



18 NOVEMBER

European Day
on the Protection
of Children against
Sexual Exploitation
and Sexual Abuse

www.coe.int/EndChildSexAbuseDay

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

18 November is the European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse*

What is the purpose of the European Day?

■ Sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children are still a tragic reality for all our societies. They are a serious violation of children's rights, and have long lasting and often detrimental consequences for their entire life.

■ To prevent these crimes, prosecute the perpetrators and protect the victims, the Council of Europe and its member States need to make sure that parents, educators, NGOs and decision-makers do not shy away from the problem, but bring it to light and discuss ways and take practical steps to solve it.

■ The objectives of the European Day are therefore to:

- ▶ raise public awareness of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, and the need to prevent such acts;
- ▶ facilitate open discussion on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and help prevent and eliminate the stigmatisation of victims;
- ▶ promote the ratification and implementation of the Lanzarote Convention – a unique legally-binding instrument that obliges states to criminalise all forms of sexual abuse of children and spells out the ways to fight it.

■ The European Day, celebrated annually on 18 November, adds on to the work of the Council of Europe and its member States under the ONE in FIVE Campaign to stop sexual violence against children, which ended in November 2015. The European Day helps maintain the momentum and attention on the need to continue protecting children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Each edition of the European Day has a specific thematic focus and is an occasion to develop and launch innovative tools, handbooks, and awareness raising materials dedicated to the selected theme.

Who is the European Day for?

■ This day is meant for children and for everyone who interacts with children in their personal or professional capacity:

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

How can the European Day be marked?

■ The European Day is organised in a flexible and decentralised manner while being guided by the Council of Europe.

■ Council of Europe member States and civil society take ownership for marking the European Day and are free to decide on the initiatives they wish to take. These may include public debates and information seminars; talks in schools; screening of films on the topic of sexual violence against children; adapting different language versions of communication materials produced by the Council of Europe; 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, professionals and children;
- ▶ awareness-raising and other resources for local, regional and national authorities;
- ▶ a list of events organised at national level.

Contact: EndChildSexAbuseDay@coe.int

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* As decided by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 12 May 2015.

