



# Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)

## *Working group on responses to violence against children (CDENF-GT-VAE)*

**4<sup>th</sup> Meeting by videoconference**

**22-23 April 2021**

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### **Agenda**

#### Proposed meeting times:

##### Day 1:

Thursday 22 April  
9:30-12:00 / 14:00-16:30 hrs

##### Day 2:

Friday 23 April  
9:30-13:00 hrs

*Prepared by the Children's Rights Division*

# Agenda

Thursday, 22 April 2021

Thursday, 22 April 2021 – 9:30 – 12:00 hrs

## 1. Opening of the meeting

*Opening by the new Chairperson, Rosário Farmhouse, Vice-Chair of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)*

*Welcome by the Secretariat*

## 2. Adoption of the agenda and order of business

CDENF-GT-VAE(2021)OJ1rev2

## 3. State of play of CDENF-GT-VAE activities

[CDENF-GT-VAE\(2020\)01rev3](#)

Updated workplan:

State of play and next steps ahead

## 4. Contribution to the development of non-binding instruments or tools containing guidance for member states

### 4.1 Towards a draft Recommendation on the Development of effective mechanisms for professionals to report violence against children

Working documents:

[CDENF-GT-VAE\(2021\)01](#)

Draft Recommendation and guidelines on the development of effective mechanisms for professionals to report violence against children

*Presentations by:*

- Prof. Bruning, Leiden University
- Simona Florescu, Leiden University

[CDENF-GT-VAE\(2021\)02](#)

Reporting mechanisms and practices concerning violence against children in selected Council of Europe Member States – summary report of the survey led within the CDENF-VAE-GT

*Exchanges with:*

- Alfonso Montero, European Social Network (ESN)
- Seamus Carroll, Chair of the Sub-Committee CJ/ENF-ISE

[CDENF-GT-VAE\(2021\)03](#)

Draft survey on national reporting mechanisms on violence against children

Presentation and revision of the Draft Recommendation and Guidelines

Presentation of the summary report of the survey led within the CDENF-GT-VAE

Reference documents:

[CDENF-GT-VAE\(2020\)02](#) – Study on Strengthening Mandatory Reporting of Child Sexual Abuse in Europe (Prof. Mathews)

[CDENF-GT-VAE\(2020\)03](#) – Discussion paper on mandatory reporting of violence against children (Prof. Bruning)

Presentation and revision of a draft questionnaire for an extended survey to be led via the CDENF

*(Discussion on the draft Recommendation and Guidelines, as well as the draft questionnaire for the CDENF to be continued in the afternoon session and on Day 2...)*

Thursday, 22 April 2021 – 14:00 – 16:30 hrs

**4.1 Towards a draft Recommendation on the Development of effective mechanisms for professionals to report violence against children**

Continued discussion on the draft Recommendation and Guidelines, as well as the draft questionnaire for CDENF

Working and reference documents:

*As above*

Specific contributions by members and observers:

- Rosário Farmhouse, Chairperson, on activities undertaken in Portugal and other countries to mark the month of April as “violence prevention month”
- Manus Debarra, Office of the UN Special Representative on Violence against Children on the most recent report prepared for the Human Rights Council

Oral update

Oral update

Reference documents:

[Annual report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children](#)

[Children as agents of positive change](#)

Friday, 23 April 2021 – 9:30 – 13:00 hrs

**4. Contribution to the development of non-binding instruments or tools containing guidance for member states**

**4.1 Towards a draft Recommendation on the Development of effective mechanisms for professionals to report violence against children (continued)**

Continued discussion on the draft Recommendation and Guidelines, as well as the draft questionnaire for the CDENF

Working documents:

*As above*

**4.2 Measures and interventions aimed at preventing peer violence and harmful sexual behaviour by children**

Proposal and discussion of next steps ahead towards Council of Europe guidance in this area

Reference documents :

[CDENF-GT-VAE\(2020\)04](#) – Study on Sexual violence and harmful sexual behaviour displayed by children (Prof. Hackett)

[CDENF-GT-VAE\(2020\)09](#) - Harmful sexual behaviour by children: overview of first responses identified and proposals for further action (Information note by the Secretariat)

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5. **Other tasks of the working group**

**5.1 Contribution to issues of violence in relation to ongoing child participation activities**

Update on the upcoming Council of Europe child safeguarding policy and related implementation tools

Discussion of topical child safeguarding challenges: handing down responsibilities to partners in projects and events; child safeguarding online

**5.2 Supporting the organisation of thematic exchanges of knowledge, good practices and experiences among member states in priority area 3 “A life free from violence” by the CDENF in the period 2020-2021, on specific challenges of violence against children to be identified**

*Oral updates*

Preparations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> CDENF webinar on Covid-19 and children’s rights on “Protection of children from intra-family violence with a focus on children at risk”: collection of proposals for priority issues to be addressed at the webinar

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6. **Any other business**

Information on the state of play in the appointment of a new member to the CDENF-GT-VAE Working Group following the recent departure of one member

*Oral update*

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7. **Date and place of next meeting**

*5th meeting:*

*Initially planned for:*  
*23-24 September 2021, Strasbourg  
(or virtual)*

*Suggested to be postponed until:*  
*2 days in the **week of 22-26  
November 2021** (tbc), Strasbourg  
(or virtual)*

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