

LANZAROTE COMMITTEE

Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention
on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and
sexual abuse

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Replies to the thematic questionnaire

“Screening of professionals, volunteers and other
persons in contact with children”

“HOPE FOR CHILDREN” CRC Policy Center

CYPRUS

To the Lanzarote Committee of the Council of Europe

16 September 2026

Complementary response by “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center to the thematic questionnaire “Screening of professionals, volunteers and other persons in contact with children”

Question 1: The Law 91/2014, Article 22 point 6 provides that “(6) Any person intending to employ an individual for professional, organised, or voluntary activities that involve regular contact with children shall be obliged not to proceed with the employment of any person unless that person produces a certificate confirming that they are not included in the Register maintained pursuant to the provisions of this Article”.

In that sense, self-employed professionals are not covered, and therefore the certificate is not requested by any authority. In contrast, employees bound by an employment contract are obliged to submit the certificate prior to commencing their employment.

- As for childcare and institutional care, screening is required in alignment with the Social Welfare Services Director’s Regulations, which are developed based on Article 26, Children’s Law (Chapter 352).
- Foster care is not yet regulated by law in Cyprus, although a detailed law has been presented to the House of Representatives and is expected to be voted on by 2027. To date, foster care is governed by the above-mentioned Regulations and Protocols of Cooperation between the SWS and relevant stakeholders (i.e. HFC), under which the certificate is a prerequisite.
- As for migration facilities, Law 115/2026, Article 39, point 12(a) refers to regular check on the criminal record for guardians of UAC. Articles 177 and 178 refer to Regulations for the hosting facilities which are issued by the Asylum Service.
- As for sports, the Action Plan for Healthy Sports, as provided for in Law 41/1969, was approved by the Council of Ministers and sets out general policies for the protection and welfare of children in sports. The policy makes clear reference to the requirement to obtain the certificate prior to employing a professional or volunteer.
- Adoption: Article 13, point 4, Law 19/1995 provides that “..the SWS officer assesses the suitability of the proposed carer to assume responsibility for the care of the minor for the purposes of adoption.” But there is no clear reference to the certificate.

Question 2: The answer is NO to both a) and b) questions.

Question 3: Yes, as described in question 1.

Question 4: a) No

b) No

c) Yes. In addition, confirmation that there are no convictions for sexual offences against children is required for all adult members of the applicant's household, in accordance with the SWS Director's regulations.

Question 5: Yes, to both a) and b) as the Law 91/2014, Article 22(6) refers to "an individual for professional, organised, or voluntary activities". Given that The Protection of Young Persons at Work Law of 2001 (Law 48(I)/2001) permits the employment of children from the age of 15 under specific conditions, this provision applies to children as well.

Question 6: Nothing to add to the information already provided by Cyprus representative.

Question 7: Nothing to add to the information already provided by Cyprus representative.

Question 8: Nothing to add to the information already provided by Cyprus representative.

Question 9: a) the restrictions as a result of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children are life-long pursuant to Article 14, point 4, Law 91/2014.

c) they apply to all sectors

Question 10: Following from the answer to question 9a, this question does not apply.

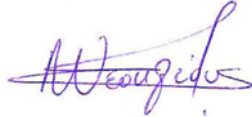
Questions 11-14: Nothing to add.

Question 15: The Law does not specify the frequency of screening. The provision only refers to non-employment of a person unless they submit the relevant certificate.

The last part regarding cross-border screening could not be identified as a procedure established by the competent authority of Cyprus, despite our efforts to obtain clarification.

We hope that our response provides some additional value, although we were unable to address the questionnaire in its entirety.

Sincerely,



Andria Neocleous
Executive Director