

LANZAROTE COMMITTEE

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

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Replies to the thematic questionnaire

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

CYPRUS

Replies received by the Secretariat on 30 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 in force as of 27 March 2026.

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 or employment positions whose exercise implies regular contacts with children? Please specify whether such restrictions apply to professions or employment 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 Required by law	YES Required by law	YES Required by law		Educators and all persons working at schools or with children
Education – Primary	YES Required by law	YES Required by law	YES		Educators and all persons working at schools or with children
Education – Secondary	YES Required by law	YES Required by law	YES		Educators and all persons working at schools or with children
Education – Extracurricular (e.g. language schools)	YES Required by law	YES Required by law	YES		Educators and all persons working at schools or with children
Childcare (e.g. kindergartens, crèches, childminders)	YES Required by law	YES Required by law	YES		Educators and all persons working at schools or with children

Institutional or residential care (e.g. foster homes, orphanages, closed residential facilities)			YES		
Detention			YES		
Migration facilities (e.g. reception centres)			YES		
Sport	Required by law	YES	YES		
Culture and leisure activities	YES	YES	YES		
Faith and religion	YES	YES	YES		
Healthcare (including psychological and psychiatric services)	Yes		Yes	Yes	Doctors, Nurses, Midwives
Social protection services	Yes	Yes	Yes	The Social Protection Services can buy services from professional psychologists or others who need to provide clean criminal records from the Police	Psychologists, Social Workers, teachers and other staff who work with children in government institutions
Law enforcement	YES	YES	YES		
Judicial	YES	YES	YES		
Civil society organisations	YES	YES	YES		
Victim services (including Barnahus, domestic violence services)	YES	YES	YES		
Any other sectors	YES	YES			

(please specify)					
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Here you can insert additional details or specify any exceptions.

Screening is generally carried out through the criminal record certificate issued by the Cyprus Police, which confirms whether the individual has been convicted of offences recorded in the national criminal register. (From Cy-law: Every person shall be entitled to be registered in the Register of Doctor or Nurses or Midwives (d) is a person of good character. As proof of this, he/she shall produce a certificate of clean criminal record or, in the case of a national of another Member State, a copy of the criminal record or a certificate or other equivalent document from his/her country of origin or provenance, provided that three months have not elapsed from the date of their issue...).

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.

In order for professionals to work with children, they need to provide the place of employment with clean criminal records (2)- one is that they have not committed any sexual crimes against children. They can obtain these records from the Police.

Education sector - One- off – not regular, but in case of conviction, the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth is immediately informed by authorities (in many cases working contracts of educators were cancelled)

According to the relevant law any person having the intention to employ a person for professional, organised or voluntary activities that include frequent contact with children, shall be obliged not to proceed with the employment of any such person, unless that person presents a certificate proving that he or she is not included in the Record kept for persons convicted of sexual offences against 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)?

Yes, it is required for all people who work with children- either in the public sector or the private sector.

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 contact with children at those persons' place of residence

- b. persons carrying out volunteering activity in contact with children at those persons' place of residence
- c. persons wishing to become an adoptive parent, a foster parent, or a child's legal guardian?

Yes, it is required for all people who work with children- either in the public sector or the private sector.

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

(6) Any person having the intention to employ a person for professional, organised or voluntary activities, that include frequent contact with children, shall be obliged not to proceed with the employment of any such person, unless that person presents a certificate proving that he or she is not included in the Record kept under the provisions of this section. (Law91(I)/2014, ar. 22)

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

(3) A person convicted for an offence pursuant to this Law shall be obliged to communicate to the Police the information specified in sub-section(2), as well as any change in this information within three (3) days from the date of change or prior to this date, and also for the use of any name other than 23 the ones declared, within three (3) days from the date of its use or prior to this date: (Law91(I)/2014, ar. 22)

Information included in screening

7. Does the criminal record check include criminal convictions for:
 - a. sexual abuse of a child (Article 18 of the Lanzarote Convention) **YES**
 - b. sexual exploitation of a child ("child prostitution" Article 19 of the Lanzarote Convention) **YES**
 - c. acts involving child sexual abuse material ("child pornography" Article 20 of the Lanzarote Convention) **YES**
 - d. offences related to the participation of children in pornographic performances (Article 21 of the Lanzarote Convention) **YES**
 - e. corruption of a child (causing a child to witness sexual activities) (Article 22 of the Lanzarote Convention) **YES**
 - f. solicitation of a child for sexual purposes ("grooming"), including online (Article 23 of the Lanzarote Convention) **YES**
 - g. aiding and abetting or attempting the above offences (Article 24 of the Lanzarote Convention) **YES**
 - h. any other convictions (please specify)? *(ar. 22(1) Law91(I)/2014)*

The Record kept according to Law 91(I)/14 includes information for natural or legal persons convicted for any of the following offences:

(a) An offence provided for in sections 6 to 10 and 15 of this Law, (b) an offence against a child provided for in Part IV of the Penal Code, (c) an offence provided for in sections 9, 10 and 11 on Combating of Trafficking and Exploitation of Human Beings and the Protection of Victims Laws of 2007 and 2012, (d) an offence against a minor provided for in sections 3 and 4 of the Combating of Trafficking of Human Being and on Sexual Exploitation of Minors Law of 2000, (e) an offence provided for in the Convention on Cybercrime (Ratification) Law, as from time to time amended or substituted, (f) an offence provided for in the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (Ratification) Law, as from time to time amended or substituted, (g) an offence provided for in sections 9, 10 and 11 of the Combating of Trafficking and Exploitation of Human Beings and the Protection of Victims Law, as from time to time amended or substituted.

8. 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 **NO**
 - b. other information available to the authorities (e.g. judicial decisions in civil proceedings)? **NO**
9. 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?

If you are convicted for sexual offences against children, you will never have a clean slate that will allow you to work with children in the future.

The relevant law provides that Notwithstanding the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Sentenced Persons Law, as from time to time amended or replaced, where a person is sentenced for an offence provided for in sections 6 to 10 and 15 of this law, the sentence in question is entered in his or her criminal record and is not struck off."

10. Does the criminal record check for 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?

The rehabilitation of convict's law does not apply for sexual offences against children

Screening procedure

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

(6) Any person having the intention to employ a person for professional, organised or voluntary activities, that include frequent contact with children, shall be obliged not to proceed with the employment of any such person, unless that person presents a certificate proving that he or she is not included in the Record kept under the provisions of this section. (ar. 22 Law91(I)/2014)

12. 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

The employers ask from their potential employees to provide them with a clean criminal record that will obtain from the Police.

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

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

According to the relevant law "Any person having the intention to employ a person for professional, organised or voluntary activities, that include frequent contact with children, shall be obliged not to proceed with the employment of any such person, unless that person presents a certificate proving that he or she is not included in the Record kept under the provisions of this section."

"Omission to comply with the obligation imposed under the provisions of sub-section (6) of this section (as mentioned above) shall be a criminal offence which is punishable with imprisonment not exceeding three (3) years, or with a fine not exceeding one hundred and seventy thousand Euro (€170,000) or with both such penalties."

15. 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.

Cross-border screening

16. 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?
17. 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 proceedings¹ (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)?
18. 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?

Additional details and reflections

19. Please add any further details regarding the modalities of the screening procedures applicable in your State, if relevant.
20. 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)?
21. What promising practices, if any, would your State like to highlight in the screening of professionals, volunteers and other persons in contact with children?

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