

## "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center

### **Information provided further the statement by the Lanzarote Committee Chair and Vice-Chairperson on stepping up protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse in times of the COVID-19 pandemic**

To begin with, Hope for Children realized a Press Conference that was exclusively addressed to children and youth on the occasion of the measures taken to prevent the spread of virus COVID-19. During the Conference, practical ideas and solutions were given on how children can face this situation for the upcoming period and helplines as well as online support chats were promoted.

Relevant links: <https://www.uncrcpc.org.cy/en/press-conference-exclusively-for-children-and-youth-about-coronavirus/?fbclid=IwAR3-0MNQBe7kaDBpLG3vPyYgUzvfOnYVcVNmFUyMCVgFoTgG5UovPRQCrEo>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e\\_Zc\\_HDRtQA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_Zc_HDRtQA)

Furthermore, Hope for Children also shares its latest initiative to combat child sexual abuse and exploitation, which is the short film "Watch Over me", directed by Leah Kayaleh, written and financed by Leah Kayaleh and Rani Kayaleh. This film was given to us in order to sensitize the public on the nature of child sexual abuse.

Relevant link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZCSQN112gvw&fbclid=IwAR115XV2ZTmfPW07jMZKKlIHUb5w9aSntJKX3GXwCfbSIENrapsfg\\_ASZ2l](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZCSQN112gvw&fbclid=IwAR115XV2ZTmfPW07jMZKKlIHUb5w9aSntJKX3GXwCfbSIENrapsfg_ASZ2l)

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### **Responses to specific questions by the Bureau of the Lanzarote Committee on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse**

- 1. To what extent, if at all, has the threat of child sexual abuse/exploitation changed due to COVID-19? If so:**
  - Please tell us about whether the level of risk has increased/decreased/remained the same and if possible specify this with regard to the various types of sexual offences against children (Articles 18-23 of the Convention);
  - You may also wish to indicate any emerging trends relating to child sexual abuse/exploitation, as the result of COVID-19, and point at measures taken to address them.

No information received.

- 2. Did lockdown cause child sexual abuse/exploitation cases (identified/reported) to increase, decrease or stay the same? Please submit data (number of victims/offenders) and highlight what you think may explain the trend.**

No information received.

- 3. Please also tell us whether and how general child safeguarding measures were, or are likely to be, affected by measures taken by governments in response to COVID-19. In addition, highlight any additional, specific measures put in place during lockdown to ensure reporting by victims of child sexual abuse/exploitation as well as to support and assist them, and whether these measures will be maintained even when the lockdown is lifted.**

No information received.

- 4. Finally, please tell us whether children have been duly listened to on decision-making concerning their protection against sexual abuse/exploitation during this period. Please also tell us whether and how children will be involved in decision-making on or assessing the impact of COVID-19 measures in the future.**

No information received.