

**18 NOVEMBER**

Day for the  
Protection of  
Children against  
Sexual Exploitation  
and Sexual Abuse

[www.coe.int/EndChildSexualAbuseDay](http://www.coe.int/EndChildSexualAbuseDay)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

# 18 November: Day for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse\*

## What is the purpose of the Day?

Child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse are among the worst forms of violence against children. They are a serious violation of the rights of the child and can have lifelong negative impacts on the physical and mental health of the child victims and survivors.

To prevent these crimes, prosecute the perpetrators and protect children, the Council of Europe, its member states and international partners need to make sure that decision makers, parents, educators and other stakeholders are aware of the risks, consequences, and available actions.

The objectives of the Day are to:

- ▶ raise awareness about child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, including ways to prevent such crimes;
- ▶ facilitate open discussion on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in order to prevent and eliminate the stigmatisation of victims and survivors;
- ▶ promote the ratification and implementation of the Lanzarote Convention – a unique legally-binding international treaty that requires states to criminalise all forms of sexual abuse of children and take holistic action to prevent and combat these crimes.

The Day for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse is celebrated annually on 18 November. It builds on the ONE in FIVE Campaign to stop sexual violence against children, which ran from 2010 to 2015. The Day is an occasion to build momentum and awareness about the need to continue taking action to strengthen the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Activities for the Day have a thematic focus each year.

## Who is the Day for?

Everyone can take action to mark the Day:

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

## How can the Day be marked?

State authorities, civil society and the private sector are invited to take ownership of the Day and are free to decide on the initiatives they wish to take. These may include: developing awareness-raising materials, organising public debates, information seminars, talks in schools, screening of films, producing different language versions of tools and materials available on the Council of Europe website, media events or organising other creative initiatives.

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

- ▶ child-friendly awareness-raising material for parents and professionals working with children;
- ▶ awareness-raising and other resources for local, regional and national authorities;
- ▶ description of activities organised at national level to inspire further initiatives.

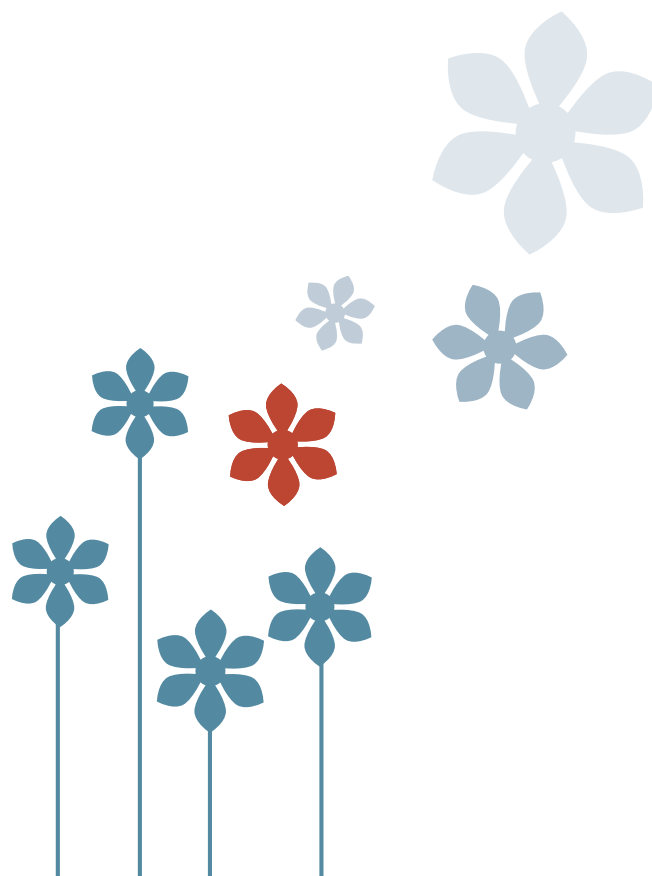
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**Website:** [www.coe.int/EndChildSexualAbuseDay](http://www.coe.int/EndChildSexualAbuseDay)

**Twitter:** [@coe\\_children](https://twitter.com/coe_children)

[#EndChildSexualAbuseDay](https://twitter.com/EndChildSexualAbuseDay)

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\* By decision of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe of 12 May 2015.