

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”

ICELAND

Replies received by the Secretariat on 16 July 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 which are in force on 27 March 2026 or are in the process of adoption (in this case, please specify the planned date of entry into force).

Please indicate:

- a. State Party in respect of which the questionnaire is submitted
Iceland
- b. Entities and bodies which have been involved in responding to this questionnaire
The response has been compiled and submitted by the Ministry of Education and Children in consultation with its relevant departments and with contributions and official confirmations from the following national agencies: The National Agency for Children and Families and The Directorate of Labour.

Please note that this list represents only the entities involved in this current submission; additional ministries and government agencies are being consulted and will be involved in finalizing the questionnaire in its entirety.

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, employment or volunteer positions whose exercise implies regular contacts with children? Please specify whether such restrictions apply to professions, employment or volunteer 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	Yes	Yes	Yes	The requirement applies to all pre-school staff that are recruited to work at a pre-school. The relevant legal basis is Article 6, paragraph 3 of Act No. 90/2008 on pre-schools. This is complemented and reinforced by

					Article 12, paragraph 3 of the Act on the Education, Competency and Recruitment of Teachers and School Administrators of Pre-schools, Compulsory Schools and Upper Secondary Schools No. 95/2019 2, which applies identical prohibitions to all recruitment within these school levels. While the statutory mandate under these Acts is limited to recruitment and employment (covering both public and private sectors), in practice, any volunteers or self-employed professionals/contractors who might be engaged in regular contact with children at schools are also subject to the same screening requirements as a matter of policy and institutional practice to ensure child safety.
Education – Primary	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	The requirement applies to all compulsory school staff recruited to work at a compulsory school (primary and lower secondary levels). The primary legal basis is Article 11, paragraph 3 of the Compulsory School Act No. 91/2008. This is complemented and reinforced by Article 12, paragraph 3 of the Act on the

					Education, Competency and Recruitment of Teachers and School Administrators of Pre-schools, Compulsory Schools and Upper Secondary Schools No. 95/2019 2, which applies identical prohibitions to all recruitment within these school levels. While the statutory mandate under these Acts is limited to recruitment and employment (covering both public and private sectors), in practice, any volunteers or self-employed professionals/contractors who might be engaged in regular contact with children at schools are also subject to the same screening requirements as a matter of policy and institutional practice to ensure child safety
Education – Secondary	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	The requirement applies to all upper secondary school staff that are recruited to work at an upper secondary school. The relevant legal basis is Article 8, paragraph 5 of the Upper Secondary Education Act No. 92/2008. This is complemented and reinforced by Article 12, paragraph 3 of the Act on the Education, Competency and Recruitment of

					Teachers and School Administrators of Pre-schools, Compulsory Schools and Upper Secondary Schools No. 95/2019, which applies identical prohibitions to all recruitment within these school levels. While the statutory mandate under these Acts is limited to recruitment and employment (covering both public and private sectors), in practice, any volunteers or self-employed professionals/contractors who might be engaged in regular contact with children at schools are also subject to the same screening requirements as a matter of policy and institutional practice to ensure child safety.
Education – Tertiary					
Education – Extracurricular (e.g. language schools)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	For extracurricular educational activities (such as music schools, language courses, and private tutoring), the screening requirements vary depending on the organizational and legal framework. Structured Educational Youth work: Under Article 10 of the Youth Act No. 70/2007, any non-profit youth organizations or structured educational programs falling

					under the Act must screen all employed staff and volunteers who work with children under 18. Private and Commercial Extracurricular Schools: For purely commercial private schools (e.g., private language centers or individual private tutors), there is no general statutory mandate to present a criminal record. However, as a matter of policy, most established private institutions and municipal partners demand criminal record checks from their instructors as a standard contractual condition to ensure child safety.
Childcare (e.g. kindergartens, crèches, childminders)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Home-Based Childcare (Self-employed Day Parents). Under Article 13, paragraph 5 of Regulation No. 907/2005 on Daycare of Children in Private Homes, obtaining a municipal operating license is strictly conditional upon verifying the clean criminal record of the applicant and all household members aged 15 and older. The screening strictly prohibits licensing if any individual on the premises has been convicted of offences under Chapters XXII (sexual offences) and XXIII (offences

					against children's safety and welfare) of the General Penal Code No. 19/1940. Institutional Childcare (Kindergartens and Crèches). Formal childcare centers and nurseries for infants are governed by the Pre-school Act No. 90/2008 and Act No. 95/2019. All employed staff must undergo a mandatory criminal record check at the time of recruitment, and individuals with convictions under Chapter XXII are strictly barred from employment.
Institutional or residential care (e.g. foster homes, orphanages, closed residential facilities)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Under Article 36, paragraph 2 of the Child Protection Act No. 80/2002, any person convicted of a sexual offence under Chapter XXII of the General Penal Code No. 19/1940 is strictly prohibited from being employed by child protection authorities, or in children's homes or institutions covered by child protection law. This mandatory prohibition and screening requirement apply universally, whether the facilities are run by the state, municipalities, or private entities.
Detention					N/A
Migration facilities (e.g. reception centres)	No	No	Yes	N/A	There is currently no statutory requirement or administrative practice to request criminal record certificates for public

					sector staff employed directly by the Directorate of Labour (Vinnumálastofnun) in housing and reception facilities for applicants for international protection, nor is screening requested for volunteers (who, in most cases, are applicants themselves). However, for private security guards contracted to work in these facilities through public tenders, the Directorate of Labour includes a mandatory requirement in the procurement terms stating that all security guards working in these facilities must have a clean criminal record.
Sport	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Under Article 16 of the Sports Act No. 64/1998, which is implemented and enforced through the bylaws of the National Olympic and Sports Association of Iceland, it is strictly prohibited to employ or assign volunteer duties to any individual supervising children and youth under 18 within the sports movement who has been convicted of sexual offences under Chapter XXII of the General Penal Code No. 19/1940, murder under Article 211, serious bodily harm under Article 218, or drug-related offences under the Narcotic Drugs Act No.

					65/1974 within the past five years. To ensure compliance, obtaining a criminal record check is mandatory for all employees and volunteers working with children under 18.
Culture and leisure activities	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	For culture and recreational leisure activities, the screening requirements are robustly covered under two main statutory frameworks. After-School Care and Youth Clubs: Under Article 10, paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Youth Act No. 70/2007, it is strictly prohibited to hire employees or use volunteers in municipal after-school care centers, municipal youth clubs or other recreational facilities who have been convicted of sexual offences under Chapter XXII of the General Penal Code No. 19/1940 or drug-related offences within the past five years. Summer Camps and Residential Recreation: Under Article 15 of Regulation No. 366/2005 on the placement of children in summer camps, any operator of a summer camp or similar residential recreation must obtain an operating license, which is strictly

					conditional upon verifying the clean criminal records (specifically regarding Chapter XXII offences) of all employees, organizers, and all household members aged 15 and older.
Entertainment sector					
Faith and religion					
Healthcare (including psychological and psychiatric services)					
Social protection services					
Law enforcement					
Judicial					
Civil society organisations	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Civil society organizations (such as sports clubs, youth associations, scouts, and other NGOs working with children) are subject to strict mandatory screening and recruitment bans under Icelandic law. Under Article 10, paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Youth Act No. 70/2007 and Article 16, paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Sports Act No. 64/1998 organizations are strictly prohibited from hiring employees or utilizing volunteers to supervise children and youth under 18 if they have been convicted of sexual offences under Chapter XXII of the

					General Penal Code No. 19/1940. These laws explicitly extend the mandatory screening requirement to: Employees: Anyone recruited to work with or supervise children under 18. Volunteers: Anyone entrusted with the care or supervision of children on a voluntary basis. Self-employed professionals: External contractors or instructors hired by these organizations to supervise children must fulfil the exact same screening criteria.
Victim services (including Barnahus, domestic violence services)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Under Article 36, paragraph 2 of the Child Protection Act No. 80/2002, any person convicted of a sexual offence under Chapter XXII of the General Penal Code No. 19/1940 is strictly prohibited from being employed in victim services that fall under child protection authorities, such as Barnahús (Children's House). This mandatory prohibition and screening requirement apply universally to all personnel, whether employed in public, municipal, private, or voluntary roles within these specialized victim support services.
Any other sectors					

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

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

No

- b. distinguish between direct, indirect or online contact with children?

No

If yes, please provide details.

3. Is the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children required to become:

- a. an adoptive parent

- b. a foster parent

Yes. Under Article 36 and Article 66, paragraph 1 of the Child Protection Act No. 80/2002, the Quality and Supervisory Authority of Welfare is the competent licensing authority that issues foster care licenses.

The Quality and Supervisory Authority of Welfare acts as the initial administrative filter; upon receiving an application, it performs the initial screening, including verifying the criminal record. If a candidate is found to have convictions under Chapter XXII (sexual offences) of the General Penal Code No. 19/1940, the licensing authority has the statutory authority to deny the application immediately.

If the application passes this initial screen, it is referred to the National Agency for Children and Families, which is responsible for the comprehensive, professional suitability assessment. Under Article 6, paragraph 3 and Article 7 of the Regulation on Foster Care No. 804/2004, individuals convicted of sexual offences are strictly and unconditionally barred from foster care, and screening is mandatory for applicants and all household members aged 15 and older. Following its assessment, the National Agency for Children and Families submits a formal evaluation back to the Quality and Supervisory Authority of Welfare, which makes the final decision on the license.

- c. a child's legal guardian (including for unaccompanied children)?

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 their home who are in contact with children

Yes. Under Icelandic law, professional activities involving children carried out in private homes encompass two main categories where screening of all household members is mandatory:

1. Home-based Daycare: Under Article 13, paragraph 5, item 5 of the Regulation on Daycare in Domestic Settings No. 907/2005, obtaining an operating license is strictly conditional on the applicant and all household members aged 15 and older providing written consent for a criminal record check. Any sexual offence conviction under Chapter XXII of the General Penal Code No. 19/1940 is an absolute barrier to licensing.
2. Home-based Short-Term Stays or Summer Placements: Under Article 84 of the Child Protection Act No. 80/2002 and Articles 15 and 22 of the Regulation on the Placement of Children in Non-Child Protection Facilities No. 366/2005, any home-based placement, care home, or summer stay operated as a professional or contracted service requires the Quality and Supervisory Authority of Welfare to verify the clean criminal records of the primary operator and all household members aged 15 and older before granting an operating license.

- b. persons carrying out volunteering activity in their home who are in contact with children

No. Under Icelandic law, while the volunteers themselves who are in contact with children must undergo mandatory criminal record screening (under the Youth Act No. 70/2007 and the Sports Act No. 64/1998), there is no statutory requirement to screen the household members of persons carrying out voluntary activities in their private homes.

However, individual non-governmental organizations and voluntary associations may enforce their own internal safety policies and request criminal record checks of volunteers and, where applicable under their internal rules, members of their households, as a condition for participating in specific home-based hosting or respite programs.

- c. persons wishing to become an adoptive parent, a foster parent, or a child's legal guardian?

Yes (for foster parents). For Foster Care: Under Article 7 of the Regulation on Foster Care No. 804/2004 and the Child Protection Act No. 80/2002, both the prospective foster parents and all other household members aged 15 and older must undergo background screening. The licensing process is administered by the Quality and Supervisory Authority of Welfare. While a conviction of a household member does not automatically constitute a statutory barrier, any history of sexual offences against children heavily influences and is highly likely to disqualify the suitability of the household.

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

Under Article 14 of the Icelandic General Penal Code No. 19/1940, the age of criminal responsibility is 15. Children under the age of 15 cannot be held criminally liable, do not have a criminal record, and therefore cannot undergo a criminal record check. However, for minors aged 15 to 17, the statutory screening and

recruitment prohibitions apply fully. Icelandic legislation - including the Pre-school Act No. 90/2008, the Compulsory School Act No. 91/2008, the Upper Secondary Education Act No. 92/2008, the Sports Act No. 64/1998, and the Youth Act No. 70/2007 no exemptions based on the age of the applicant. Any individual (including minors aged 15-17) recruited for employment or, where applicable, volunteer positions in these sectors must undergo screening. For example, teenagers aged 15-17 hired by municipalities for summer youth work programs in pre-schools are legally classified as employees and are screened accordingly.

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

Yes, the prohibition and screening requirements apply to adults even if the relevant conviction was received for an offence committed when they were minors (aged 15–17). Under Icelandic law, there is no exception or exemption for convictions obtained before the age of 18. If an adult applicant has an active conviction on their criminal record (or within the specialized databases accessed by child-welfare authorities) for a sexual offence against a child committed when they were a minor, they are strictly and permanently barred from being hired or volunteering in any child-facing sectors.

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

In Iceland, every citizen and permanent resident is assigned a unique, lifelong personal identification number (*kennitala*) at birth or upon registering residency. Under the National Registry system, a legal name change (processed by Registers Iceland under the Personal Names Act No. 45/1996) does not alter or affect an individual's personal identification number, which remains permanently unchanged throughout their lifetime.

The national criminal record database maintained under the Act on Criminal Procedure No. 88/2008 and National Criminal Record Rules No. 680/2009, uses this personal identification number as the primary, unique identifier for all individuals. Therefore, any background check, police registry search, or criminal record certificate generated is based entirely on the individual's *kennitala*. This technical integration ensures that all criminal records, regardless of any legal name changes, remain automatically and permanently linked to the individual and will always surface on any certificate generated under their new name.

7. Is access to public funds for projects implying contact with children conditional on the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children for persons employed in or volunteering for such projects?

In Iceland, the disbursement of public funds or grants (such as those from the Youth Fund or the Sports Fund) for projects involving children is not conditional on a direct or automatic criminal record check of the project's staff by the funding authority itself prior to disbursement.

However, all recipients of such public funds (such as sports clubs, youth organizations, and other NGOs) are legally mandated to comply with the provisions of Article 10 of the Youth Act No. 70/2007 and Article 16 of the Sports Act No. 64/1998. These acts strictly prohibit employing staff or utilizing volunteers who have been convicted of sexual offences under Chapter XXII of the General Penal Code No. 19/1940.

Since all public funding and grant agreements are strictly conditional on the recipient's full compliance with Icelandic laws during the execution of the project, any failure to perform the required screening or any violation of these acts constitutes a serious breach of the funding agreement. This can legally result in the suspension of payments, the cancellation of the grant, or a demand for the full return of the public funds.

Information included in screening

8. Does the criminal record check include criminal convictions for:
- a. sexual abuse of a child (Article 18 of the Lanzarote Convention)
 - b. sexual exploitation of a child ("child prostitution" Article 19 of the Lanzarote Convention)
 - c. acts involving child sexual abuse material ("child pornography" Article 20 of the Lanzarote Convention)
 - d. offences related to the participation of children in pornographic performances (Article 21 of the Lanzarote Convention)

- e. corruption of a child (causing a child to witness sexual activities) (Article 22 of the Lanzarote Convention)
- f. solicitation of a child for sexual purposes ("grooming"), including online (Article 23 of the Lanzarote Convention)
- g. aiding and abetting or attempting the above offences (Article 24 of the Lanzarote Convention)
- h. any other convictions (please specify)?

Please provide details.

9. 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
 - b. other information available to the authorities (e.g. judicial decisions in civil proceedings)?

Please provide details.

10. 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?

Please provide details.

11. Does the criminal record check verify 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?

Please provide details.

Screening procedure

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

Please provide details.

13. 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

Please provide details.

14. If screening is required, who bears the costs of screening procedures?

Please provide details.

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

Please provide details.

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

Please provide details.

17. 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 and provide other details.

18. Where a person working or volunteering in contact with children is under investigation for a sexual offence against a child, are law enforcement or other authorities allowed to inform the employer or volunteer organisation about the ongoing investigation? If yes, what is the consequence?

Please provide details.

Cross-border screening

19. 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?

Please provide details.

20. 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)?

Please provide details.

21. 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?

Please provide details.

Additional details and reflections

22. Please add any further details regarding the modalities of the screening procedures applicable in your State, if relevant.

Please provide details.

23. 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)?

Please provide details.

24. What promising practices, if any, would your State like to highlight in the screening of professionals, volunteers and other persons in contact with children?

Please provide details.

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