


COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

# FACTSHEET – SWEDEN

## Lanzarote Committee Implementation Report on:

"The protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies (ICTs): addressing the challenges raised by child self-generated sexual images and/or videos (CSGSIV)"

This factsheet was prepared by the Secretariat in March 2023.

It has been updated with information submitted by the Government of Sweden in March 2025 displayed in orange and blue text boxes.

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# I. Introduction

One of the main functions of the Lanzarote Committee ("the Committee") is to monitor the effective implementation of the Lanzarote Convention ("the Convention"). The monitoring procedure is divided into rounds, each concerning a specific thematic area and involving all State Parties ("the Parties") simultaneously. The monitoring rounds start with the launch of a thematic questionnaire, to which the national authorities are asked to respond, and which other relevant stakeholders can comment on. After carrying out its evaluation procedure, consisting of the analysis of such replies, the Committee adopts an implementation report where it draws conclusions about the different national frameworks, strategies and policies in place, makes recommendations to Parties, and highlights promising practices as well as some challenges. Sometime after the adoption of the implementation report, the Committee conducts a compliance procedure with the aim of assessing whether Parties comply with the recommendations made by the Committee as part of the evaluation procedure.

The compliance procedure seeks to assess the follow-up given by Parties to the recommendations made by the Committee in the evaluation procedure. In the implementation report of its 2nd monitoring round concerning the challenges raised by child self-generated sexual images and/or videos, the Committee made three types of recommendations:

- "Require": when the steps the Committee recommends Parties to take correspond to obligations arising from the Convention, as clarified by its explanatory report.
- "Request": when the steps the Committee recommends Parties to take correspond to obligations arising from the Convention, as clarified by documents adopted by the Committee (such as previous monitoring round findings, opinions or other documents).
- "Invite": when the steps the Committee recommends Parties to take correspond to promising practices or other measures to enhance protection of children against sexual violence even beyond specific requirements of the Convention.

At its 41st meeting (13-15 February 2024), the Lanzarote Committee agreed on a new methodology for the assessment of State Parties' compliance with the 2nd monitoring round recommendations (see point 4 of the Appendix to the List of decisions). It entrusted the Secretariat to insert boxes in the 2nd monitoring round country factsheets to highlight where information on follow-up measures taken or changes occurred may be inserted. It is recalled that these factsheets are a synthesis of the Committee's implementation report findings with respect to specific Parties. The factsheets are structured along the lines of the implementation report and the footnotes in this document refer to the specific paragraphs of the implementation report.

The orange boxes contain information submitted by the State Party regarding progress made towards the implementation of the recommendation.

The blue boxes contain examples of national promising practices that respond to "invite" recommendations made by the Committee.

## II. Legal frameworks

Interpreting the Convention, in conjunction with its Opinion on child sexually suggestive or explicit images and/or videos generated, shared and received by children (6 June 2019), the Committee identifies what Parties ought to have in place as well as what they are encouraged to do to better protect children against the exploitation of their self-generated sexual images and/or videos (CSGSIV).

Observations and recommendations of the Committee on the legal framework specific to Sweden

The Committee observes that the legal framework of Sweden refers explicitly to CSGSIV.[1] However, the Committee also observes that Sweden does not have a legislative definition of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) – prosecutorial practice or case law are applicable instead.[2]

Therefore, the Committee invites Sweden:

- to introduce a definition of "child sexual abuse material" (CSAM) for material depicting acts of sexual abuse of children and/or focusing on the genitalia of the child, following the guidance set out in the "Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse".[3] [4]

Reservations allowed by Article 20(3) of the Convention as regards own sexual images consensually produced and possessed by children for private use

The Committee highlights that Article 20(3) second indent foresees exemption from liability for the production and possession of one's sexually explicit images only where the children in question are above the age of sexual consent and where the material is produced/possessed with their consent for their own private use.[5] The Committee observes that Sweden made such a reservation.[6] Additionally, the situation under the reservation appears to extend to adult liability in Sweden, as the relevant "child abuse material" offences do not apply if the difference in age and development between the person depicted and the person producing the image is slight: it appears, therefore, that a young adult would be exempt from criminal liability where an older child is depicted within the material in question.[7]

Interplay of the age of criminal responsibility and the age of sexual consent with the criminalisation of conduct related to the production and possession of CSAM and CSGSIV

The Committee observes that children who are below the age of criminal responsibility, which is 15, and above the legal age for sexual activities cannot be held criminally liable for production and possession of CSGSIV in Sweden.[8] However, relying on the age of sexual consent alone to exclude criminal responsibility for the scenarios listed in paragraphs 3-6 of the 2019 Opinion is insufficient as, in such cases, children above the age of criminal responsibility but below the legal age for sexual activities may not be covered by the exemption from criminal responsibility.[9]

Criminalisation of conduct related to "offering or making available" CSAM and its relationship with the sharing their own or other children's self-generated material

The Committee observes that Swedish law does not hold criminally liable children in cases where they produce or possess CSGSIV of themselves. Nor does it criminalise consensual sharing of self-generated material between consenting children. If a child sends an image or video to someone who does not receive it voluntarily, it could be considered to be sexual molestation. According to Chapter 6, Section 10 of the Swedish Criminal Code, a person who exposes themselves to another person in a manner that is liable to cause discomfort, or who otherwise molests a person by word or deed in a way that is liable to violate

[1] Para. 43.
[2] Para. 50.
[3] The Terminology Guidelines also refer to the term "child sexual exploitation material", indicating that this term can be used in a broader sense, see "Luxembourg Terminology Guidelines", pages 38-40 in particular.
[4] Recommendation II-3.
[5] Para. 54.
[6] Para. 55.
[7] Para. 57.
[8] Para. 71.
[9] Para. 73.

that person's sexual integrity, is guilty of sexual molestation.[10] Therefore, in Sweden, children are potentially criminally liable for the distribution or transmission of their own CSGSIV under special circumstances,[11] and Sweden has rules that lead to the criminalisation of the distribution by children of CSGSIV of *other* children.[12]

- Therefore, the Committee requests Sweden to ensure that the distribution or transmission by children of self-generated sexual images and/or videos of other children is prosecuted as a last resort when such images and/or videos qualify as "child pornography" in accordance with Article 20(2) Lanzarote Convention.[13]

Follow-up actions:

As concerns the question of holding children criminally responsible for sharing intimate pictures, we would like to point out that it is a widespread problem that children receive unwanted sexual images or videos. Such material can be received from adults but also from other children. Protecting children from receiving such unwanted sexual material is a priority, and in light of that we strongly believe that it is necessary to be able to hold also children that are distributing such images criminally responsible for their actions.

This is also relevant when it comes to the distribution or transmission by children of sexual images and videos of other children. The distribution of such videos or images can cause profound and long-lasting harm to the depicted child, and we therefore strongly believe that that it is also necessary to have the possibility to hold also children criminally responsible for such acts.

According to the School Survey on Crime 2023, concerning i.a. victimization among students in year 9 (typically aged 15 years old) in 2023, 18 percent of respondents state that someone has posted pictures or video clips of the person on the internet that the person did not want to be shared (e.g. on Snapchat, TikTok, Instagram or similar). 26 percent state that someone has sent sexual or undressed photos/video clips of themselves without the person's consent (so-called "dickpics" or "nudes").

In the same year, 2023, 10 conviction decisions were made (court sentencing, waiver of prosecution and prosecutor's fine) for persons aged 15-17 concerning sexual molestation as principal crime. This includes all kinds of sexual molestation, i.e. not only sending unwanted sexual images or videos.

The number of children that are convicted for sending unwanted sexual images or videos are thus low compared to the number of children that receive such photos and videos.

<u>On the prosecution of conduct amounting to "sexual extortion of children"</u>

The Committee observes that in cases of "sexual extortion of children" for the objective of obtaining additional sexual images or videos of the child, Sweden prosecutes for offences related to "child pornography", in concurrence with offences where threat is a core element, such as extortion or coercion.[14] Additionally, Sweden referred to further offences which may be established, in recognition of the constituent elements of coercion/extortion, such as the offence of corruption of children, and child prostitution.[15]

In cases where the objective of the perpetrator is to obtain other sexual favours from the child depicted in the images/videos or from another child, the Committee observes that Sweden would prosecute for offences related to sexual abuse of a child in accordance with Article 18, child prostitution, participation in pornographic performances, and corruption of children.[16] In addition, Sweden would prosecute conduct relating to the possession of the initial child sexual image or video as an offence related to "child pornography" under Article 20, as well as coercion and aggravated coercion.[17]

[10] Para. 76.
[11] Para. 78.
[12] Para. 82.
[13] Recommendation II-9.
[14] Para. 98.
[15] Para. 100.
[16] Para. 102.
[17] Para. 103, 104.

In cases where the objective of the perpetrator is a financial gain, the Committee observes that in Sweden the conduct will be qualified as extortion or aggravated extortion, and Sweden referred to the offence of coercion.[18]

[18] Para. 106.

The Committee invites Parties that are not already doing so, including Sweden:

- to rather use the term "child sexual abuse material" for material depicting acts of sexual abuse of children and/or focusing on the genitalia of the child following the guidance set out in the "Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse"[19] in the development of future national, regional and international legal instruments and policies addressing the prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, as the Committee acknowledges that using the term "child pornography" can undermine the gravity of the crimes it refers to.[20]
- to contemplate appropriate legal responses to conduct involving non-visual self-generated sexual material produced by children in the context of offences covered by the Convention.
- to adopt legislative or other measures which promote as a priority educational and other measures that will aim to support children in safely exploring their sexual development while understanding and avoiding risks deriving from the production and possession of self-generated sexual images and/or videos.[21]
- to consider criminalising the offence of "grooming" (solicitation of children for sexual purposes), even when it does not lead to a face-to-face meeting or producing self-generated sexual images and/or videos.[22]
- to take into account the situation where CSGSIV are used to force, coerce or threaten the child to give additional CSGSIV, other sexual favours, a financial gain or other gain to the offenders by:

- either creating a specific incrimination to address this situation,
- or prosecuting both the initial detention of CSGSIV and the act of extortion.[23]

to ensure that sexual extortion of children CSGSIV is investigated and prosecuted.[24]

[19] The Terminology Guidelines also refer to the term "child sexual exploitation material", indicating that this term can be used in a broader sense, see "Luxembourg Terminology Guidelines", pages 38-40 in particular.
[20] Recommendation II-1.
[21] Recommendation II-7.
[22] Recommendation II-10.
[23] Recommendation II-11.
[24] Recommendation II-12.

Promising practice

In Sweden, Chapter 16 section 10B of the Criminal Code states that prohibitions on the depiction and possession of "child pornography" do not apply to a person who produces a pornographic picture, if the difference in age and development between the child and the person who produces the picture is minor and the circumstances otherwise do not warrant the person who has committed the act being convicted of a crime.

Promising practices:

The act of grooming is criminalised under Chapter 6, Section 10a in the Swedish Criminal Code, which reads as follows:

"A person who, with the aim of committing an act against a child under fifteen years of age for which a penalty is provided in Section 4, 5, 6, 8 or 10, proposes or agrees to a meeting with the child, is guilty of contact with a child for sexual purposes and is sentenced to a fine or to imprisonment for at most two years."

It is thus not a requirement that the contact leads to a face-to-face meeting as it is sufficient that the perpetrator has proposed or agreed to meet with the child with the aim of committing rape of a child, sexual exploitation of a child, sexual assault of a child, exploitation of a child for sexual posing, sexual molestation or sexual molestation of a child. All the relevant crimes are "technology neutral", which means that the contact as well as the aimed meeting can take place online.

The crime "exploitation of a child for sexual posing" covers promoting or exploiting the performance of or participation in sexual posing by a child under fifteen years of age and, under some circumstances, a child who has attained fifteen but not eighteen years of age. Contacting a child with the aim of getting that child to pose for, e.g., a pornographic picture is covered by the offence. See also section IX as relates to educational and other measures that aim to support children in safely exploring their sexual development while understanding and avoiding risks deriving from the production and possession of self-generated sexual images and/or videos.

## III. Investigations and prosecution

In its Interpretative Opinion on the applicability of the Lanzarote Convention to sexual offences against children facilitated through the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) (12 May 2017), the Committee called on Parties to ensure effective investigation and prosecution of ICT facilitated sexual exploitation and sexual abuse by providing resources and training to responsible authorities.

Observations and recommendations of the Committee on investigations and prosecution specific to Sweden

The Committee observes that Sweden's investigation, prosecution, and legal services are already in line with some of its recommendations as Sweden has:

- specialised units dealing with ICT-facilitated offences against children within law enforcement.[25]
- prosecution offices dedicated to organised crime that manage cases concerning sexual abuse or exploitation of children facilitated by ICTs.[26]
- prosecutors in charge of the prosecution of sexual offences against children facilitated by ICTs that are specialist on the matter. Different prosecution offices can assign ICT-facilitated sexual offences against children to prosecutors specialised in cybercrime, crimes concerning violence and sexual abuse in general or serious and organised crimes. Crimes which are serious, organised and/or international are primarily handled by the Swedish Prosecution Authority's national unit against organised crime. In addition, there are two national Networks for prosecutors: one for those who work with IT-related crimes and one for those who work with violence against or sexual abuse of children, with two dedicated contact-persons in every region.[27]
- specialised prosecution services and prosecutors in charge of the prosecution of crimes committed by juvenile offenders (under the age of 18 and above 15 years) that are specialists in the matter.[28]
- training programmes provided by State authorities for law enforcement agents related to aspects of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.[29]
- training programmes organised by prosecution authorities and external training for prosecutors on aspects of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.[30] The training courses are characterised by the multiplicity of resources available to prosecutors, including guides and online FAQs. The Prosecution Authority offers a yearly, two-week course to train prosecutors on cases involving crimes against children in Sweden. One week is dedicated to violence against children and one week is dedicated to sexual abuse of children. A three-day education on cybercrime including ICT crimes is also offered within the Prosecution Authority.[31] Training content includes online child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.[32]
- training programmes provided by State authorities for judges.[33] A two-day training session is organised on an annual basis for criminal law judges in Sweden, also aimed at providing them with the opportunity to meet and discuss selected issues, and to exchange experiences. During the 2016 session, criminal trial procedures involving children and online sexual offences against children were two major themes. Training sessions on sexual offences, in general, are offered by the Courts of the Judicial Training Academy. Permanent judges are not subject to mandatory training. The Swedish Judicial Training Academy offers judges a course in cybercrime which includes a session on child pornography. From the 2021 training session for criminal law judges one of the themes was crimes

[25] Para. 115.
[26] Para. 125.
[27] Para. 128.
[28] Para. 138.
[29] Para. 145, 146.
[30] Para. 156, 157, 159.
[31] Para. 162.
[32] Para. 164.
[33] Para. 167.

committed over long distance (i.e. ICT facilitated offences) which included information on sexual offences against children.[34]

- victim identification units within law enforcement for cases of ICT facilitated sexual offences against children.[35]

To improve the effective implementation of the Convention, the Committee invites Sweden:

- to ensure that units, services or persons within courts responsible for ICT-facilitated sexual offences against children have the necessary specialisation in the intersecting areas of children's rights, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children, and ICT technical knowledge.[36]
- to ensure that units, services or persons within courts responsible for ICT-facilitated sexual offences against children have sufficient specialisation in offences involving CSGSIV.[37]
- to provide specific training[38] on ICT facilitated sexual offences against children, including when such offences involve CSGSIV, and ICT facilitated coercion or extortion to law enforcement agents who are likely to come into contact with such cases.[39]
- to ensure that training on the challenges raised by CSGSIV and ICT- facilitated coercion or extortion of children[40] is available to prosecutors and judges.[41]
- to offer joint (or "joined-up") training for professionals, and particularly law enforcement, prosecutors and judges, involved in legal proceedings involving ICT-facilitated child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, in order to ensure consistency at all stages.[42]
- to ensure that training on ICT-facilitated sexual offences against children for law-enforcement, prosecutors and judges contains a practical element, involving simulated or real cases.[43]

Sweden also indicated that a key challenge for a successful prosecution phase is to obtain electronic evidence that can be validly used before courts.[44] Sweden stressed that it is particularly challenging to obtain electronic evidence stored in the cloud since this requires mutual legal assistance, most of the time with countries which are not Parties to the Convention, and that such legal assistance can take more than a year to be provided.[45]

[34] Para. 168.
[35] Para. 180.
[36] Recommendation III-9.
[37] Recommendation III-10.
[38] Such trainings can also be part of broader training programmes.
[39] Recommendation III-14.
[40] Such trainings can also be part of broader training programmes.
[41] Recommendations III-17 and III-19.
[42] Recommendation III-20.
[43] Recommendation III-21.
[44] Para. 203.
[45] Para. 206.

Generic recommendations of the Committee on investigation and prosecution

On the specialisation and training of authorities

- Mindful of the different contexts in the Parties as recalled in para 235 of the Explanatory Report, the Committee requests those Parties that are not already doing so to ensure that law enforcement and prosecution units, services or persons specialised in ICT facilitated sexual offences against children are adequately financed to ensure sufficient resources, including staff, equipment and training.[46]

Follow-up actions:

The annual budget allocation for the Swedish Police Authority has been increased since 2022. In 2023 the Police Authority was specifically tasked to report on how they have improved their work on ICT facilitated sexual offences against children. Actions undertaken by the Police Authority included development of investigative tools and training of staff.

The Committee invites all Parties, including Sweden:

- to ensure that the capacities of any investigative unit specialised in ICT-facilitated sexual offences against children take into account evolving technologies and online behaviours and reflect current practices used by perpetrators. Additionally, the Committee invites all Parties to exchange best practices between the relevant investigative units.[47]
- to ensure that law enforcement units, services or persons specialised in ICT facilitated sexual offences against children adequately cover and/or are specialised in offences against children involving CSGSIV.[48]

On measures to ensure the effective investigation and prosecution

- The Committee requires all Parties to ensure that investigations and criminal proceedings in ICT facilitated sexual offences against children are treated as priority and carried out without any unjustified delay.[49]

Follow-up actions:

To increase efficiency of investigations, the Police Authority has developed guidelines, trainings and IT tools to ensure that a larger part of the organisation can handle ICT facilitated sexual offences against children. There is a specialised unit on national level, but knowledge is now spread also to the police regions. This is important as material can occur in several types of investigations.

It also invites all Parties, including Sweden:

- to ensure that measures, services and technology available to those in charge of identifying child victims of ICT-facilitated sexual offences are up to date, reflect current practices across Parties, including establishing and using national child abuse material databases, and that resources are sufficiently allocated.[50]
- to engage in and strengthen inter-Party cooperation for the purpose of identifying child victims and perpetrators of ICT facilitated sexual offences, including, where appropriate, by providing access to each other's databases or shared databases, including those containing information on such perpetrators.[51]
- to take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that preservation of specified stored computer data in connection with a specific criminal investigation or proceedings is made possible, fully upholding the rights of the parties involved.[52]
- to take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the investment in human, financial and physical resources is sufficient to have data generated by ICTs analysed in a timely manner so that investigations are carried out without any

[46] Recommendations III-3 and III-7.
[47] Recommendation III-4.
[48] Recommendation III-5.
[49] Recommendation III-30.
[50] Recommendation III-24.
[51] Recommendations III-25, III-29.
[52] Recommendation III-31.

unjustified delay.[53]

[53] Recommendation III-32.

Promising practices

The Swedish Prosecution Authority is currently working to implement the project 'Crimes against children, close relationships and sexual offences against adults and children – a developed best practice'. The project is carried out in close cooperation with the police and includes further development of the methodology and work procedure for prosecutors.

In 2014, experts from Sweden engaged in a Victim Identification Taskforce (VIDTF) to harness international cooperation in victim identification.[54] This initiative has been continued, including its 10th edition in October-November 2021.[55]

| Promising practices: |
| --- |

[54] See: https://www.europol.europa.eu/activities-services/europol-in-action/operations/victim-identification-taskforce
[55] https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/global-europol-taskforce-identifies-18-child-victims-of-sexual-abuse

## IV. Jurisdiction rules

Due to their online component, offences related to conducts involving CSGSIV have an inherently international aspect. As the prosecution of offences related to this material may involve more than one jurisdiction, the report analyses the jurisdictional rules in place in the Parties, enabling the determination of which Party may prosecute a particular case and under what conditions.

Observations of the Committee on jurisdiction rules specific to Sweden

Jurisdiction in cases of child sexual exploitation and abuse facilitated by ICTs committed on the territory of a Party: the territoriality principle (Article 25(1) (a-c))

The Committee notes that Sweden has established laws clarifying the circumstances in which its national criminal law will apply to a transnational situation following the territoriality principle. Swedish courts have jurisdiction over crimes committed within its territory. An act is considered to have been committed in Sweden if any part of it was committed there.[56]

Jurisdiction based on nationality and residency (Article 25(1)(d), (e))

It appears that Sweden has jurisdiction over offences covered by the Convention, when committed by nationals, and persons who have habitual residence in its territory.

Crimes committed outside Sweden are adjudged by a Swedish court when the crime has been committed by a Swedish citizen or an alien domiciled in Sweden, by an alien not domiciled in Sweden who, after having committed the crime, has become a Swedish citizen or has acquired domicile in Sweden or who is a Danish, Finnish, Icelandic or Norwegian citizen and is present in Sweden, or by any other alien, who is present in Sweden.[57]

Jurisdiction not subordinated to the condition that prosecution can only be initiated following a report from the victim or denunciation from the State where the offence was committed (Article 25(6))

It appears that Sweden does not apply this condition for prosecution.

Jurisdiction not subordinated to the condition that the acts are criminalised at the place where they were performed (Article 25(4)): the dual criminality principle

The Committee observes that if the act is not subject to criminal responsibility under the law of the place where it was committed (dual criminality) or if it was committed within an area not belonging to any state, the punishment for the act cannot be more severe than a fine under Swedish law. Sweden would establish jurisdiction in a case where the crime has been committed abroad by a Swedish national or an alien domiciled in Sweden only if the crime under Swedish law can result in imprisonment for more than six months.[58]

The Committee also highlights a promising practice in Sweden, as Under Swedish law, the following crimes committed by nationals, foreigners domiciled in Sweden, foreigners not domiciled in Sweden but who have become Swedish citizens, have acquired domicile in Sweden after the crime or who are Danish, Finnish, Icelandic or Norwegian citizens and are present in Sweden, or by any other foreigner present in Sweden will not be subject to the dual criminality principle if the offence can, under Swedish law, result in imprisonment for more than six months: rape, aggravated rape, sexual coercion, aggravated sexual coercion, sexual exploitation of a person in a position of dependence, aggravated sexual exploitation of a person in a position of dependence, rape of a child, aggravated rape of a child, sexual exploitation of a child, sexual abuse of a child, aggravated sexual abuse of a child, exploitation of a child for sexual posing, aggravated exploitation of a child for sexual posing, purchase of a sexual act from a child, child pornography and aggravated child pornography crimes.

The Committee invites Sweden to remove the requirement for dual criminality when

[56] Para. 214.
[57] Ibid.
[58] Ibid.

committed by one of its nationals, for offences of:

- possessing, offering, distributing, transmitting, procuring child pornography, and the fact of knowingly gaining access to child pornography through ICTs, when CSGSIV are involved,[59]
- solicitation of children for sexual purposes.[60]

Jurisdiction in cases of child sexual exploitation and abuse facilitated by ICTs committed against nationals or habitual residents of a Party: the passive personality principle (Art. 25(2))

Sweden did not provide any information as to whether it establishes jurisdiction over an offence committed against one of its nationals or a person having habitual residence in the territory under Article 25(2).

- To improve the effective implementation of the Convention, the Committee requests Parties that are not already doing so, including Sweden, to endeavour to take the necessary legislative or other measures to establish jurisdiction over any offence established in accordance with the Lanzarote Convention where the offence is committed against one of its nationals or a person who has his or her habitual residence in its territory.[61]

Follow-up actions: Pursuant to Chapter 2 Section 3 point 3. a) of the Swedish Criminal Code Swedish courts have jurisdiction to adjudicate offences committed outside Sweden in situations where offences are directed at a Swedish citizen or an alien habitually resident in Sweden.

[59] Recommendation IV-7.
[60] Recommendation IV-8.
[61] Recommendation IV-9.

Promising practices:

## V. International cooperation

The implementation report also analyses cooperation practices and examples of coordinated international responses, not only in the fight against sexual exploitation and abuse of children, but also in areas related to the prevention, protection and assistance of child victims and persons related to them.

Observations and recommendations of the Committee on international cooperation specific to Sweden

The Committee observes that INHOPE,[62] the PROMISE Barnahus Network,[63] WeProtect ECPAT,[64] END Violence against Children,[65] and EMPACT[66] conduct cooperation projects to prevent and combat sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children in Sweden.[67]

Additionally, law enforcement representatives from Sweden attend the Europol's central training course "Combatting the Sexual Exploitation of Children on the Internet" (COSEC) and Europol-Interpol-Cepol co-organised training course on victim identification (VID training course) in addition to collaborating with the European Police College (CEPOL).[68]

The Committee also observes that following the transposition of Directive 2012/29 of the European Parliament and the European Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA, Sweden requires its nationals or residents that are victims of a crime committed in another country of the European Union (EU) to report the crime in the EU Member State where the crime was committed.[69]

Therefore, the Committee requires Sweden to ensure that the victims of sexual exploitation or sexual abuse in matters related to CSGSIV in the territory of Parties to the Lanzarote Convention which are not members of the European Union other than the one where they reside, may make a complaint before the competent authorities of the State of their residence.[70]

[62] www.inhope.org/
[63] https://www.barnahus.eu/en/
[64] https://ecpat.org/
[65] https://www.end-violence.org/
[66] https://www.europol.europa.eu/empact
[67] Para. 255.
[68] Para. 259.
[69] Para. 271.
[70] Recommendation V-18

- To improve the effective implementation of the Convention, the Committee requests all Parties, including Sweden, to extend their international cooperation with other Parties to improve the effective implementation of the Lanzarote Convention.[71]

Follow-up actions:
Sweden has implemented the Lanzarote Convention and has a legislation authorising the international cooperation provided for in the Convention, both with other Parties and with counties which are not Parties to the Convention. Therefore, Sweden has not identified any need for legislative amendments according to judicial international cooperation in this specific area. Thus, Sweden is always developing it´s legislation on the area of judicial international cooperation.

Swedish law enforcement has a very good cooperation through Europol and is also cooperating through Interpol.

The Committee also invites all Parties, including Sweden:

- to assess, strengthen and develop international cooperation with other Parties to prevent and combat sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children and to provide assistance to victims in matters related to CSGSIV.[72]
- to expand international cooperation with countries which are not Parties to the Lanzarote Convention to disseminate the standards of the Convention, including for the purpose of preventing and combating sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, for the purpose of protecting and providing assistance to victims and concerning the offences established in accordance with the Convention, in matters related to CSGSIV.[73]
- to regularly assess the difficulties that they face when dealing with international cooperation and remedy them.[74]
- to strengthen cooperation with relevant intergovernmental bodies and with transnational networks and other international organisations and initiatives due to their capacity to mobilisation, their worldwide scope, and their flexibility to work, for the purpose of preventing and combating sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children as well as for protecting and providing assistance to victims, in matters related to CSGSIV.[75]
- to consider requesting the establishment of cooperation projects managed by the Council of Europe to assist them in their efforts to preventing and combating sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children in matters related to CSGSIV.[76]
- to support regional and international capacity building efforts to improve policy and operational measures including the pooling and sharing of successful education and awareness-raising tools for the purpose of preventing and combating sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children in matters related to CSGSIV.[77]
- to maintain and develop efforts to strengthen international cooperation with other Parties and non-Parties to the Lanzarote Convention, in investigation and proceedings concerning the offences established in accordance with the Lanzarote Convention, in particular in the area of police cooperation, namely ensuring that their law-enforcement agencies can connect and contribute to the Europol and Interpol databases, and develop the areas of data, training, vetting, and selection, in matters related to CSGSIV.[78]
- to integrate, where appropriate, prevention and the fight against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children in matters related to CSGSIV, in assistance

[71] Recommendation V-3.
[72] Recommendations V-6, V-11.
[73] Recommendations V-4, V-7, V-12, V-15.
[74] Recommendation V-5.
[75] Recommendations V-8, V-13.
[76] Recommendation V-9.
[77] Recommendation V-10.
[78] Recommendations V-14, V-16.

programmes for development provided for the benefit of third States.[79]

[79] Recommendation V-19.

Promising practices:

In the field of international legal assistance, there is both a Council of Europe Convention and an EU Convention. These instruments have been implemented in Swedish law through, among other things, the Act (2000:562) on International Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters. According to this Act, Sweden can, as a general rule, provide assistance even if Sweden does not have an agreement on legal assistance in criminal matters with the other state. There is no requirement for reciprocity.

Sweden has a well-developed legal cooperation with the other Nordic countries regarding, among other things, the transfer of proceedings and surrender under a Nordic arrest warrant.

In order to further improve the judicial cooperation with third countries, Sweden has recently successfully signed several bilateral agreements on legal assistance and extradition.

## VI. Assistance to victims

This chapter provides a comparative study of national mechanisms and measures for assisting child victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, particularly where this results from the CSGSIV.

Observations of the Committee on assistance to victims specific to Sweden

The Committee observes that Sweden has carried out advertising campaigns to raise awareness on violence facilitated by ICTs, informing all children about the possibility of calling for help when encountering sexual abuse and violence.[80]

The Committee also observes that different local authorities have different services available in Sweden. However, a standard and congruent service across a country may make it easier for children to access and receive help when they need it.[81]

- Therefore, the Committee requires Sweden to take the necessary legislative or other measures to assist child victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, in the short and long term, in their physical and psycho-social recovery, these measures must take due account of the child's views, needs and concerns.[82]

Follow-up actions: The regions have been given the main responsibility for providing healthcare in accordance with the Health and Medical Care Act. The Government's ability to directly control how the regions carry out their work is limited due to the constitutional principle of local self-government.

The social services within the municipalities have the overall responsibility for the support of victims of crime. Help is also offered from the health care within the regions, especially in psychiatry.

Barnahus/ Child Advocacy Centers have been set up in several municipalities. Barnahus is a form of cooperation within many Swedish municipalities where prosecutors, police, social services and healthcare work together in connection with children and young people aged 0–18 who are suspected to have been exposed to crimes. The aim is to give children and young people the help they need through relevant agencies working together.

In addition, civil society organisations offer a wide range of protection and support to victims of crime. For example, the organisation Victim Support Sweden offer information, advice and support services to all victims and witnesses in all parts of Sweden in over 25 different languages through 70 different local services and are also available by phone through the European Victim Support Number 116006 that victims can call 7 days a week. ECPAT runs, among other things, the website Ditt ECPAT where children can ask questions about things they have experienced. The organization can also help to remove nude and semi-nude pictures and videos that have been taken and spread against a child's will or that have been taken with consent but later spread against the child's will. The service applies to pictures or videos where the person depicted is under 18 years old, regardless of whether this is apparent from the image or not.

Furthermore, the government has tasked The Swedish Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Assessment of Social Services (Statens beredning för medicinsk och social utvärdering, SBU) with conducting an international and national survey to identify methods for detecting sexual risk exposure. The agency will also conduct an international and national survey to identify methods for treating children and adults who have been sexually exploited in situations where films or images have been shared.

Lastly, in December 2023 the government received the reports from the Inquiry on an

[80] Para. 279.
[81] Para. 300.
[82] Recommendation VI-3.

Exit Programme for Victims of Prostitution and the Inquiry on protection, support and care for victims of abuses in the production or distribution of pornography. Both inquiries include the situation of children, and they are currently being processed in the Government Offices.

Generic recommendations of the Committee on assistance to victims

The Committee invites all Parties, including Sweden:

- to promote awareness raising or specialised training for professionals who advise children through telephone or internet helplines on ICT-facilitated sexual exploitation and abuse of children – including the risks associated with CSGSIV – and how to provide appropriate support to victims and to those who wish to help them.[83]
- to ensure that the assistance measures are available to child victims of sexual exploitation and abuse facilitated by ICTs, including of offences due to the production, possession, distribution or transmission of CSGSIV.[84]

[83] Recommendation VI-2.
[84] Recommendation VI-4.

Promising practices: The Government has commissioned the National Board of Health and Welfare to implement measures to support equal, evidence-based care for victims of sexual violence. The remit includes a detailed mapping and analysis of the need for appropriate, cost-effective measures to develop health care for both children and adults who have been victims of sexual assault and sexual violence. The National Board of Health and Welfare reported the remit in December 2024. As a part of the remit the board developed a knowledge support tool for health care professionals working in student health services and youth clinics. The knowledge support focuses on online sexual violence.

## VII. Civil society involvement and cooperation

Civil society's involvement in protecting children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse is crucial and acknowledged by the Convention. Projects and programmes carried out by civil society, as well as cooperation between the competent state authorities and civil society, cover a wide range of issues.

### Observations of the Committee on civil society involvement and cooperation specific to Sweden

The Committee observes that Sweden supports the development of prevention activities by civil society in the form of financial support and grants.[85]

The Committee also observes that Sweden provided information about general prevention projects and programmes on violence against children and field research and analysis, whether or not carried out in cooperation with the State.[86]

[85] Para. 310.
[86] Para. 319, 323.

Generic recommendations of the Committee on civil society involvement and cooperation

The Committee invites all Parties, including Sweden:

- to expand cooperation with civil society to better prevent sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, including when facilitated by ICTs and the challenges raised by the exploitation of CSGSIV.[87]
- to ensure that the forms of cooperation that take place with civil society in the field of prevention and protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse are of a sustainable nature.[88]
- to support civil society to carry out projects and programmes that include the issue of CSGSIV.[89]
- to encourage the participation of children, according to their evolving capacity, in the development and implementation of state policies, programmes or other initiatives[90] and to seek children's views at the stage of drafting new legislation concerning the fight against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, including when facilitated by ICTs and as regards CSGSIV.[91]

[87] Recommendation VII-3.
[88] Recommendation VII-4.
[89] Recommendation VII-5.
[90] Parties are also invited to provide example(s) of how children's views are taken into account in the context of the participation of children.
[91] Recommendations VII-6, VII-7.

Difficulty in implementing the Convention

ECPAT Sweden notes the need to develop a helpline for children, designed to assist them to remove pictures and to provide support to those who suspect that they are being groomed, abused, or have other questions and concerns.[92]

Promising practices: See examples under "Observations of the Committee on assistance to victims specific to Sweden" as relates to ECPAT and Victim Support Sweden.

The government believes that the work on children's opportunities for participation and influence must continue. There is a need for an independent actor who provides support to children with extensive needs for support and help and who lack sufficient support from their guardians or other adults (see the Inquiry "*Improved opportunities for children to claim their rights according to the Convention on the Rights of the Child" [*SOU 2023:40]). The government is therefore initiating a pilot project in 2025 with independent child advocates who work on behalf of individual children. In addition, the government conducts systematic dialogues with organizations within the framework of the Children's Rights Delegation (Barnrättsdelegationen) and is aware of the importance of continuous support for the organizations to be able to carry out quality activities for children. The government therefore allocates funds to different civil society organizations including children's rights organizations.

[92] Para. 333.

## VIII. Promoting awareness of the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse faced by children generating and/or sharing sexual images and/or videos of themselves

The Articles 5, 6 and 8 of the Convention establish that States Parties should take the necessary measures to prevent all forms of child sexual exploitation and abuse and to protect children from their effects. Awareness-raising is one type of preventive measure.

Observations and recommendations of the Committee on promoting awareness of the risk of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse faced by children generating and/or sharing sexual images and/or videos of themselves specific to Sweden

The Committee observes that in Sweden, the police authority has launched a crime prevention initiative to increase knowledge about sexual crimes against children and young people online. The initiative is based on giving the school, parents and children various tools for a safer existence online. Through the initiative "Delbart", the police want to shed light on internet-related sexual crimes against children and young people, with the help of educational materials, films and messages on social media. Adults close to children have an important role to play in guiding children and reducing online vulnerability. Here, more knowledge is needed about what is criminal and how to talk to children and young people about these issues, both in school and at home.[93]

Although not necessarily specific to co-ordination of awareness-raising activities about the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse faced by children generating and/or sharing sexual images and/or videos of themselves, the Committee also observes that in Sweden, the Safer Internet Centre (SIC) consists of the governmental agency, the Swedish Media Council ("*Statens medieråd*") as the awareness raising centre and the non-governmental organisation Children's Rights in Society ("*Bris*"). *Bris* provides the national helpline offering information and support to children. SIC-Sweden is also a part of a council within the Swedish Police Authority ("*Polisens barnaråd*"). The council consists of national public authorities, NGOs and other stakeholders working together to protect children from sexual abuse.[94]

[93] Para. 372.

[94] Para. 378.

Generic recommendations of the Committee on promoting awareness of the risk of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse faced by children generating and/or sharing sexual images and/or videos of themselves

The Committee invites all Parties, including Sweden:

- to ensure that explanations of the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse faced by children generating and/or sharing sexual images and/or videos of themselves, with or without coercion, are included in the awareness-raising campaigns that they promote or conduct, whatever the target audience.[95]
- to ensure that awareness-raising for children about the risks that they face when generating and/or sharing sexual images and/or videos of themselves takes place early enough, before they reach their teens, and that it is "adapted to their evolving capacity" or, in other words, their age and degree of maturity.[96]
- to use unchanged, wherever possible, the awareness-raising tools, materials and activities mentioned in this report or else to adapt them to their national contexts and their own languages and, if necessary, develop new ones, concentrating on videos and distribution through social media.[97]
- to have available awareness-raising tools, materials, and activities suitable for children with disabilities.[98]
- to ensure that awareness-raising for children regarding the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse that they face when generating and/or sharing sexual images and/or videos of themselves is led first and foremost by their peers.[99]
- to promote themselves and to encourage the information and communication of the technology sector, the media, and other professionals to raise awareness among children, their parents, persons having regular contact with children, and the general public about the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse faced by children generating and/or sharing sexual images and/or videos of themselves and about the preventive measures that can be taken.[100]
- to step-up awareness-raising for parents and persons with parental authority about the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse faced by children generating and/or sharing sexual images and/or videos of themselves and about the preventive measures that can be taken.[101]
- to promote or conduct awareness-raising campaigns for the general public providing information about the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse faced by children generating and/or sharing sexual images and/or videos of themselves and about the preventive measures that can be taken.[102]
- to take the necessary measures to ensure co-ordination between the agencies responsible for raising awareness of the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse faced by children generating and/or sharing sexual images and/or videos of themselves.[103]

[95] Recommendation VIII-1.
[96] Recommendation VIII-2.
[97] Recommendation VIII-3.
[98] Recommendation VIII-4.
[99] Recommendation VIII-5.
[100] Recommendation VIII-6.
[101] Recommendation VIII-7.
[102] Recommendation VIII-8.
[103] Recommendation VIII-9.

Promising practices:

Examples of awareness raising campaigns:

- Är det delbart? Om att ta, ha och dela nakenbilder - Blomquist Communication ("*Can it be shared?/Is it shareable? On taking, having, and sharing nude photos"*)
- The Police Authority has also had a campaign focusing on sugar dating called Operation Teenwolf

In addition, The Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society (MUCF) has been tasked with developing and disseminating information initiatives and knowledge support aimed at preventing young people from being exploited for sexual or pornographic purposes, being subjected to sexual violence, abuse, or harassment both digitally and physically. The knowledge support and information initiatives can be directed at professionals and volunteers who work with young people, with a particular focus on reaching young people at risk of sexual exploitation through professionals, such as young LGBTQI individuals, young people with disabilities, and children and young people in the care of the state. The support can concern both being subjected to and subjecting someone else to such exploitation.

## IX. Education for children

While the protection of child victims and the prosecution of offenders are key elements in the fight against the sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, preventing them from occurring in the first place is paramount. Informing children about the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and how to protect themselves is the cornerstone of prevention.

Observations and recommendation of the Committee on education for children specific to Sweden

The Committee observes that in Sweden, information on the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by ICTs and/or on the challenges raised by CSGSIV is delivered in the framework of topics related to "Civic subjects: risks and possibilities of digitalisation".[104]

- Therefore, the Committee also invites Sweden to provide information to children on the risks of child sexual exploitation and abuse facilitated by ICTs, including CSGSIV, within a more general context of sexuality education.[105]

[104] Para. 398.
[105] Recommendation IX-7.

- The Committee requires all Parties including Sweden, to ensure that all children at primary and secondary level receive information about the risks of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by ICTs. Organising lectures and/or activities on this topic should not be left to the discretion of schools or teachers.[106]

Follow-up actions:

• In July 2022, there were changes in the curricula that apply to the cross curricula subject sexuality, consent and relationships. Teachers in several subjects therefore share the responsibility for teaching in the area.
• The changes emphasize e.g., that teaching in this area of knowledge should take place repeatedly and contribute to promoting the students' health and well-being. The teaching must also strengthen the students' ability to make conscious and independent choices.
• Consent has been added to emphasize the importance of pupils and students developing an understanding of their own and others' rights and to convey the importance of sexuality and relationships being characterized by consent.
• The students must also be given the opportunity to develop a critical approach to how relationships and sexuality are presented in different media and contexts, including in pornography.

In addition, The Public Health Agency of Sweden and the Swedish National Agency for Education have been tasked with updating support materials for teaching in the knowledge area of sexuality, consent, and relationships. The assignment includes providing knowledge bases that enhance all students' access to information about sexual and reproductive rights, based on the students' age and maturity level, as well as knowledge about sexual risk exposure, such as online risks, digital violence, sexual exploitation in the form of child exploitation through the purchase of sexual acts, and sexual exploitation in the form of children being depicted in films or images that are spread for pornographic or other purposes.

The Committee invites all Parties, including Sweden:

- to address in educational contexts the issue of the risks of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by ICTs, including as regards CSGSIV.[107]
- to ensure that information on the risks of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by ICTs, including as regards CSGSIV, is provided to children during both primary and secondary education (whether as part of the national curricula or in the context of non-formal education for children at these levels).[108]
- to consistently involve children in the development of internet safety awareness programmes.[109]
- to ensure that there is a standing national internet safety resource, with an ongoing programme of activities.[110]
- to provide information to children on child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, facilitated by ICTs, including as regards CSGSIV, in their national curriculum or other non-formal educational contexts, in a form which is adapted to the evolving capacity of the children and therefore which is appropriate for their age and maturity.[111]
- to ensure that parents, caregivers, and educators are involved, where appropriate, in the provision of information to children on the risks of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by ICTs, in particular as regards CSGSIV.[112]

[106] Recommendation IX-3.

[107] Recommendation IX-1.
[108] Recommendation IX-2.
[109] Recommendation IX-4.
[110] Recommendation IX-5.
[111] Recommendation IX-6.
[112] Recommendation IX-8.

Promising practices:

## X. Higher education curriculum and continuous training

Persons who have regular contact with children in the education, health and social protection sectors and areas related to sport, culture and leisure are at the forefront of the prevention of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, as they have the most interaction with children under their supervision in these different settings. However, they may not be adequately equipped to inform children about their rights, to detect situations where a child is at risk of sexual exploitation or sexual abuse and to respond appropriately. It is therefore of crucial importance that they are well informed about the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, both during their education and continuously during their careers, to enable them to adapt to emerging trends and risks in the fight against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, including when facilitated by ICTs.

Observations and recommendations of the Committee on higher education curriculum and continuous training specific to Sweden

The Committee observes that only some of the professionals working in contact with children seem to have been trained on the possibility to report situations where they have reasonable grounds for believing that a child is a victim of sexual exploitation or sexual abuse in Sweden.[113] Some persons working in contact with children receive awareness of the protection and rights of children, in different frameworks and on different topics and the focus of trainings is generally linked to the rights of children in the digital environment.[114]

- To improve the effective implementation of the Lanzarote Convention, the Committee requires Sweden to ensure that the persons who have regular contact with children are informed of the possibility for them to report to the services responsible for child protection any situation where they have "reasonable grounds" for believing that a child is a victim of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, in areas relating to sport, culture and leisure activities.[115]

Follow-up actions: Everyone is advised to report suspicions of child abuse to the social services in the municipality where the child lives. Employees of certain authorities and activities that affect children and young people (schools, health care and dental care, for example) are obliged by law to report immediately if they suspect that a child is being abused in the course of their work. Information on how to report can be found in many places. The National Board of Health and Welfare have information and so does other authorities linked to specific professions such as the National Agency for Education.

The Swedish Sports Confederation (a non-governmental umbrella organization of the Swedish sports movement) has information and support to all individual sport federations relating to suspicions of children or young people that are harmed, for instance sexually abused, in sports

Additionally, the Committee requests Sweden to ensure that the persons who have regular contacts with children (i.e. in the education, health and social protection, sectors and in areas relating to sport, culture and leisure activities), have an adequate knowledge of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, including when facilitated by ICTs, for example through education or continuous training.[116]

Follow-up actions: The different state authorities have information and materials directed to different professions. The Swedish National Agency for Education has information for teachers and staff working in

[113] Para. 429.
[114] Para. 432.
[115] Recommendation X-6.
[116] Recommendation X-1.

education settings, the National Board of Health and Welfare have a wide range of materials directed to social workers, student health facilities, youth reception centres etc. There are also several courses for professionals at university and college level.

Generic recommendations of the Committee on higher education curriculum and continuous training

The Committee also invites all Parties, including Sweden:

- to ensure that the persons who have regular contacts with children (i.e. in the education, health and social protection, sectors and in areas relating to sport, culture and leisure activities), have an adequate knowledge of the risks associated with CSGSIV, for example through education or continuous training.[117]
- to ensure that all the sectors where professionals work in contact with children, including when working on a voluntary basis, have adequate knowledge of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, including when facilitated by ICTs and with specific reference to the risks associated with CSGSIV.[118]

[117] Recommendation X-2.
[118] Recommendation X-3.

Promising practice

In Sweden there are national qualitative targets on the rights of children for programmes such Bachelor of Arts in Pre-School Education and other programmes educating future teachers and nurses. The qualitative targets are stipulated in the Higher Education Ordinance and are essential in the governing of Higher Education Institutions. For example, students must have acquired certain knowledge on harassment of children and/or Rights of the Child to take the degree. The goals are slightly differently formulated for different degrees.

Promising practices:

## XI. Research

Effective prevention mechanisms and responses to tackle sexual exploitation and abuse of children require an understanding of the issues at stake, as well as knowledge of the prevalence and characteristics of the phenomenon. Accurate and precise information may be necessary to develop quality and targeted policies and measures. The gathering of information and understanding of the phenomenon is particularly important in the context of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by ICTs, in light of their rapid development and increased use.

Observations and recommendations of the Committee on research specific to Sweden

The Committee observes that although Sweden referred to research on sexual abuse of children and sexual exploitation and abuse of children online, the absence of specific reference to SGSIV leaves doubt as to the inclusion of this particular topic.[119]

The Committee also observes that Sweden has participated for at least one year in the EU Kids Online surveys. EU Kids Online is a multinational research network seeking to enhance knowledge of children's online opportunities, risks and safety. Surveys carried out in the framework of EU Kids Online collect data and information on, *inter alia*, children's practice of sending and receiving sexual messages online.[120]

The unclarity of whether research undertaken in Sweden on topics related to the issue of SGSIV specifically addresses this issue, other than in the context of the EU Kids Online research project, constitutes a difficulty in implementing the Convention.[121]

Another difficulty in implementing the Convention is that regarding surveys undertaken in the context of EU Kids Online, information is lacking to determine which body was in charge of supporting and/or carrying out research in Sweden.

Therefore, the Committee invites Sweden:

- to collect data and undertake research at the national and local levels to observe and evaluate the phenomenon of CSGSIV.[122]
- to ensure that data on the phenomenon of CSGSIV and the risks associated with it is regularly collected and research on the issue is regularly undertaken.[123]
- to build on the findings from existing research on CSGSIV, when available, to ensure that policies and measures are best developed and appropriately targeted to tackle the issues raised by CSGSIV.[124]
- to take the necessary legislative or other measures to set up or designate mechanisms for data collection or focal points at the national or local levels and in collaboration with civil society to observe and evaluate the phenomenon of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, including on the issues arising from CSGSIV, with due respect for the requirements of personal data protection.[125]

[119] Para. 439.
[120] Para. 440.
[121] Para. 444.
[122] Recommendation XI-1.
[123] Recommendation XI-2.
[124] Recommendation XI-3.
[125] Recommendation XI-4.

Promising practices:

In the initiative on Research on men's violence against women, violence in close relationships, honor-related violence and oppression, as well as prostitution and human trafficking for sexual purposes in the Research and Innovation Bill 2024, it is highlighted that there are significant research needs regarding, among other things, sexual exploitation in the form of children being depicted in images or films that are distributed.

See also above: The government has tasked The Swedish Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Assessment of Social Services (Statens beredning för medicinsk och social utvärdering, SBU) with conducting an international and national survey to identify methods for detecting sexual risk exposure. The agency will also conduct an international and national survey to identify methods for treating children and adults who have been sexually exploited in situations where films or images have been shared.