017

Strasbourg, Council of Europe
Agora building, meeting room G02

Report

Sexual violence against children in sport: Definitions of concepts, prevalence, perpetrators and impacts

Presentation by Kari FASTING, Professor Emerita, Department of Social and Cultural Studies, Norwegian School of Sport Sciences

Content of the presentation:

The presentation can be downloaded from the Pro Safe Sport website.

Kari Fasting (KF) made a general introduction, noting that dealing with sexual violence against children in sport can be challenging given the diversity of concepts surrounding this topic (sexual harassment, gender harassment, sexual abuse, sexual violence, gender-based violence, maltreatment, etc.), the existing overlap between the different types of violence (neglect, physical, psychological / emotional and sexual violence) and the continuum in terms of mechanisms between discrimination, harassment and abuse¹.

The concept of “sexual violence” is starting to become more commonly used in the field of sport, covering gender harassment, sexual harassment and sexual abuse. The concept of “non-accidental” violence introduced by Brackenridge (2010) is also strongly relevant in this area. Concerning prevalence, KF highlighted that sexual violence occurs in all sports. Some forms are more prevalent in boys, others in girls, but more cases are usually registered involving elite athletes, ethnic minorities, LGBT athletes, and athletes with disabilities. She also mentioned that peer athletes are a major source of gender, sexual harassment and abuse, and one of the risk factors is the absence of prevention procedures. Lastly, she stressed the lack of studies carried out on sexual violence in sport as well as the lack of reporting that may impact the figures.

Comments / floor discussion

- There is a consensus on the lack of data on sexual violence against children and the indisputable need for more research. There may be an opportunity to progress on this issue through the UN's sustainable development goals (Agenda 2030). Indeed, some indicators have been identified to end violence against children. Research on this topic should provide guidance on how to build evidence-based policies and measures
- Studies and research on bullying in sport are missing
- Peer to peer abuse is an area not tackled thoroughly enough
- Having different resources for different organisations at different stages of development should be considered
- A question was raised about the meaning of “in sport” in the expression “sexual violence against children in sport”. Some experts agreed upon using “in the context of sport” which covers the different places and situations where sexual violence can occur
- An integrated approach to address sexual violence against children may be considered since there do not seem to be major differences between the sport sector and other fields

¹ As far as children as concerned, all forms of harassment are considered as abuse.

“Pro Safe Sport +” project

Presentation by Clotilde TALLEU, Project manager, Council of Europe – Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport

Content of the presentation:

The presentation can be downloaded from the Pro Safe Sport website.

Clotilde Talleu (CT) explained what the “Pro Safe Sport+” project is, noting that it is aimed at increasing the commitment of both governmental and non-governmental organisations (Ministries and government departments related to sport and children’s rights, sport organisations, NGOs, etc.) towards sexual violence against children in sport. To achieve this, existing awareness raising tools as well as capacity building resources will be gathered and new ones will be created, such as an online resource centre, a network of experts, a video-clip, guidelines / recommendations and a training module. She added that the PSS+ objectives are fully in line with the relevant normative framework of both the EU and the CoE. Considering these obligations, public authorities responsible for sport as well as other relevant stakeholder organisations (such as sport organisations) should have a corresponding normative framework (policies, regulations, codes of conduct, national strategies, action plans, etc.) in place and implement these measures effectively to prevent and combat sexual violence in sport.

Comments / floor discussion

Other than some clarifications requested on the deliverables – which will be elaborated step-by-step in close co-operation with the PSS+ partners –, it was noted in the floor discussion following the presentation that developing new standards and norms is not useful given the already existing International and European standards that can be used when developing policies and measures addressing sexual violence against children in sport. A suggestion was made to implement a more concrete and practical approach.

Working session 1 – Developing a video-clip for raising awareness

Objectives:

- Sharing ideas and experience on the development of video-clips for increasing the awareness on sexual violence against children (in sport)
- Drawing up guidelines for a brief

Presentations

Council of Europe audio-visual material on sexual violence against children

Presentation by Elda MORENO, Head of Children’s Rights and Sport Values Department, Council of Europe

Elda Moreno (EM) presented 3 video-clips developed by the Council of Europe in the framework of awareness raising campaigns on sexual violence against children: [Kiko and the hand](#), [Tell someone you trust](#) and [The lake](#) (created for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe). Even if each video-clip was dedicated to a specific target group and has a particular message and approach, there are common key dimensions that have to be taken into account when developing a video-clip on this topic in a European / international context: identifying the missing tools before creating new

ones, the necessary adaptation to the national contexts, the possible customisation (including a logo / a helpline / a hotline), the translation into other languages, having a clear message, etc. EM also noted that complementary tools (such as a booklet) can be designed to provide guidance for specific target groups (parents, for instance). She also highlighted that the dissemination methods should be anticipated, in the knowledge that reaching broadcasters is very complicated. Therefore, having a strong and diversified network of partners is essential.

“One in five” campaign in Greece and its further developments

Presentation by Elena RAPTİ, Member of Parliament, Greece

Content of the presentation:

The presentation can be downloaded from the Pro Safe Sport website.

Elena Rapti (ER) explained how the “[One in five](#)” tools (Council of Europe) were used and adapted by the Greek government to implement an awareness raising campaign on sexual violence against children. A helpline was added at the end of the video-clip “Kiko and the hand”, the slogan was changed, etc. A wide consortium of partners was involved in the campaign (state bodies, local authorities, sport clubs, the Ministry related to education, public and private nurseries, schools, police, NGOs, orthodox church, etc.) and the mass media also took part in it. Materials were broadcast by the national and regional TV channels, and disseminated on the radio and via social media (Facebook, etc.). Currently, the campaign is still on-going, and 2 new video-clips were created in order to complement those developed by the Council of Europe – one adapted to disabled children and the other dedicated to peer-harassment and abuse.

NSPCC / NSPCC-CPSU audio-visual material for raising awareness

Presentation by Anne TIIVAS, Director, National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) – Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU)

Anne Tivaas (AT) presented the considerations that have to be taken into account when creating a video-clip, such as the expected outcomes, the target audience, the message, the partners / stakeholders to be involved (not only for the dissemination but also for the creation), etc. To illustrate these points, 2 video-clips were shown: “[Magic Sport](#)” and “[Be share aware](#)”. She also added that children should take part in the creation process and be consulted.

Working in groups

To start drawing up the brief to be sent to a production company, PSS+ partners were invited to work in small groups to exchange views on the following topics and guiding questions:

- Target audience(s): What should the target audience(s) be? Who do we want to reach? Children? General public? Coaches? Parents? People who have a role to play in sport? Etc.
- Dissemination method(s): Where should the video-clip be disseminated? At school? In local clubs? At home? During matches (half-time)? On TV? Etc. Should it be disseminated through digital supports (Internet, social networks, etc.) Etc.

- Video-clip format: What kind of video-clip would be the most suited to the topic and the target audience(s)? An animation? A short film with actors? A testimony of a victim? A statement by a famous high level athlete? Etc.
- Message(s) to spread: What message(s) do we want to spread?
- Important dimensions: What do we want to see in this video-clip?
- Aspects to avoid: What do we have to avoid / to exclude?
- Duration: How long should the video-clip last?

Outcomes

Group 1 / rapporteur: Laura Eddie

- The group concentrated on the expected outcomes and on what they want to achieve: creating empathy? Breaking down a taboo? Etc. They decided to focus on education for young athletes but also for the general public (parents, stakeholders, people who have a role to play in the field of sport, etc.).
- Target audience: No specific target group but making a video-clip accessible to all.
- Dissemination methods: schools, local clubs, sport events, etc.
- Format: animation could be good, although expensive, but would not focus on a particular gender (simpler as well). With actors, there is a risk of stereotyping.
- Scenario / message: a split story: the situation in a negative aspect but with a positive outcome. Highlighting on the potential danger that exists for every child.
- Duration: not more than 30 seconds
- Customising for each country: having a signpost to a specific hotline or helpline

Other idea: Developing a smartphone app to make the information accessible for young athletes and children. Something similar already exists in Ireland and is also being prepared in Greece.

Floor discussion / comments

- The target audience of the video-clip may be the general public, given the fact that it will be difficult to directly reach local clubs
- The content must be understood as relevant and have an effect on local clubs. It has to be adapted to all target groups
- Dissemination through TV, press, etc. should be considered

Group 2 / rapporteur: Siân Jones

Suggestions for the different key topics:

- Target audience: children / 13-18 age range, general public, national sport federations (but communication problems may be faced). The younger children may be reached by amending "Kiko and the hand"
- Dissemination methods: TV for general public, schools: teachers are often better qualified to talk about sexual violence, harassment, etc. but parents are sometimes reluctant to let schools deliver this kind of message. The video-clip can also be disseminated through social networks, twitter, etc.
- Format: the video-clip has to be substantiated for children to access to key information by themselves

- Message: re-emphasising a positive message on sport, its basic principles, respect of rules, integrity, etc. Another / a second message could be to remove the barriers and to talk. Taking into account the behaviours that lead to sexual harassment and abuse (escalation phenomenon).

Message spread by global ambassadors, international icons who are idolised by children

- Complementing the video-clip with other tools, such as an app for children so they have information on hand at all times

Floor discussion / comments

- Involving icons / famous athletes is a very good idea and can provide an added value for the dissemination (on social media for instance, on TV, etc.)
- Consulting children and testing the video-clip before its launching is essential
- Asking technical experts for advice is also important to fine-tune the scenario / brief / concept

Working session 2 – Designing guidelines / recommendations for addressing sexual harassment and abuse against children in sport

Objectives:

- Familiarising with the existing international and European standards and norms dealing with sexual violence against children (in sport and in other settings)
- Sharing ideas on how to help public authorities and sport organisations comply more closely with these

Presentations

The Lanzarote Convention for the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

Presentation by Mikaël POUTIERS, Secretary to the Lanzarote Committee, Children's Rights Division, Council of Europe

Mikaël Poutiers (MP) explained what the Council of Europe convention for the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse is, noting that it covers all possible kinds of sexual offences against children including: sexual abuse of a child, exploitation of children through prostitution, grooming, corruption of children (through exposure to sexual content and activities), and offences related to child abuse material. This norm calls on Member States to establish legislation and take measures in order to prevent sexual violence, to protect child victims and to prosecute perpetrators. It also promotes international co-operation to achieve these objectives. MP highlighted the following issues which are particularly relevant for the sport sector:

- Children should be made aware of the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and of how to protect themselves;
- Programmes to support victims and their families should be established;
- Persons working in contact with children should be trained and screened (in some member States this obligation can also be applied to voluntary activities);
- The reporting of the suspicion of sexual exploitation or sexual abuse has to be encouraged.

MP added that the “Lanzarote committee” is mandated to monitor the implementation of the Lanzarote convention and to facilitate the collection, analysis and exchange of information, experience and good practice between Member states. The first monitoring round has been focused on the “Protection of children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust”. Further information about the Lanzarote convention and other relevant documents are available on the [COE children's rights division website](#).

Floor discussion / comments

The floor discussion after the presentation raised 3 main issues:

- The cross-border challenges and the need for international mechanisms
- Dealing with suspicion / with people highly suspected to have committed sexual abuse. On this matter, exchanging good practices can be very useful. Some promising initiatives already exist in Norway and in Wales, for instance
- Voluntary people in local sport clubs. Most of the coaches in sport clubs are volunteers and not concerned by a criminal record check.

EU Expert Group on Good Governance, Recommendations on the protection of young athletes and safeguarding children's rights in sport

Presentation by Alexandre Husting, Adviser, Ministry of sport, Luxembourg

Content of the presentation:

The presentation can be downloaded from the Pro Safe Sport website.

Alexandre Husting (AH) briefly presented the content of these recommendations that are broader than the issue tackled by the PSS+ project. 27 recommendations dedicated to National authorities, sport organisations and the European Commission were prepared by an expert group composed of Member States and Observers (mainly representatives from the sport movement). AH emphasised that the main message of this legally non-binding document is to encourage using the experience gained from specialised institutions and existing initiatives. He also mentioned the tricky issue of the criminal record check: its content (the nature of the sentences is not usually indicated), the exchange of information and the fact that it is still unclear whether a private sport club can ask for it when recruiting. AH added that if it seems obvious to encourage collaborations between the sport movement and the stakeholder organisations responsible for child protection, it is not an easy matter. Concerning sport organisations, some recommendations were made to the major ones (larger federations and clubs, umbrella sport organisations, etc.) and others to grassroots sport clubs and associations. The main difference between these two sets of guiding principles concerns the risk analysis for minors in their sporting environment which is not mentioned for grassroots sport organisations.

Floor discussion / comments

The floor discussion following the presentation mainly dealt with the application of the existing standards and norms. There is sometimes a lot of resistance to comply with recommendations / guidelines, given the autonomy of sport organisations for example. Sport organisations often have many other priorities than preventing sexual violence against children. However, things can change, in particular through education and training. In UK for instance, a coaching certification is compulsory and coaches attend a 3-hour training course on safeguarding. In some major sport clubs,

there is also sometimes a welfare officer / a person in charge of protection and integrity covering all issues regarding minors.

Prevention of harassment and abuse in sport, IOC² Guidelines for IFs³ and NOCs⁴

Presentation by Kirsty Burrows, Prevention of harassment and abuse in sport project co-ordinator, IOC

Content of the presentation:

The presentation can be downloaded from the Pro Safe Sport website.

Opening her presentation, Kirsty Burrows (KB) highlighted that the last consensus statement signed in 2015 calls on all stakeholders (mainly IFs and NOCs) to adopt general principles for safe sport. She also explained the process implemented by the IOC to develop prevention of harassment and abuse in sport (PHAS) initiatives: a 1st phase which is international policy and a second one that offers guidance to IFs and NOCs. KB stressed that most of the organisations of the Olympic movement do not have any policy or procedure in place on harassment and abuse. That is why the IOC decided to develop guidelines intended to serve as minimum standards for IFs and NOCs (that are quite similar to those promoted by the EU); she added that it is important to take into account the voice of the athletes when developing safeguarding policies and measures. To offer support and resources to implement these guidelines, the IOC is currently developing a toolkit dedicated to the safeguarding of all athletes: a step-by-step guide for policy development, some resources (an online course, a forum discussion, some templates, etc.). She concluded her presentation by noting that harassment and abuse in sport is not included in the basic universal principles of good governance which were made compulsory, but PHAS is encompassed under the "Protection of athletes" banner.

Floor discussion / comments

A floor discussion started right after this last presentation about suggesting tools to make public authorities and sport organisations comply more closely with the existing standards and norms:

- Following up / monitoring the implementation of the existing standards and norms can have a positive and concrete effect on their application
- Having people at national level who widely spread the political messages coming from recommendations and guidelines (multipliers)
- Mobilising sport organisations to implement specific actions on 18th November (European day on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse)
- Developing prevalence data as a means to raise awareness on sexual violence in sport and to make better policies
- Fostering co-operation between sport organisations and public authorities in charge of children's protection
- Reaching national sport federations and having practical tools and resources which appeal to them (such as training modules)
- Using "prevention of sexual violence" criteria (goals standards / minimum requirements) when providing public funds

² International Olympic Committee

³ International Federations

⁴ National Olympic Committees

Working session 3 – Setting up a pool of experts

Objectives:

- Exchanging ideas on the purpose of the pool of experts
- Drawing up its general structure

Presentation

Clotilde Talleu presented two existing initiatives of pools / networks / databases of experts in the framework of the EU-COE youth partnership, to allow PSS+ experts to get inspiration from them:

- [The Pool of European youth researchers \(PEYR\)](#): network of 26 researchers and experts from across Europe who possesses a wide range of expertise in different policy areas connected to youth. It is used by both the European Commission and the Council of Europe, and is also opened to any interested stakeholder as a source of expertise and knowledge on youth. The members of the PEYR are selected on the basis of an open call.
- [The EKCYP \(European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policies\) expert database](#): network that allows experts in youth matters to place their own portfolios setting out their expertise and make them widely available.

Floor discussion / comments:

The floor discussion after the presentation concurred that setting up a network of National contact points on sexual violence in sport could also be relevant. However, the objectives of the Pool of experts on sexual violence in sport is closely connected with the findings of the study on gender-based violence in sport (European Commission) which recommend building a network of experts that could offer guidance to member States when developing gender-based violence policies and measures. A network of National contact points is a significant idea, but should be included in another project.

Working in groups

A group session followed this discussion. PSS+ experts were invited to share their ideas on the pool of experts and to lay its foundation by answering the following guiding questions:

- WHAT?
What kind of support services and competences will (and will not) be offered? On which topics? Etc.
- WHO?
Who / What types of experts will join the pool? How will they be selected? Through a formal procedure? Through the PSS+ experts?
- HOW?
How will expert profiles be designed? What information is needed?

Outcomes

Group 1 / rapporteur : Laura Eddie

- Given the timeframe, the group suggested avoiding launching an open application which would be too lengthy and would not necessarily provide “true” experts. A 1st list of members may be drafted by the group and by passing through existing networks such as Safe Sport International, the International safeguarding group, etc. This process may run for a couple of years. As a 2nd step, the procedure could be refined in order to create a more robust and open mechanism.
- The pool could meet once a year to share best practices, to present feedback to the Council of Europe and the European Commission on the topic, to provide relevant resources to governments, sport governing bodies, etc.
- The pool may be comprised of:
 - 5-10 people already working in European / national sport organisations
 - 5-10 researchers with an expertise on sexual violence in sport
 - Some athletes who can provide an added-value to the pool
- A summary of the fields of expertise (not too lengthy but providing enough substance) and some publications could be put online.

Setting up a network of National contact points on sexual violence in sport is also important and complementary to the pool of experts. The Council of Europe shall play a role in this process.

Floor discussion / comments

- The floor discussion after the return to plenary raised a question about the budget available to support the pool of experts, in particular once the project will end in 2017. The PSS+ secretariat answered that the pool will be built step by step, the first one being to identify its members. Then, the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) could provide some resources to stakeholder organisations in order to arrange a meeting, whether there is an interest and / or a need.
- A long discussion took place on the scope / the limits of the pool of experts. Most of the participants expressed that the pool of experts shouldn't be limited to experts in the field of children. People usually work on sexual harassment and abuse in a broad sense and their action do not often target a specific group. The mechanisms and basic principles are also broadly similar. In addition, experts on sexual violence against women for instance could provide a substantial contribution on children issues.

Group 2 / rapporteur: An de Kock

- The pool of experts could gather:
 - Representatives from Ministries and government departments. The European Commission may play an important role to identify these
 - Representatives from specific organisations and new ones (such as the Safe Sport International network)
 - Researchers
 - Lawyers (with an expertise on European law)
- Regarding the selection process, an open call could be sent to a set of experts (suggested by the PSS+ partners). A more formal procedure may be implemented in a 2nd step
- A clear message detailing the missions of the experts is needed prior to the launch of the call

- The group of experts may share best practices, communicate on new initiatives, and do some problem solving where needed
- A newsletter could be widely disseminated every month with the main news in the field on sexual violence against children in sport
- Information on linguistic skills and current activities are needed to elaborate the experts profiles

Floor discussion / comments

- Some participants recalled that the members of the pool must be “true” experts and not focused on their national interests. It is also important to build a diversified pool of experts, not only with academics but also with practitioners. Furthermore, this could be a great opportunity to make scientists and policy makers work together
- The group has to find some key words such as : legal expertise, academics, etc. in order to design the profiles in a simple and clear way
- Finding a balance between the 2 dimensions of the pool of experts (peer-learning and peer-support) is essential. It can be difficult for members to find time to offer support to interested stakeholder organisations

Conclusion / next meeting

- The PSS+ Secretariat thanked all attendees for their active participation
- Noted that the 2nd PSS+ workshop will be held in late June in Brussels (a “save the date” will be sent as soon as possible)

ANNEX 1

List of participants

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