

# COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND SEXUAL ABUSE (LANZAROTE CONVENTION)

## National Human Rights Institutions

While States bear the primary responsibility to prevent and combat sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children both online and offline, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) are essential actors to uphold the rights of children.

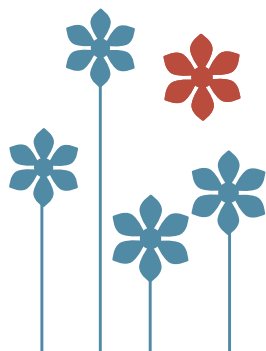
The Lanzarote Convention (Article 10.2.a) explicitly recognises the valuable and unique role of NHRIs by requiring Parties to set up or designate “independent competent national or local institutions for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, ensuring that they are provided with specific resources and responsibilities”. Parties should appoint an independent individual or agency, one of whose tasks should be to promote public awareness on sexual exploitation and abuse of children including the long-term negative effects.

## How can NHRIs contribute to the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention?

- ▶ **Inform** children about online and offline sexual exploitation and abuse and the mechanisms in place to protect them;
- ▶ **Investigate** individual complaints by children;
- ▶ **Monitor** the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention;
- ▶ **Report** regularly to the Lanzarote Committee and other international human rights monitoring mechanisms about implementation;
- ▶ **Promote** law reform and policy development in line with the Lanzarote Convention including child-friendly investigations and proceedings;
- ▶ **Raise awareness** at all levels about online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse, including victim-support and reporting services;
- ▶ **Engage** with the media to promote dialogue and ethical reporting.

Mark the annual European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse on 18 November:

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



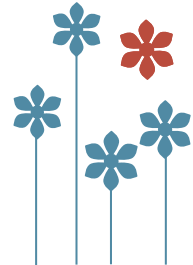
## How can NHRIs engage and monitor the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention?

Monitoring of the Lanzarote Convention is divided into thematic rounds and all Parties are monitored at the same time. NHRIs are encouraged to **submit** replies to the monitoring questionnaires independently of State replies and may also **comment** on replies sent by Parties. NHRIs replies and comments must be submitted to the Lanzarote Committee Secretariat within **two months** of the publication of a given State Party's reply on the website of the Lanzarote Committee.

The involvement of children in drafting such replies and comments is encouraged. Following adoption of an implementation report by the Lanzarote Committee, NHRIs should:

- ▶ **Follow-up** and **monitor** the implementation of general and specific recommendations;
- ▶ **Advocate** for the implementation of general and specific recommendations;
- ▶ **Advise** state authorities on how to improve the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention;
- ▶ **Raise awareness** and **disseminate** the reports and recommendations;
- ▶ **Contribute** to Lanzarote Committee meetings through ENOC and ENNHRI representatives;
- ▶ **Alert** the Lanzarote Committee in case of non-implementation of general or specific recommendations by a State Party.

**Contact:** [Lanzarote.committee@coe.int](mailto:Lanzarote.committee@coe.int)  
**Websites:** [www.coe.int/lanzarote](http://www.coe.int/lanzarote)  
[www.coe.int/children](http://www.coe.int/children)  
[www.coe.int/children/endocsea-europe](http://www.coe.int/children/endocsea-europe)  
**Twitter:** [@coe\\_children](https://twitter.com/coe_children) / [#EndChildSexAbuseDay](https://twitter.com/EndChildSexAbuseDay)  
**Facebook:** [Council of Europe One in Five Campaign](https://www.facebook.com/CouncilofEuropeOneinFiveCampaign)  
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*The Council of Europe gratefully acknowledges the financial support provided by the Fund to End Violence Against Children.*