



Building a Europe
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Construire une Europe
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Strengthening civil society participation in the implementation and monitoring of the Lanzarote Convention

Agenda

International Conference

**Room 3.1, European Youth Centre
Council of Europe
Strasbourg, 8-9 April 2019**

Background

Ending all forms of violence against Children, including sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children is identified as a priority area for action under [the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child \(2016-2021\)](#). To this end the Council of Europe will promote, monitor and support the implementation of the [Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse](#) (the Lanzarote Convention). The Lanzarote Convention is the most ambitious and comprehensive international legal instrument for the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, including provisions on prevention and prosecution of perpetrators. The Lanzarote Convention entered into force in July 2010 and requires Parties to criminalise all forms of sexual offences against children and adopt specific legislation and policy measures to **prevent** sexual violence, **protect** victims and **prosecute** perpetrators. It also **promotes** national and international cooperation in these areas.

The [Lanzarote Committee](#) (i.e. the Committee of the Parties to the Lanzarote Convention) was established to monitor the implementation of the Convention. The Lanzarote Committee monitors the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention in thematic monitoring rounds in which all state parties to the Lanzarote Convention are monitored at the same time. On the basis of the findings of the monitoring, the Lanzarote Committee adopts recommendations specific to some state parties or applicable to all. [The first monitoring round \(2013-2017\)](#) was dedicated to the protection of children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust. [The second monitoring round \(2017-on-going\)](#) focuses on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies (ICTs). In addition, the Lanzarote Committee also engages in capacity building, facilitation of collection and exchange of information and good practices.

Civil society's engagement in preventing and combating child sexual exploitation and abuse is crucial. The Lanzarote Convention explicitly recognises the role of civil society actors in this respect, as well as civil society's contribution to its effective implementation as follows:

Reference	Role of Civil society	Purpose of the Convention	Civil society contribution to the Convention
Lanzarote Convention Art. 9 (2),(4)	Participation in the elaboration and implementation of policies	PREVENTION	PROMOTION AND IMPLEMENTATION
Lanzarote Convention Art. 10 (2b), (3)	Involvement in multi-agency and multi-stakeholder cooperation at the national level	PROMOTION OF COOPERATION	
Lanzarote Convention Art. 14 (2), Art. 31 (5)	Involvement in victim assistance and support	PROTECTION	
Lanzarote Convention Art. 40 (3), Rules of Procedure, Rule No. 26, 27	Engagement with the Lanzarote Committee	EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION	MONITORING

Cooperation with civil society actors, particularly with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), is essential for the promotion, implementation and monitoring of the Lanzarote Convention at local, national and international levels. In addition, given the expertise and field experience of civil society actors, their involvement in the work of the Lanzarote Committee is a key strength of the Lanzarote Convention's monitoring mechanism and needs to be further developed.

Objectives of the International conference

This conference aims to further strengthen cooperation between the Council of Europe and civil society actors and to build capacities to strengthen the prevention and protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (both online and offline dimensions) by:

- familiarising participants with the Council of Europe child rights strategic agenda and work, including the Lanzarote Convention and its monitoring process;
- discussing strategies and ways civil society actors can strengthen the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention at local and national level and develop or deepen their engagement with the Lanzarote Committee; and
- providing the opportunity to share experiences, promising practices and lessons learnt with peers at pan European level.

Expected results

This conference will provide participants with substantive expertise on the Lanzarote Convention and the Council of Europe's Strategy for the Rights of the Child, enabling them to contribute to the monitoring and review processes, alongside other relevant stakeholders. Civil society participation and cooperation for the promotion and implementation of the Lanzarote Convention will be strengthened. Feedback and contributions from participants will be taken into account to develop tools and activities to further encourage and promote civil society participation in the work of the Council of Europe on the rights of the child. Specific targets will be identified for enhanced civil society implementation of the Lanzarote Convention and involvement in the work of the Lanzarote Committee, progress will be reviewed with civil society actors in April 2020.

Participants

The conference is organised in the framework of the Council of Europe projects

- [Protecting children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in the Republic of Moldova](#);
- [Responding to Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Georgia-phase I](#);
- [End online child sexual exploitation and abuse @Europe](#);¹ and
- Protecting children against violence, including sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

The conference will gather up to 30 participants from selected beneficiary countries of the above-mentioned projects, including representatives from NGOs with experience in contributing to the work of the Lanzarote Committee as well as representatives of NGOs who are potential, current and/or future partners of the Council of Europe cooperation activities for the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse will also be invited. This event is by invitation only.

Structure of the conference

The plenary panel discussions seek to involve the participants and to provide opportunities for the participants to showcase and exchange lessons learnt, promising practices and experiences. Day I of the conference will discuss the "4Ps" approach of the Lanzarote Convention with emphasis on: **Prevention, Protection and Prosecution. Promotion** of national and international cooperation is a transversal theme throughout the two days of the conference. Day II will offer participants the opportunity to give feedback on relevant strategies, monitoring and campaigns to raise awareness about child sexual exploitation and abuse within the framework of the Council of Europe mechanisms and bodies. Relevant resources, on-going and planned activities of the Council of Europe will be presented and ways to increase cooperation further explored.

¹ The Council of Europe gratefully acknowledges the financial support provided for this programme by the Fund to End Violence Against Children.

AGENDA - DAY I

9.00-9.15	Arrival of participants and registration
9.15-9.30	Welcome remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regína Jensdóttir, Council of Europe Coordinator for the Rights of the Child• George Nikolaidis, Chairperson of the Lanzarote Committee
9.30-10.30	The Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021) <p>This session will introduce the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021) (the Strategy) as well as the ways in which the implementation of the Strategy is monitored by the Council of Europe, in preparation of the mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the Strategy by November 2019 by relevant stakeholders, including civil society and children.</p> <p>Participants will be invited to contribute their views and recommendations to identify ways in which civil society can contribute to taking stock of the progress achieved during the first three years of the Strategy implementation and identify persisting and emerging challenges that the current Strategy might not address, and which would need the Council of Europe's attention in the coming years beyond 2021.</p> <p>Moderator: Regína Jensdóttir, Council of Europe Coordinator for the Rights of the Child</p> <p>Speaker: Livia Stoica, Secretary to the Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child, Council of Europe</p> <p>Open discussion</p>
10.30-11.30	The Lanzarote Convention: How can civil society engage in the implementation and the monitoring process? <p>This session will introduce the Lanzarote Convention, its monitoring process and will explore the ways and means that civil society can contribute to fast track the implementation of the Convention and play an active role in the monitoring procedure of the Lanzarote Convention.</p> <p>Moderator and speaker: Gioia Scappucci, Executive Secretary to the Lanzarote Committee</p> <p>Open discussion</p>
11.30-11.45	Coffee break (provided)

11.45-12.45

Prosecution: Sexual offences against children

This session will explore the ways in which offline and online child sexual exploitation and abuse are criminalised under the Lanzarote Convention as well as emerging trends in online sexual exploitation and abuse in member states. Discussions will focus on critical issues for implementation while taking into account the role of civil society actors and opportunities for action.

Moderator: Gioia Scappucci, Executive Secretary to the Lanzarote Committee

Speakers:

- **Dorothea Czarnecki**, civil society observer to the Lanzarote Committee on behalf of ECPAT Germany
- **Mike Tunks**, Internet Watch Foundation (by video-link)

Open discussion

12.45-14.00

Lunch (provided)

14.00-15.30

Protection: Upholding the rights of the child-victim

This session will explore the challenges to protecting children from sexual exploitation and abuse and upholding the rights of the child-victim. Speakers will introduce the provisions of the Lanzarote Convention regarding protective measures and victim assistance, including during investigation and prosecution. A panel of representatives from civil society will be invited to share promising practices including with respect to reporting mechanisms as well as victim support and assistance implemented in member states, followed by an open floor discussion with participants to exchange promising practices and identify strategies and expectations for civil society co-operation in Lanzarote Convention monitoring.

Moderator and speaker: George Nikolaidis, Chairperson of the Lanzarote Committee

Panel:

- **Kamala Ashumova**, Reliable Future Youth NGO, Azerbaijan
- **Ieva Dulinskaite**, NGO Children Support Center, Lithuania
- **Mustafa Uygur**, International Children's Center, Turkey

Open discussion

15.30-16.00

Coffee break (provided)

16.00-18.00

Prevention: Awareness raising and other measures

This session will examine awareness raising as a means of preventing sexual exploitation and abuse, with an emphasis on ways in which members of the general public can be empowered to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse. A panel of civil society representatives will be invited to present examples of promising practice of existing awareness raising tools and materials, as well as education and training as preventive mechanisms. Participants will also be invited to share examples of promising practice during open floor discussions and to discuss strategies to enhance civil society co-operation in the Lanzarote Convention monitoring. This discussion will be followed by a brief presentation of the ways in which civil society can contribute to awareness raising initiatives in partnership with the Council of Europe.

Moderator and speaker: Mikaël Poutiers, Secretary to the Lanzarote Committee

Key speaker: Nataša Slavíková, eSlovensko, Slovak Republic

Panel:

- **Elena Botezatu**, La Strada Moldova, the Republic of Moldova
- **Tomislav Ramljak**, Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, Croatia
- **Altin Hazizaj**, Child Rights Centre Albania - CRCA, Albania

Open discussion

18.00

Close of Day I

AGENDA - DAY II

9.00-10.45

Empowering children to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse through child participation

This session will explore the ways in which child participation is promoted and implemented by the Council of Europe and by member states. This session will also examine the principle of the best interests of the child in the context of child participation as well as child-safeguarding policies and practices. A panel of civil society representatives will be invited to share examples of promising practices for child participation in Council of Europe activities at a member state level. The panel will be followed by open floor discussion to identify ways for civil society to participate in the elaboration and implementation of policies to prevent child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Moderator and speaker: Zsuzsanna Rutai, Policy Advisor, Lanzarote Committee Secretariat

Key speaker: Barbara Németh, Hintalovon Child Rights Foundation, Hungary

Panel:

- **Irina Gușan**, Child Rights Information Centre, the Republic of Moldova
- **Nina Darsadze**, Public Health Foundation, Georgia
- **Ines Cerovic**, Child Rights Centre, Serbia
- **Oksana Moskalenko**, Women's Consortium, Ukraine

Open discussion

10.45-11.00

Coffee break (provided)

11.00-12.00

Civil society participation in Council of Europe actions to prevent and combat child sexual exploitation and abuse

This session will explore Council of Europe actions and initiatives to prevent and combat child sexual exploitation and abuse, including the ways in which civil society can contribute to the annual European Day on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse (18 November). This session will also provide an opportunity for participants to find out more about the following Council of Europe campaigns and actions:

Moderator: Naomi Trewinnard, Senior Project officer, Council of Europe

	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Remmert, Council of Europe campaign: Free to speak, Safe to learn a campaign to promote democratic schools for all • Michael Trinker, Council of Europe campaign: Start to Talk, a campaign to combat child sexual abuse in sports • Mikaël Poutiers, European Day on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse, annual day to raise awareness about child sexual exploitation and abuse <p>Open discussion</p>
<p>12.00-12.30</p>	<p>The agenda for future engagement with civil society and next steps</p> <p>This session will consolidate the discussions on the ways and means that civil society can contribute to Lanzarote Convention monitoring and implementation, including the strategies and expectations identified throughout conference with a view to setting targets for future co-operation and next steps.</p> <p>Moderator: Livia Stoica, Secretary to the Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child, Council of Europe</p>

Reference Documents

Council of Europe Conventions and standards and policy tools

- Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention)
- Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (Cybercrime Convention)
- Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)07 to member States on Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment
- Recommendation CM/Rec(2012)2 of the Committee of Ministers on participation of children and young people under the age of 18
- Council of Europe Guidelines on child-friendly justice adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 17 November 2010

Reports and documents of the Lanzarote Committee

- 1st implementation report on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (2015)
- 2nd implementation report protection of children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust, the strategies (2018)
- Interpretative Opinion on the applicability of the Lanzarote Convention to sexual offences against children facilitated through the use of ICTs
- Guidelines for Implementation of Child Participation in the 2nd thematic monitoring round of the Lanzarote Convention on “The protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies (ICTs)”

Useful guidance, tools and publications

- WePROTECT Model National Response
- WePROTECT Global Threat Assessment 2018
- European Day against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse: tools and Materials
- Protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse: Child-friendly, multidisciplinary and interagency response inspired by the Barnahus model (2018)
- How to convey child-friendly information to children in migration: a handbook for frontline professionals (2018)
- It's our world: children's views on how to protect their rights in the digital environment (2017)
- Council of Europe Internet Literacy handbook (2017)
- Council of Europe Child Participation Assessment Tool (2016)

Council of Europe projects

- End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse @Europe
- Responding to child sexual exploitation and abuse in Georgia, phase I
- Protecting children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in the Republic of Moldova