



INFORMATION NOTE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

2nd monitoring round of the Lanzarote Committee on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies (ICTs)

Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

The [Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse](#) (hereinafter “the Lanzarote Convention” or “the Convention”), which entered into force in July 2010, requires criminalisation of sexual offences against children. It sets out that Parties to the Convention shall adopt specific legislation and take measures to prevent sexual violence, to protect child victims and to prosecute offenders. The “[Lanzarote Committee](#)” (i.e. the Committee of the Parties to the Convention) is the body established to monitor whether Parties effectively implement the Lanzarote Convention. The [monitoring of the Lanzarote Convention](#) is divided by rounds, each round concerning a theme and all Parties are monitored at the same time.

Current monitoring round

Over the past years, the Lanzarote Committee has examined challenges raised by several trends in child sexual exploitation and abuse which have emerged as a result of the rapid development and increased use of information and communication technologies (ICTs). It decided, in consequence, to focus its 2nd monitoring round on challenges to be met and promising practices to be followed to ensure the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies (ICTs).

The [questionnaire](#) for this monitoring round adopted in June 2017 seeks information on the situation in Parties with respect more specifically to the protection of children against the criminal exploitation of child self-generated sexual content (in particular sexually explicit images and videos).

Civil society contribution to the 2nd monitoring round

The Lanzarote Committee seeks the views of civil society on the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention in the Parties to the Convention. Civil society actors, particularly national and local non-governmental organizations working in the field of prevention and protection of children from sexual abuse and sexual exploitation may thus submit replies to the monitoring [questionnaire](#) and – at the latest within two months from the publication of a given Party’s reply on the website of the Lanzarote Committee – also comment on Parties’ replies.

Parties to the Convention are required to reply to the questionnaire by 25 October 2017. Their replies will be published on the Lanzarote Committee's website (www.coe.int/lanzarote) as soon as they are registered by the Secretariat. Ideally, if the Parties submit their replies on time, civil society representatives may submit their replies/comments by the end of December 2017 (depending on when exactly the Parties' replies are registered).

The replies/comments by representatives of civil society may be provided with respect to one or several countries and relate to all/some of the questions of the questionnaire.

Joint or coalition submissions of non-governmental organizations and the involvement of children in the drafting of the replies are strongly encouraged.

The Lanzarote Committee might request the non-governmental organizations to provide additional information when it assesses all the information brought to its attention.

The replies/comments of non-governmental organizations shall be submitted to the Secretariat by email (lanzarote.committee@coe.int) with a clear indication whether the information is public or confidential. Furthermore, the submission shall be in one of the official languages of the Council of Europe, namely English or French and in WORD format. There is no template for civil society's replies/comments; the comments should clearly relate to specific replies to given questions.

For any advice or clarifications concerning the Lanzarote Convention's 2nd monitoring round, do not hesitate to send an email to the Secretariat (lanzarote.committee@coe.int).