

Protection of children from violence and sexual exploitation and abuse, including in the digital environment, in Azerbaijan

Project description

The Council of Europe Project “Protection of children from violence and sexual exploitation and abuse, including in the digital environment, in Azerbaijan” is a two-year project which launched on 1 January 2025. The Project aims to strengthen Azerbaijan's response to violence against children, including online child sexual exploitation and abuse, through focusing on the protection and promotion of children's rights in the digital environment and addressing the protection of children against violence, including child sexual exploitation and abuse.

The Project will address two areas:

- 1) Protection of children against online child sexual exploitation and abuse (OCSEA). This component foresees action to support the implementation of the Council of Europe Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment, including the analysis of legal, policy and practice frameworks, awareness raising, training, and the development of guidelines and regulations.
- 2) Protection of children against violence, including sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. This component includes activities to strengthen independent monitoring of childcare services in the country. Support to national authorities for the implementation of national programmes in the field of violence against children will be provided and awareness raising activities are foreseen.

The project is funded through the ordinary budget of the Council of Europe. The total budget for the project is EUR 428,000.

Rationale and justification

The Project is implemented within the framework of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Azerbaijan 2022-2025 and is in line with the strategic priorities for co-operation as formulated in the Action Plan under the section on children's rights. The project will contribute to the following expected outcomes stated in the Action Plan:

- Strategies for the prevention and protection of children from violence, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse both online and offline are put in place and implemented.
- Capacities of professionals in dealing with child sexual exploitation and abuse are strengthened.
- Public awareness of the Lanzarote Convention is raised.

National partners under the project include: State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs; the Ministry of Internal Affairs; the Office of Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsperson); the Office of the Prosecutor General; the Ministry of Justice; the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection; the Ministry of Science and Education; the Ministry of Health; the Ministry of Digital Development and Transportation of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Target groups are comprised of: Justice professionals; training academies; staff of monitoring bodies; teachers/social workers/medical staff; civil society in Azerbaijan.

End beneficiaries: Children; families; society.

For more information on the Council of Europe's work on children's rights, please visit the [division web page](#).