



## The Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (Lanzarote Convention)

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## Council of Europe

### Introduction

- ✓ 46 Member States + Observer States + INGOs
- ✓ Human Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law
- ✓ Standard Setting, Monitoring and Capacity Building





## Protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

### WHAT WE KNOW

- ✓ Approximately 1 in 5 children in Europe are victims of some form of sexual violence
- ✓ In 70% to 85% of cases, the abuser is somebody the child knows and trusts

### THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE RESPONSE

- ✓ Set common standards and objectives → **Lanzarote Convention**  
48 States Parties to date; open for accession by any country
- ✓ Raise awareness: **18 November**: European Day





## THE LANZAROTE CONVENTION

### A comprehensive human rights treaty

- ✓ **P**revent sexual violence (in all settings)
- ✓ **P**rotect the rights of child victims (including by ensuring access to child friendly justice)
- ✓ **P**rosecute the offenders (including when crime is committed abroad)
- ✓ **P**romote national and international co-operation





## THE LANZAROTE COMMITTEE

**Composed of 48 State Parties, Observer States and international organisations**

1. **Monitoring** of the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention (peer review of all parties simultaneously in thematic rounds)
2. **Capacity Building** (technical support, training, information sharing, and exchange of good practices)
3. **Interpretation of the Convention** (adoption of opinions and declarations)





## ACCEDING TO THE LANZAROTE CONVENTION

**Why?** Sexual violence knows no borders, increasing international elements e.g. use of ICTs

**Benefits for country?** Peer review; learn from other States to improve legislation and practices

Convention as a legal basis for assistance in criminal matters and extradition





## LANZAROTE CONVENTION and UN Mechanisms

### UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography

All State Parties have also signed or ratified the OPSC

Lanzarote Convention builds on and enhances the existing international legal framework





## Examples of technical assistance

Gap analysis of the legislative and policy frameworks (violence, online child sexual abuse and exploitation) with concrete recommendations

Legal reviews, feasibility studies or roadmaps (setting up child-friendly response mechanisms such as Barnahus)

Training and capacity building (multidisciplinary or targeted) regarding novel areas such as online child sexual abuse and exploitation

Awareness Raising (for multiple target groups)







## RAISING AWARENESS

18 NOVEMBER

European Day on the Protection of Children  
against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse



[www.coe.int/EndChildSexAbuseDay](http://www.coe.int/EndChildSexAbuseDay)



### 18 NOVEMBER

### European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

2023 Edition  
Learning from victims and  
survivors of childhood sexual  
violence to inspire policy change

Child sexual exploitation or sexual abuse is **never** the fault of the child. But too often feelings of shame and stigma prevent them telling anybody about it. In many cases, victims/survivors do not feel able to disclose their experiences before adulthood. Consequently, they are unable to access help or support to heal from this trauma. As a result, perpetrators go unpunished which can lead to further abuse of the same or other children. We must break the silence surrounding sexual abuse and learn from victims/survivors' experiences to improve protection and prevention services to end sexual abuse for all children everywhere.

The 2023 edition of the European Day focuses on learning from victims/survivors of childhood sexual violence to inspire policy change. This will be an opportunity to highlight the importance of engaging with victims/survivors to learn from them and their traumatic experiences, to understand what could have been done better to react, report and to support them. **Giving them a voice can inspire change.**

[18 November: European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse - Children's Rights \(coe.int\)](https://www.coe.int/en/web/european-day-on-the-protection-of-children-against-sexual-exploitation-and-sexual-abuse)

**Call for information about examples of survivor and victim engagement:**  
[Link to call](#)



## Communication tools

The Council of Europe developed a whole set of communication tools:



For children



For parents



For professionals  
working with  
children



For authorities  
and parliaments

**Many resources available in Spanish**

[Español - Children's Rights:  
www.coe.int/en/web/children/spa](http://www.coe.int/en/web/children/spa)





**Thank you very much**

**web:** <http://www.coe.int/lanzarote>

**Email:** [lanzarote.committee@coe.int](mailto:lanzarote.committee@coe.int)

**Facebook:** Council of Europe One in Five Campaign

**Twitter:** @CoE\_children

