COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

LANZAROTE COMMITTEE

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

Replies to the thematic questionnaire

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

REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Replies received by the Secretariat on 19 June 2026

Main relevant provisions of the Lanzarote Convention and previous recommendations

Article 5 paragraph 3 of the Lanzarote Convention requires Parties to take the necessary legislative or other measures, in conformity with their internal law, to ensure that the conditions to accede to those professions whose exercise implies regular contacts with children ensure that the candidates to these professions have not been convicted of acts of sexual exploitation or sexual abuse of children. The Explanatory Report to the Lanzarote Convention indicates that this obligation can be also applied to voluntary activities (see paragraph 57).

In the 2nd implementation report of the 1st monitoring round (2018), the Lanzarote Committee urged those Parties that limited mandatory screening to certain professionals to extend it to the recruitment of all professionals (public or private) in regular contact with children (R19) and invited Parties to encourage continuous screening of all professionals (R20) and volunteers (R21) in regular contact with children.

Article 27 paragraph 3.b of the Lanzarote Convention requires Parties to take the necessary legislative or other measures to deny the perpetrator, temporarily or permanently, the exercise of professional or voluntary activity involving contact with children in the course of which the offence was committed.

Article 37 paragraph 3 of the Lanzarote Convention requires Parties to take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the information referred to in paragraph 1 (i.e. data related to the identity and to the genetic profile (DNA) of persons convicted of the offences established in accordance with the Convention) can be transmitted to the competent authority of another Party, in conformity with the conditions established in its internal law and the relevant international instruments.

Whenever the term "screening" is used in this questionnaire, this should be understood as "verification of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children".

In all your answers, please provide details to the extent possible and refer to specific laws, policies, programmes, measures, etc.

Please describe the legislation, policy and practice which are in force on 27 March 2026 or are in the process of adoption (in this case, please specify the planned date of entry into force).

Please indicate:

a. State Party in respect of which the questionnaire is submitted: **Republic of Armenia**

b. Entities and bodies which have been involved in responding to this questionnaire: **Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Prosecutor General's office, Investigative Committee**

Persons concerned by screening requirements

1. Is the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children required as a pre-condition in order to accede to professions, employment or volunteer positions whose exercise implies regular contacts with children? Please specify whether such restrictions apply to professions, employment or volunteer positions in the following sectors or areas of activities (additional details to be inserted below the table):

	Criminal conviction check for employment in public sector?	Criminal conviction check for voluntary activity?	Criminal conviction check for employment in private sector?	Criminal conviction check for self-employed professionals ?	Please specify the professionals to whom this requirement applies
Education – Pre-school	Yes	No	Yes	No	Preschool pedagogical staff (except certain providers of additional educational services), directors and coordinators
Education – Primary	Yes	No	Yes	No	Teachers, school directors and coordinators
Education – Secondary	Yes	No	Yes	No	Teachers, school directors and coordinators
Education – Tertiary	No	No	No	No	

Education – Extracurricular (e.g. language schools)	No	No	No	No	
Childcare (e.g. kindergartens, crèches, childminders	Yes	No	Yes	No	Pedagogical staff of preschool educational institutions, including school-based preschool facilities; directors and coordinators where applicable
Institutional or residential care (e.g. foster homes, orphanages, closed residential facilities)	No	No	No	No	
Detention	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	Penitentiary Service personnel are subject to eligibility requirements similar to other law enforcement bodies
Migration facilities (e.g. reception centres)	No	No	No	No	
Sport	No	No	No	No	
Culture and leisure activities	No	No	No	No	
Entertainment sector	No	No	No	No	
Faith and religion	No	No	No	No	

Healthcare (including psychological and psychiatric services)	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Candidates for the executive body of state or community non-profit organizations providing healthcare, including medical care and services, and those with a 100% state-owned shareholding, as well as community joint-stock companies, licensed healthcare professionals
Social protection services	Yes (for public servants and certain state service positions)	No	No	No	Social workers employed in positions subject to public service eligibility requirements
Law enforcement	yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	Police, Investigative Committee, Prosecutor's Office
Judicial	yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	Judge, court staff
Civil society organisations	No	No	No	No	
Victim services (including Barnahus, domestic violence services)	No	No	No	No	

Any other sectors (please specify)	Yes	N/A			

Here you can insert additional details or specify any exceptions.

Armenian legislation does not establish a general and comprehensive requirement that all persons seeking access to professions, employment or volunteer activities involving regular contact with children must undergo screening for previous convictions related to sexual offences against children. Nevertheless, a number of sector-specific legal acts impose criminal-record-related restrictions and background-check requirements.

In the field of **education**, persons who have been convicted of a criminal offence and whose conviction has not been expunged or removed may not participate in competitions for teaching positions in general education or preschool institutions, except where the conviction relates to a negligent offence. Similar restrictions apply to the appointment of directors and coordinators of public educational institutions.

In the area of **alternative childcare**, applicants wishing to become foster parents must submit a certificate confirming the absence of convictions for serious or particularly serious offences against the person, public morality, family and children, as well as confirmation that they have not been registered as perpetrators of domestic violence during the previous five years.

In the **healthcare sector**, healthcare professionals applying for individual professional licences are required to provide information concerning their criminal record as part of the licensing process.

Regarding **volunteer activities**, the Law on Voluntary Work does not establish a general prohibition preventing persons with criminal convictions from engaging in voluntary work involving children. However, volunteer organisations may require qualifications, training and compliance with sector-specific legislation, and additional restrictions may derive from the legal framework governing the relevant field of activity.

Furthermore, Armenian labour legislation provides that an employment contract may be terminated where a final court judgment imposes a sanction that makes continuation of the employment impossible or where the employee has been deprived of the right to perform certain activities.

Therefore, while Armenian legislation contains several safeguards and criminal-record-related restrictions in sectors involving contact with children, there is currently **no overarching legal requirement mandating systematic screening specifically for convictions for sexual offences against children across all professions, employment positions and volunteer activities involving regular contact with children.**

2. In requiring the verification of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children in order to accede to the positions listed in question 1, does your State:

a. define the level or threshold of contact with children (one-off, regular, etc.) which necessitates such a verification

b. distinguish between direct, indirect or online contact with children?

If yes, please provide details.

Armenian legislation does not establish a general child-safeguarding screening framework that defines a minimum threshold or level of contact with children (e.g. one-off, occasional or regular contact) triggering an obligation to verify criminal convictions for sexual offences against children.

Similarly, Armenian legislation does not generally distinguish between direct, indirect or online contact with children for the purpose of determining whether a criminal record check is required.

Instead, criminal-record-related restrictions and screening requirements are established through sector-specific legislation and are linked to particular positions, professions or legal statuses, such as teachers, directors of educational institutions, adoptive parents, foster parents, prosecutors, judges and law enforcement officers. Where screening is required, it is based on the eligibility criteria applicable to the relevant position or activity rather than on the nature, frequency or modality of contact with children.

3. Is the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children required to become:

a. an adoptive parent

b. a foster parent

c. a child's legal guardian (including for unaccompanied children)?

Please provide details.

Yes. Armenian legislation requires the absence of certain criminal convictions, including convictions for offences against children, as a condition for becoming an adoptive parent or foster parent. Similar considerations apply when appointing a legal guardian.

a. Pursuant to Article 116 of the Family Code, a person may not adopt a child if he or she has been convicted of a serious or particularly serious offence against a person, public order and morality, or public health and the conviction has not been expunged. Furthermore, persons who have been convicted of a serious or particularly serious offence against a person, public order and morality, or an offence against the interests of the family and the child are permanently excluded from adoption, irrespective of whether the conviction has been expunged or removed. These restrictions encompass sexual offences against children falling within the relevant categories of offences against the person or against the interests of the family and the child.

In addition, under Government Decision No. 269-N of 18 March 2010, persons applying to be registered as prospective adoptive parents must submit a certificate confirming the absence of convictions for serious or particularly serious offences against a person or against public order and morality.

b. Article 138.1 of the Family Code provides that a person may not become a foster parent if he or she has a conviction for a serious or particularly serious offence against a person, public order and morality, the interests of the family and the child, or public health. In addition, persons convicted of serious or particularly serious offences against a person, public order and morality, or offences against the interests of the family and the child are ineligible to become foster parents regardless of whether the conviction has been expunged or removed.

Furthermore, pursuant to Government Decision No. 751-N of 13 June 2019, applicants wishing to become foster parents must submit a certificate issued by the Police containing information on convictions for serious or particularly serious offences against a person, public order and morality, and offences against the interests of the family and the child, as well as information on registration as a perpetrator of domestic violence during the previous five years.

c. The appointment of guardians and trustees is governed by the Civil Code. Although the legislation does not establish an explicit requirement identical to those applicable to adoption and foster care, the competent authority must assess the moral and personal qualities of the prospective guardian or trustee, his or her ability to perform guardianship duties, the relationship with the child, and, where possible, the wishes of the child. Criminal convictions, including convictions for offences against children, are therefore relevant considerations when determining whether a person is suitable to be appointed as a guardian or trustee.

4. Is the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children required for the household members of:

a. persons carrying out professional activity in their home who are in contact with children

b. persons carrying out volunteering activity in their home who are in contact with children

c. persons wishing to become an adoptive parent, a foster parent, or a child's legal guardian?

Please provide details.

No specific requirement is envisaged. However, in the context of adoption, foster care and guardianship procedures, the competent authorities assess the overall suitability of the child's living environment and the best interests of the child. This assessment may include consideration of the family environment, the persons residing in the household, and any circumstances that may affect the child's safety, welfare and development.

In particular, during the assessment of prospective foster parents and legal guardians, competent authorities conduct home visits and social assessments to evaluate the suitability of the placement. Information concerning household members may therefore be taken into account where it is relevant to determining whether the proposed living environment is safe and appropriate for the child.

5. Does the requirement to verify the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children also apply to:

a. children applying for professional or volunteer positions

b. adults in respect of criminal convictions received before the age of 18?

Please provide details.

a. Yes. The relevant provisions of Armenian labour and voluntary work legislation also apply to persons under the age of 18. Under Article 17.1(1) of the Labour Code, every person under the age of 18 has the right to engage in employment appropriate to their age, level of development and abilities, provided that such work is not prohibited by the Labour Code or other laws. Accordingly, the labour-law requirements and restrictions applicable to employment relationships, including those relating to criminal convictions and the performance of certain activities, also extend to employees under the age of 18.

Similarly, the provisions of the Law on Voluntary Work apply to minors engaged in voluntary activities. Pursuant to Article 6 of that Law, any person aged 16 or above may perform voluntary work. Children under the age of 16 may participate in voluntary activities subject to the written consent of their parents, adoptive parents, guardian or the competent guardianship authority, depending on their age. The Law further provides that persons under the age of 18 may be involved in voluntary work only in accordance with the restrictions and specific safeguards established by labour legislation and other applicable laws.

b. Armenian legislation does not establish a specific distinction between convictions imposed before or after the age of 18 for the purposes of access to professions, employment or volunteer activities involving children. Therefore, where sector-specific legislation requires the absence of a criminal conviction or imposes restrictions based on criminal records, such requirements generally apply regardless of the age at which the offence was committed, unless the relevant legal provision expressly provides otherwise.

For example, the Law on the Prosecutor’s Office prohibits the appointment of a person who has been convicted of an intentional offence, irrespective of whether the conviction has been expunged or removed. Likewise, legislation governing educational institutions, foster care and certain healthcare professions relies on the existence of a criminal conviction rather than the age of the offender at the time the offence was committed.

6. If a person legally changes their name, how does your State ensure that their criminal record remains linked to their new name?

Please provide details.

In Armenia, criminal records are maintained within state information systems on the basis of a person's unique identifying data and civil status records. A legal change of name does not create a new legal identity and does not affect the continuity of information contained in official state registries.

Pursuant to the legislation governing civil status acts and population registration, changes to a person's name are recorded by the competent civil status registration authorities. The updated information is reflected in the relevant state registries and remains linked to the individual's existing personal data, including information allowing the person to be uniquely identified.

As a result, a criminal record remains associated with the same individual even after a legal change of name. When competent authorities issue information concerning criminal records, they rely not only on the person's current name but also on other identifying information contained in official databases, ensuring continuity and traceability of records.

The maintenance and exchange of such information are carried out by authorized state bodies in accordance with the legislation on criminal records, civil status registration, personal data protection and state population registries.

Therefore, a lawful change of name does not prevent competent authorities from identifying a person's previous criminal record, as the record remains linked to the individual through state registration systems and unique personal identifiers rather than solely through the person's name.

7. Is access to public funds for projects implying contact with children conditional on the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children for persons employed in or volunteering for such projects?

Please provide details.

No general requirement has been identified in Armenian legislation making access to public funding for projects involving contact with children conditional upon verification of the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children for all persons employed in or volunteering for such projects.

<u>Information included in screening</u>

8. Does the criminal record check include criminal convictions for:

a. sexual abuse of a child (Article 18 of the Lanzarote Convention)

b. sexual exploitation of a child (“child prostitution” Article 19 of the Lanzarote Convention)

c. acts involving child sexual abuse material (“child pornography” Article 20 of the Lanzarote Convention)

d. offences related to the participation of children in pornographic performances (Article 21 of the Lanzarote Convention)

e. corruption of a child (causing a child to witness sexual activities) (Article 22 of the Lanzarote Convention)

f. solicitation of a child for sexual purposes (“grooming”), including online (Article 23 of the Lanzarote Convention)

g. aiding and abetting or attempting the above offences (Article 24 of the Lanzarote Convention)

h. any other convictions (please specify)?

Please provide details.

Yes. Criminal record certificates issued by the Information Center of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia contain information on criminal convictions and indicate the specific article of the Criminal Code under which the person was convicted. Depending on the type of certificate requested, information concerning criminal prosecution initiated against the person may also be included.

The conviction certificate received from the Information Center specifies the article of the Criminal Code for which the person was convicted or in relation to which criminal prosecution was initiated. Since the offences referred to in Articles 18–24 of the Lanzarote Convention are criminalised under the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia, convictions for such offences are reflected in the criminal record information maintained by the competent authorities and may therefore be identified through the criminal record verification process.

9. Does the screening of persons applying for roles or positions specified in questions 1 and 3 above extend beyond criminal convictions for sexual offences against children to:

a. relevant administrative or disciplinary sanctions

b. other information available to the authorities (e.g. judicial decisions in civil proceedings)?

Please provide details.

As a general rule, screening procedures in Armenia focus on criminal convictions and other specific eligibility criteria expressly established by sectoral legislation. Armenian legislation does not establish a general requirement to verify administrative sanctions, disciplinary sanctions or judicial decisions in civil proceedings as part of screening procedures for professions, volunteer activities, adoption, foster care or guardianship involving contact with children.

However, in certain sectors, screening may extend beyond criminal convictions to other legally relevant information specifically provided for by law. For example, applicants wishing to become foster parents must provide information not only on certain criminal convictions but also on whether they have been registered as perpetrators of domestic violence during the previous five years. Similarly, in adoption, foster care and guardianship procedures, competent authorities assess the overall suitability of the candidate and may take into account information relevant to the child's best interests, including the person's moral qualities, family circumstances and ability to fulfil the relevant responsibilities.

Therefore, screening in Armenia is primarily based on criminal record information and other specific disqualifying circumstances expressly prescribed by law, rather than on a general review of administrative sanctions, disciplinary measures or civil court decisions.

10. If restrictions on the exercise of the relevant activities apply as a result of a criminal conviction for sexual offences against children, in line with Article 27 paragraph 3.b:

a. are they life-long?

b. if they are not life-long, please specify the time-limits applicable

c. are they applied only to activities in the public sector?

Please provide details.

Yes. Armenian legislation provides restrictions on access to certain positions and activities based on criminal convictions. In particular, a person who has been convicted of a crime, or whose criminal prosecution has been terminated on non-excusable grounds, cannot hold positions in the law enforcement or judicial system. These restrictions are not limited to convictions for sexual offences against children and generally apply regardless of whether the conviction has subsequently been expunged or removed, where the relevant legislation so provides.

In addition, sector-specific legislation may establish restrictions for other activities. For example, certain categories of persons convicted of serious or particularly serious offences against the person, public order and morality, or against the interests of the family and the child are permanently excluded from becoming adoptive parents or foster parents.

Accordingly, some restrictions are life-long, while others depend on the specific legal consequences attached to the conviction under the applicable legislation. Furthermore, such restrictions are not limited to the public sector, as they may also apply to activities such as adoption and foster care.

11. Does the criminal record check verify the existence of an expunged or spent criminal conviction for sexual offences against children for persons applying for roles or positions specified in questions 1 and 3?

Please provide details.

The criminal record certificate issued by the competent authority contains information on the person's criminal conviction. The certificate itself does not separately indicate whether a conviction is expunged or spent. The determination of whether a conviction has been expunged is made by applying the relevant provisions of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia governing the expungement and removal of criminal convictions.

Accordingly, the existence and legal effects of an expunged conviction are assessed on the basis of the applicable rules of the Criminal Code and the specific legal requirements governing the position, activity or status concerned.

Screening procedure

12. How is the screening procedure set out in your legal framework (in a single piece of legislation, sector-specific legislation, or other)?

Please provide details.

Armenian legislation does not establish a single, comprehensive legal framework governing screening for criminal convictions in all professions, activities or positions involving contact with children. Instead, screening requirements are regulated through sector-specific legislation, which determines the categories of persons subject to screening, the competent authority responsible for conducting the verification, and the procedure to be followed.

Depending on the sector, the screening procedure may be carried out either by the employer or competent authority through direct requests to the relevant state bodies, or by requiring the candidate to submit a certificate concerning his or her criminal record.

For example, with regard to candidates seeking inclusion in the list of prosecutor candidates, the verification of the absence of a criminal conviction is carried out by the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Armenia, which requests the relevant information from the Crime Statistics and Research Centre of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia. The employer therefore obtains the information directly from the competent state authority rather than requiring the candidate to provide the certificate.

Similarly, in the fields of adoption, foster care, education, healthcare licensing and other regulated professions, screening requirements are established by the relevant sectoral legislation and implemented by the competent authorities in accordance with the procedures prescribed therein.

13. If screening is required, who is required to act?

a. the employer, volunteer recruiter or child protection authority is expected to obtain the necessary information directly from the authorities

b. the candidate must provide proof of absence of convictions

c. another scenario. Please specify

Please provide details.

a. Armenian legislation does not establish a single, comprehensive screening mechanism applicable to all professionals and volunteers working with children. Depending on the sector and the legal framework governing the activity, competent authorities may verify information through cooperation with relevant state bodies and registries.

In child protection proceedings, including adoption, foster care and guardianship procedures, the competent child protection authorities assess the suitability of candidates and may obtain and verify information necessary for decision-making through relevant state authorities and databases in accordance with their statutory powers.

b. In practice, candidates are often required to submit documents demonstrating their eligibility for a particular position or status, including, where required by law, information regarding criminal convictions or the absence thereof.

For example, persons wishing to become adoptive parents, foster parents or legal guardians must submit a package of documents prescribed by legislation and undergo an assessment procedure. The competent authority reviews the submitted documents and evaluates whether any legal grounds excluding the person from exercising such responsibilities exist. Similarly, applicants for certain public service positions may be required to submit documentation confirming compliance with statutory eligibility requirements, including those related to criminal records.

14. If screening is required, who bears the costs of screening procedures?

Please provide details.

Armenian legislation does not establish a uniform rule governing the costs of screening procedures. The allocation of costs depends on the applicable legal framework and the method by which the screening is conducted.

Where the competent authority or employer obtains criminal record information directly from another state authority as part of an official verification process, the costs are borne by the relevant public authority within the framework of its statutory functions. For example, in the case of candidates for inclusion in the list of prosecutor candidates, the Prosecutor's Office obtains the necessary information directly from the competent authority through an official request.

Where legislation requires the candidate to submit a criminal record certificate or other supporting documents, any costs associated with obtaining such documents are generally borne by the candidate, unless otherwise provided by law.

15. How does your State monitor that employers, volunteer recruiters or child protection authorities comply with the relevant regulations on screening?

There is no centralized monitoring mechanism specifically dedicated to screening requirements for all sectors involving contact with children.

Compliance is monitored through the general supervisory mechanisms applicable to the relevant sector. In particular:

- Child protection authorities operate under the supervision of the competent state bodies responsible for child protection and social services.
- Decisions concerning adoption, foster care and guardianship are subject to administrative and judicial review.
- Public institutions are subject to internal oversight, inspections and audits carried out by competent authorities.
- The Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Armenia may examine complaints concerning violations of children's rights and the legality of actions or omissions by public authorities.
- Where failures in screening result in violations of legal obligations, the matter may be examined by competent supervisory, disciplinary or law-enforcement authorities.

16. If screening is required, are there sanctions foreseen for failure to comply with it? If yes, what type of sanctions?

Please provide details.

Armenian legislation does not establish a specific, comprehensive sanctions regime for failure to conduct screening in all sectors involving contact with children. However, several legal consequences may arise depending on the circumstances.

As a general rule, the candidate is required to submit the documents prescribed by law as part of the recruitment, appointment, adoption, foster care or guardianship procedure. If the required documents are not submitted, the competent authority or employer cannot assess the candidate's eligibility and the person cannot be appointed, employed, authorized, approved as an adoptive parent, foster parent or legal guardian.

Legal consequences may therefore include:

- refusal to appoint, recruit or authorize a person who fails to satisfy the relevant eligibility requirements;
- refusal of an adoption, foster care or guardianship application where legal disqualifying factors are identified;
- disciplinary liability of public officials or employees who fail to comply with applicable legal procedures;
- administrative or other legal consequences under sector-specific legislation.

In addition, criminal liability may arise where false information or forged documents are used during the screening process. In particular, Article 457 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia establishes criminal liability for the forgery, preparation, sale or use of forged official documents, stamps, seals, vehicle registration plates or forms. Accordingly, a person who conceals a criminal conviction by submitting a forged certificate or other falsified document may be held criminally liable under this provision.

17. Is regular screening, beyond the initial recruitment process, required, for:

a. professionals in contact with children

b. volunteers in contact with children

c. foster parents and legal guardians?

If regular screening is required, please specify its frequency and provide other details.

No. Armenian legislation does not require periodic criminal-record screening of professionals or volunteers working with children, nor of foster parents or legal guardians after their appointment. However, foster care placements and guardianship arrangements are subject to ongoing monitoring by the competent authorities, which may reassess the suitability of a foster parent or legal guardian and take appropriate protective measures where concerns arise.

18. Where a person working or volunteering in contact with children is under investigation for a sexual offence against a child, are law enforcement or other authorities allowed to inform the employer or volunteer organisation about the ongoing investigation? If yes, what is the consequence?

Please provide details.

Yes, but only in limited circumstances. Armenian legislation does not establish a specific mechanism requiring law enforcement authorities to systematically inform employers or

volunteer organisations whenever a person working or volunteering with children becomes the subject of a criminal investigation for a sexual offence against a child.

At the same time, pursuant to the Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia, the prosecutor and the investigator are required, during pre-trial proceedings, to take measures to identify circumstances that contributed to the commission of the offence and, where necessary, submit a motion to the relevant official or the head of a legal entity requesting that measures be taken to eliminate such circumstances. The motion is subject to mandatory consideration, and the authority or organisation concerned must inform the prosecutor or investigator in writing within one month about the measures taken. In practice, where the circumstances of the case require protection of children or prevention of further risks, such a motion may result in the employer or organisation becoming aware of the ongoing criminal proceedings.

Furthermore, pursuant to Article 186 of the Criminal Procedure Code, information obtained during the pre-trial investigation may generally be disclosed unless the investigator has expressly prohibited its disclosure in writing. The investigator must prohibit disclosure where publication could impede the normal course of the proceedings, facilitate the commission of a crime, endanger the rights or legitimate interests of participants or other persons, or result in the disclosure of legally protected confidential information. Accordingly, information concerning an ongoing investigation is generally protected and may only be disclosed in accordance with the rules established by the Criminal Procedure Code.

Armenian legislation also provides procedural measures that may affect the person's ability to continue working or volunteering with children during the investigation. In particular, Article 115(2)(4) of the Criminal Procedure Code establishes **suspension from office (position)** as an alternative preventive measure. Where the relevant legal grounds exist, this measure may be imposed on a person working or volunteering in activities involving regular contact with children who is under investigation for a sexual offence against a child.

In addition, pursuant to Article 108.1 of the Labour Code and Article 126 of the Criminal Procedure Code, where an employee is suspended from office as a procedural measure, the employment relationship is maintained and the position is preserved, but the employee is temporarily prevented from exercising his or her professional duties. Similarly, where detention is imposed as a preventive measure, the employee's powers are deemed suspended for the duration of the detention. Consequently, the employer will necessarily become aware of the criminal proceedings where such procedural measures are applied.

As regards volunteers, the Law on Voluntary Work does not contain specific provisions governing notification of volunteer organisations about ongoing criminal investigations. Therefore, any restrictions on the continuation of voluntary activities derive from applicable criminal procedural measures and other sector-specific legislation.

Cross-border screening

19. If the candidate for roles or positions specified in questions 1 and 3 has previously resided or worked in different countries, is it required to verify the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children in each of those countries in respect of:

a. professionals

b. volunteers

c. persons wishing to become an adoptive parent, a foster parent or a child’s legal guardian?

Please provide details.

Armenian legislation does not establish a general requirement to verify criminal records in every country where a person has previously resided or worked for the purposes of access to professions, volunteer activities or child-care-related functions involving regular contact with children.

20. Is there a mechanism to:

a. request data about a person's criminal convictions for sexual offences against children from the competent authority of another State outside the context of criminal proceedings[1] (please specify)

b. provide data about a person's criminal convictions for sexual offences against children to the competent authority of another State outside the context of criminal proceedings (please specify)?

Please provide details.

Armenia may exchange criminal record information with foreign States on the basis of international treaties, mutual legal assistance arrangements, reciprocity, and other forms of international cooperation provided for by national legislation and international agreements. The Law of the Republic of Armenia on Legal Assistance in Criminal Proceedings allows for the exchange of information between competent authorities of Armenia and foreign States in accordance with applicable international treaties or, in the absence of a treaty, on the basis of reciprocity. Personal data may be transferred only in compliance with the applicable legal safeguards and data protection requirements.

In addition, Armenia issues certificates concerning criminal convictions and wanted status through the competent authorities. Such certificates may be requested by the individual concerned and submitted to foreign authorities where required by the legislation of the receiving State, including for employment, residence, adoption or other administrative procedures. The certificate contains information on the existence of convictions and investigations recorded in Armenia.

[1] For purposes of recruitment, volunteering, adoption, foster care or guardianship.

21. Is there an obligation to provide data about a person's criminal convictions for sexual offences against children at the request of the competent authority of another State outside the context of criminal proceedings?

Please provide details.

No specific obligation has been identified in Armenian legislation requiring competent authorities to provide information on a person's criminal convictions for sexual offences against children to the competent authority of another State outside the context of criminal proceedings.

The provision of criminal record information to foreign authorities is generally governed by applicable international treaties, international cooperation mechanisms, reciprocity arrangements and personal data protection requirements. Where an international agreement binding on the Republic of Armenia establishes an obligation to exchange such information, Armenian authorities may provide the requested information in accordance with the procedures and conditions set out in the relevant instrument.

In the absence of a specific treaty-based obligation, Armenian legislation does not provide for a general duty to disclose criminal record information to foreign authorities for administrative or screening purposes outside criminal proceedings.

In practice, foreign authorities requiring information on a person's criminal record often rely on criminal record certificates obtained by the individual concerned from the competent Armenian authorities and submitted to the requesting authority as part of employment, migration, adoption or other administrative procedures.

Additional details and reflections

22. Please add any further details regarding the modalities of the screening procedures applicable in your State, if relevant.

Please provide details.

23. What challenges related to the screening for criminal convictions for sexual offences against children of professionals, volunteers and persons wishing to become adoptive parents, foster parents or a child's legal guardian exist in your State in practice (e.g. administrative costs, delays, cross-border co-operation)?

Please provide details.

24. What promising practices, if any, would your State like to highlight in the screening of professionals, volunteers and other persons in contact with children?

Please provide details.