



# 18 NOVEMBER

## Day for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

**2024 Edition**

**Emerging technologies:  
threats and opportunities for  
the protection of children against  
sexual exploitation and sexual abuse**

**E**merging technologies, including artificial intelligence, extended and virtual realities etc., provide unique opportunities for children to explore and enjoy their rights. These technologies also expose children to increased risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse including solicitation and grooming, exposure to harmful sexual content, witnessing sexual act, sexual exploitation, extortion, and blackmail. The harmful content or behaviours associated with these emerging technologies may not be entirely or adequately criminalised by current national legislation and these technologies raise specific challenges for the prevention and prosecution of offences.

The 2024 edition of the Day for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (#EndChildSexualAbuseDay) focuses on the threats and opportunities posed by emerging technologies for the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. This will be an opportunity to raise awareness about challenges and promising practices among stakeholders to better prevent, protect and prosecute offences. **Promoting international co-operation** is essential in this context given the dematerialised nature of technologies which are not bound by national borders.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

■ The Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (**Lanzarote Committee**) monitors the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention, and has confirmed that the offences covered by the Convention remain criminalized regardless of the means used to commit them. Urgent action is required to:

- ▶ promote safety by design in the development and deployment of these technologies;
- ▶ raise awareness about the risks associated with these emerging technologies and support services available to prevent and protect children from these crimes;
- ▶ remove child sexual abuse material and ensure that all forms of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse are criminalised;
- ▶ strengthen international, cross-sector co-ordination.

■ 48 countries have ratified the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (**Lanzarote Convention**) which is open to accession by countries around the world.

■ To mark the Annual Day, the Council of Europe encourages activities, exchanges and debates on this issue, which can involve civil society, private sector and state actors, parliamentarians, educators, child protection professionals, parents and children.

■ Actions you can take:

- ▶ call on service providers to take a safety by design approach to the development and deployment of new technologies;
- ▶ raise awareness about helplines and hotlines;
- ▶ speak out: a simple conversation with your friends or family can break the silence and the taboos surrounding these issues. We have lots of tools available on our website to help you do this.

■ Useful links:

[www.inhope.org](http://www.inhope.org)

[www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk)

[www.weprotect.org](http://www.weprotect.org)

[www.safeonline.global](http://www.safeonline.global)

**Contact:** [EndChildSexualAbuseDay@coe.int](mailto:EndChildSexualAbuseDay@coe.int)

**Websites:** [www.coe.int/EndChildSexualAbuseDay](http://www.coe.int/EndChildSexualAbuseDay)  
[www.coe.int/children](http://www.coe.int/children)

**Twitter:** [@coe\\_children](https://twitter.com/@coe_children) / [#EndChildSexualAbuseDay](https://twitter.com/#EndChildSexualAbuseDay)

**Facebook:** [Council of Europe Children Rights](https://www.facebook.com/CouncilofEuropeChildrenRights)

