

THE LANZAROTE CONVENTION

PROTECTING CHILDREN
AGAINST SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
AND SEXUAL ABUSE

ARTICLE 22 | CORRUPTION OF CHILDREN



**Council of Europe Project
Combating violence against
children in Ukraine**



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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ARTICLE 22

CORRUPTION OF CHILDREN

Each Party shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to criminalise the intentional causing, for sexual purposes, of a child who has not reached the age set in application of Article 18, paragraph 2, to witness sexual abuse or sexual activities, even without having to participate.

Clarifications

Article 22 provides for a new offence which is intended to address the conduct of making a child watch sexual acts, or performing such acts in the presence of children, which could result in harm to the psychological health of the victim, with the risk of serious damage to their personality, including a distorted vision of sex and of personal relationships.

This article criminalises the intentional causing of a child below the legal age for sexual activities to witness sexual abuse of other children or adults or sexual activities. It is not necessary for the child to participate in any way in the sexual activities. The offence must be committed intentionally, and "for sexual purposes". The Convention leaves the interpretation of the term "causing" to Parties, but this could include any way in which the child is made to witness the acts, such as by force, coercion, inducement, promise, etc.

This offence applies when a child has not reached the age of sexual consent according to national registration (Article 18, paragraph 2).

"Online sexual corruption of a child" is sometimes used in legal standards as an alternative term to "online solicitation of children for sexual purposes" ("grooming").

www.coe.int/lanzarote

The Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention) available here:

<http://rm.coe.int/protection-of-children-against-sexual-exploitation-and-sexual-abuse/1680794e97>



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