

# Mid-term review conference for the Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027)

## Session on Protecting children from violence through age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025 – 14h30-17h

### III. Stakeholder's perspectives

Question asked by young delegates	Main elements of responses
How can age-appropriate and comprehensive sexuality education help protect children from harm at school, but also at home and during activities outside of school?	<b>Lorna Muscat, member of the Lanzarote Committee</b> explained how her Committee, monitoring the <a href="#">Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse</a> , found that CSE could prevent violence.
How can sex ed also prevent violences between children? How can learning about respect and consent help children make good choices and treat others kindly? Why is it important to talk about these things in sexuality education?	<b>Simon Hackett, University professor and researcher</b> referred to the CoE <a href="#">study on sexual violence and harmful sexual behaviour displayed by children</a> and the <a href="#">Thematic guidance note on Safeguarding children from the risks of accessing online pornographic content</a>
How can age-appropriate sexuality education help children understand the effects of digital technology and protect them from dangers like harmful content and online violence?	<b>PACE member Ms Bonetti (italy)</b> , referred to the PACE report on the <a href="#">protection of children against online violence</a> .
We all know that girls are more often than boys victims of sexual violences. How can sexuality	CoE colleagues <b>Cécile Gréboval</b> (Gender Equality division) and <b>Francesca Montagna</b> (secretariat of <a href="#">GREVIO</a> , working on violence against women) highlighted previous work in

education help everyone be treated equally and keep girls and women safe?	their respective areas underlining how CSE can contribute to gender equality, namely the <a href="#">Recommendation on Preventing and Combating Sexism</a> and the <a href="#">Guidelines on the place of men and boys</a> in gender equality policies and in policies to combat violence against women.
There is a lot of fear, mainly from adults around CSE. Why, and how can we address the fear and opposition against something that we, children, find so important?	<b>Charles Schmit</b> , <a href="#">Ombudsperson for Children from Luxembourg</a> , explained the recent opposition in Luxembourg regarding <a href="#">Comprehensive Sexuality Education addressing sexual orientation and gender identity</a> , and how it was addressed. He also referred to a recent recommendation on the <a href="#">risks of pornography on children</a> .
How can sexuality education be taught in a way that respects different cultures and beliefs, so all children can learn and feel included?	<b>Professor Helen Beckett</b> replied by referring to a consultation of children from different cultural and religious background on this issue. See the report: <a href="#">‘They believe this’</a> .
The role of parents and care-givers is essential but they do not always know how to answer our questions. How can they be supported to give us the answers we need?	<b>Marjo Malja</b> , CDENF member from Finland, highlighted how it is done in Finland.
What about in out of school activities (for ex in sports club)? How can sex ed be taught also out of school to help prevent and protect children from the violences that occur?	<b>Elena Casero</b> , working at the Council of Europe on violence against children in sports, referred to the findings of the project <a href="#">Start to Talk</a> supporting effective child safeguarding in sport.