

Protection of Children against Sexual Abuse in the Circle of Trust: Legal Frameworks (Lanzarote Convention Monitoring Questionnaire)

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

1. The Council of Europe Convention on 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 all forms of child sexual abuse. It sets out that states in Europe and beyond shall adopt specific legislation and take measures to prevent sexual violence, to protect child victims and to prosecute perpetrators.

2. The Committee of the Parties to the Convention (also known as the “Lanzarote Committee”), established to monitor whether Parties effectively implement the Convention (Article 1 § 2), decided that:

“1. The monitoring of the implementation of the Convention in the Parties shall be based on a procedure divided by rounds, each round concerning a theme decided by the Lanzarote Committee or any other approach deemed appropriate by the Lanzarote Committee within the scope of the Convention.

2. The Lanzarote Committee will determine the length of each monitoring round in the light of the themes selected and the provisions of the Convention to be monitored.

3. The monitoring round will be initiated by addressing a questionnaire on the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Convention with respect to the selected theme. The Parties shall respond to the questionnaire within the time-limit set by the Lanzarote Committee.”[1]

The notion of the circle of trust

3. In January 2018, the Lanzarote Committee concluded its first monitoring round “Protection of children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust”. The notion of “circle of trust” includes members of the extended family, persons having care-taking functions or exercising control over the child, and any other persons with whom the child has relations, including his/her peers.[2]

The previous and current monitoring rounds on the circle of trust

4. The two implementation reports adopted as a result of the first monitoring round evaluated the frameworks and strategies put in place by the 26 States Parties to the Lanzarote Convention which had ratified it by the time the monitoring round was launched[3]. Since then, the Convention has been ratified by 22 other Parties,[4] and numerous changes have taken place in the subject area due to the development of international standards and national reforms. Furthermore, a child’s circle of trust remains the environment

where the vast majority of sexual abuse occurs.[5] The Committee therefore decided to come back to the subject matter of the first monitoring round in 2023, to both take stock of the situation in the 22 Parties that had not been examined in the first round and to evaluate the follow-up given to the Committee's recommendations by the 26 Parties that had.

5. All of the current 48 Parties will be monitored at the same time to create a momentum around specific aspects of the monitoring theme. To ensure a more accurate reflection of the situation in the Parties and a speedier publication of intermediary results, the monitoring round will be divided into several parts and conducted on the basis of information submitted by the Parties and other stakeholders in response to questionnaires specific for each part.

Involvement of civil society and other relevant stakeholders in the monitoring round

6. In accordance with paragraph 4 of Rule 26 of the Lanzarote Committee's Rules of Procedure, the Secretariat shall seek the views of the representatives of civil society and any other bodies involved in preventing and combating sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children on the implementation of the Convention by Parties, in particular by asking them to comment on the replies to this questionnaire or by any other means (e.g. by offering the observers and participants in the Lanzarote Committee to submit any relevant information they may have with regard to any Party to the Convention by replying directly to some or all of the questions of this questionnaire). These comments and replies will be transmitted by the Secretariat to the Party(ies) concerned and made public.

Type of questions and elements to be borne in mind when replying

7. Each of the questionnaires of this monitoring round will contain questions derived from the Committee's first monitoring round recommendations and findings, as well as a few new questions based on the Committee's adopted texts and international standards that have emerged in the meantime, including the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights, to gather information for capacity-building purposes. The first part of the monitoring round will assess the legal framework and related procedures with respect to sexual abuse of children in the circle of trust ("Legal frameworks").

8. This specific first questionnaire was adopted by the Lanzarote Committee on 2 June 2023. It is recalled that, in accordance with Rule 26 of the Lanzarote Committee's Rules of Procedure:

"...2. The Secretariat shall address such questionnaires to the Parties through the member in the Lanzarote Committee representing the Party to be monitored, who will act as "contact person".

3. Parties shall submit their replies in one of the official languages of the Council of Europe to the secretariat within the time limit set by the Lanzarote Committee. The replies shall be detailed, answer all questions and contain all relevant reference texts. The replies shall be made public.

5. The Secretariat may request additional information if it appears that the replies are not exhaustive or unclear. Where warranted, with the consent of the Party(ies) concerned and within the limits of budgetary appropriations, the Bureau of the Lanzarote Committee may decide to carry out a visit in the Party(ies) concerned to clarify the situation."

9. In addition, Parties are kindly requested to:

- answer the questions with regard to central, regional and local levels to the extent possible. Federal States may, in respect of their sovereign entities, answer the questions in a summarised way;
- provide, whenever questions/answers refer to it, the relevant text (or a summary) of legislation or other regulations in English or French;

- answer the questions from a gender equality perspective, i.e. specifying, where relevant, whether and how measures for victims and/or offenders take into account gender-specific requirements.

10. The term “national legal framework” used in the questionnaire includes not only laws but also all forms of regulations (decrees, resolutions, administrative directions, instructions, and any other decisions creating legal consequences for more than one individual) and higher courts’ directive rulings.

11. The questions asked concern the legal frameworks pertaining to both online and offline forms of activity. Should your national legal framework distinguish between them, please provide details.

12. As indicated above, some of the questions are included for capacity-building purposes. Therefore, nothing in the wording of these questions should be taken as an indication of a preferred state of affairs or course of action.

13. The questionnaire uses a colour-coded system to help you differentiate questions based on the Lanzarote Committee’s 1st monitoring report’s “invite” recommendations (in blue) and “urge”/ “consider” recommendations (in red). The questions based on the European Court of Human Rights’ case law and the Committee’s adopted texts are coloured red. The questions included for capacity-building purposes are coloured blue.

14. Some of the questions are addressed only to specific Parties found to be not in compliance with a particular requirement of the Convention in the first monitoring round, or to those Parties and to the 22 Parties which had not been evaluated during the first monitoring round. All other questions are meant to be replied to by all Parties.

[1] Rule 24 of the Lanzarote Committee’s [Rules of Procedure](#)

[2] See [1st Implementation Report “Protection of Children against Sexual Abuse in the Circle of Trust: The Framework”](#), p. 12. Examples of the different categories of persons may be found in paragraphs 123-125 of the [Explanatory Report to the Lanzarote Convention](#)

[3] Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Spain, Türkiye and Ukraine

[4] Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, Poland, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, United Kingdom

[5] See the [Explanatory Report to the Lanzarote Convention](#), paras. 48 and 123-125

IDENTIFICATION OF THE RESPONDER

* Name of the Party responding or concerned by your response

Norway

* Name of the contact person/coordinator

* Email address of the contact person/coordinator

KEY NOTIONS Question 1. Does your national legal framework:

a. **have a reference to “abuse of a recognised position of trust, authority or influence” as a separate sexual offence against children?**^[6] If yes, please provide a copy of the relevant provision(s).

[6] 1st Implementation Report “Protection of Children against Sexual Abuse in the Circle of Trust: The Framework” adopted by the Lanzarote Committee on 4 December 15, Recommendation 3.

- Yes
 No

If appropriate, please provide more information (1.a No)

Section 295 first paragraph a) of the Penal Code criminalizes obtaining sexual activity by abusing a position, dependent relationship or relationship of trust. The provision is applicable not only if the victim is a child, but also where the victim is an adult. In an individual case, the victim age is relevant when determining whether sexual activity is obtained by abuse.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

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b. **[for 22 Parties + Belgium and Luxembourg] establish a separate offence of sexual abuse of children by someone in a recognised position of trust, authority or influence instead of considering the fact that the perpetrator holds that position just as an “aggravating circumstance”?**^[7] If yes, please indicate the specific legal provision.

[7] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 2

- Yes
 No

If appropriate, please provide more information (1.b No)

No. Obtaining sexual activity by abusing a position, dependent relationship or relationship of trust is a separate offence, cf. section 295 first paragraph a) of the Penal Code. In connection with sentencing, it is an aggravating factor that the offence was perpetrated by the offender exploiting or misguiding young persons, cf. section 77 g) of the Penal Code.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

c. [list specific categories of adults in contact with children automatically qualifying as holding this position?](#)^[8]

[8] *Ibid*, Recommendation 4. Examples: members of the extended family (including new partners), persons having caretaking functions (including trainers of any kind) or exercising control over the child professionally or on a voluntary basis (including persons who look after children in their leisure-time) and any other person trusted by the child (including other children).

- Yes
- No

Please provide information in support of your answer, if possible referring to specific legal provisions and their exact wording (1.c Yes)

The Penal Code contains provisions on incest (section 312), sibling incest (section 313) and sexual activity with a foster child or step child, or a person under 18 years of age who is in perpetrator's care or under his authority or supervision (section 314).

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

d. [define the notion of "circle of trust"?](#)^[9]

[9] *Ibid*

- Yes
- No

If appropriate, please provide more information (1.d No)

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

VICTIMS' AGE Question 2. Does your national legal framework:

a. **[for 22 Parties + Italy, Portugal, San Marino, and Türkiye] provide that every child up to 18 years of age is protected against the criminal offence of sexual abuse by someone in a recognised position of trust, authority or influence?**^[10]Please refer to the specific legal provisions.

[10] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 6

- Yes
- No

Please provide information in support of your answer, if possible referring to specific legal provisions and their exact wording (2.a Yes)

Section 295 first paragraph a) of the Penal Code reads in English translation: "A penalty of imprisonment for a term not exceeding six years shall be applied to any person who obtains sexual activity for himself/herself or another person, or makes a person perform acts corresponding to sexual activity on himself/herself by a) abusing a position, dependent relationship or relationship of trust".

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

b. **[for 22 Parties + North Macedonia and Ukraine] indicate that the child's legal age for engaging in sexual activities is not relevant in the case of child sexual abuse by someone in a recognised position of trust, authority or influence?**^[1] Please provide details.

[1] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 5

- Yes
 No

Please provide information in support of your answer, if possible referring to specific legal provisions and their exact wording (2.b Yes)

Yes. Section 295 first paragraph a) of the Penal Code applies regardless of the victim's age.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

SCOPE OF OFFENCE Question 3. Does your national legal framework criminalise sexual abuse of children:

a. **where the offender abuses a recognised position of influence?** ^[12] Please refer to the specific legal provisions.

[12] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 1

- Yes
 No

Please provide information in support of your answer, if possible referring to specific legal provisions and their exact wording (3.a Yes)

Reference is made to Section 295 first paragraph a) of the Penal Code.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

b. **[for 22 Parties + Belgium]** where the victim is below 18 and emancipated through marriage, and the perpetrator is the victim's spouse or marital partner?^[13] Please refer to the specific legal provisions.

[13] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 7

- Yes
 No

Please provide information in support of your answer, if possible referring to specific legal provisions and their exact wording (3.b Yes)

If someone enters into marriage, the general provisions in the Penal Code on sexual offences, including the provisions on rape (section 291 to 294), abuse of unequal power relationships etc. (section 295) and sexual acts performed without consent (section 297) is applicable, also where the perpetrator is the victim's spouse or marital partner. In addition, section 262 second paragraph of the Penal Code criminalizes the act of entering into marriage with a person who is under 16 years of age.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

c. **[for 22 Parties + the Republic of Moldova]** where no coercion, force or threat is used by the perpetrator holding the position of trust, authority or influence?^[14] Please refer to the specific legal provisions.

[14] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 8

- Yes
 No

Please provide information in support of your answer, if possible referring to specific legal provisions and their exact wording (3.c Yes)

Section 295 of the Penal Code applies where no coercion, force or threat is used. If the perpetrator "obtains sexual activity through violence or threatening conduct" the provisions on rape (section 291 to 294) is applicable.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

SCOPE OF OFFENCE Question 4. Does your national legal framework:

a. **criminalise sexual abuse of children for acts other than sexual intercourse and equivalent actions?**^[15]

Please specify which other acts are covered and whether violation of a child's "sexual integrity" specifically is criminalised.

[15] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 9

- Yes
 No

Please provide information in support of your answer, if possible referring to specific legal provisions and their exact wording (4.a Yes)

All sexual acts and conduct involving a child below 16 years of age are criminalized by the Penal Code. Section 304 applies to other acts than sexual intercourse, including for instances touching an intimate part (eg. genitals or a girl's breasts) or kissing the child. Section 304 reads in English translation: "Any person who performs a sexual act with a child under 16 years of age shall be subject to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years, unless the conduct falls within the scope of section 299". Section 305 applies to any person who "by words or conduct exhibits sexually offensive or other indecent conduct in the presence of or directed at a child under 16 years of age" or "forces or induces a child under 16 years of age to exhibit sexually offensive or other indecent conduct, unless the situation falls within the scope of stricter provisions». If the victim is above 16 years of age, other acts than sexual intercourse are criminalized if the person has not consented thereto, cf. section 297 of the Penal Code. Exhibiting sexually offensive or other indecent conduct by words or conduct in the presence of or directed at any person who has not consented thereto is also criminalized, cf. section 298 of the Penal Code.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

b. **[for 22 Parties + Bulgaria] ensure equal sanctions for sexual abuse committed within a heterosexual and homosexual sexual activity?**^[16] Please refer to the specific legal provisions.

[16] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 11

- Yes
 No

Please provide information in support of your answer, if possible referring to specific legal provisions and their exact wording (4.b Yes)

The Penal Code does not distinguish between heterosexual and homosexual sexual activities. If a sexual activity is heterosexual or homosexual is generally not relevant when determining sanctions. However, it is an aggravating circumstance if an offence is motivated by the victim's sexual orientation, cf. section 77 i) of the Penal Code.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

c. **[for 22 Parties + Albania and the Republic of Moldova] make any distinct reference to "homosexual activities" in the description of criminal offences involving sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children?**^[17] Please refer to the specific legal provisions.

[17] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 12

- Yes

No

If appropriate, please provide more information (4.c No)

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

EX OFFICIO PROSECUTION Question 5. Does your national legal framework:

a. **contain a requirement to investigate and prosecute sexual abuse and exploitation of children by someone in a recognised position of trust, authority or influence without a complaint from the victim or his/her legal representative?** [18] Please refer to the specific legal provisions.

[18] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 57

Yes
 No

Please provide information in support of your answer, if possible referring to specific legal provisions and their exact wording (5.a Yes)

Investigation and prosecution are not contingent on a police report or application for prosecution from the victim, cf. section 62 a, first paragraph of the Criminal Procedure Act. This provision states that prosecuting authority shall prosecute all criminal acts unless otherwise provided by statute.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

b. **contain a requirement to continue the proceedings even if the victim has withdrawn his/her complaint /statements?**[19] Please refer to the specific legal provision(s).

[19] *Ibid*

Yes
 No

If appropriate, please provide more information (5.b No)

As mentioned section 62 a of the Criminal Procedure Act obliges the prosecuting authority to prosecute all criminal acts unless otherwise provided by statute. A case can only be dropped if criminal liability or other criminal sanctions can not be asserted or pursuing is not in the interest of the public.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

c. **[for Portugal]** in case of a sexual act committed by an adult in respect of a child aged 14-16 years old which does not result in the child's death or suicide, require the child victim to lodge a complaint as a prerequisite for investigation and prosecution?^[20]

[20] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 56

- Yes
 No

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

MEASURES IN RESPECT OF CHILDREN WHO SEXUALLY OFFEND AND CHILDREN DISPLAYING RISKY AND HARMFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR Question 6. Does your national legal framework:

a. provide for non-criminal measures in respect of the children below the age of criminal responsibility who commit acts of sexual abuse towards other children?^[21] Please provide details.

[21] Inspired by *X and Others v. Bulgaria* (no. 22457/16), 2 February 2021 and *A.P. v. the Republic of Moldova* (no. 41086/12), 26 October 2021

- Yes
 No

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

b. differentiate between adults and children above the age of criminal responsibility in the application of sanctions for offences involving sexual abuse of children?^[22] Please refer to the specific legal provision(s) and specify the age of criminal responsibility in your legislation.

[22] Question included for capacity-building purposes

- Yes
 No

If appropriate, please provide more information (6.b No)

The health legislation does not differentiate between adults and children over the criminal minimum age when applying sanctions for offenses involving sexual abuse of children.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

CHILD VICTIMS' RIGHT TO PROTECTION AND PARENTAL RIGHTS

Question 7. Does your national legal framework:

a. provide for the possibility for child protection professionals to conduct exploratory interviews of a child without informing in advance the parents/legal guardians in cases in which there is a reasonable suspicion of sexual abuse by someone in a recognised position of trust, authority or influence and there is a reason to believe that parents/legal guardians may prevent a child from disclosing sexual abuse?^[23] Please provide details.

[23] 1st Implementation Report "Protection of Children against Sexual Abuse in the Circle of Trust: The Framework", Recommendation 26

- Yes
- No

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

b. provide for the possibility for child protection professionals to conduct exploratory interviews of a child without acquiring the parents/legal guardians' prior consent in cases in which there is a reasonable suspicion of sexual abuse by someone in a recognised position of trust, authority or influence and there is a reason to believe that parents/legal guardians may prevent a child from disclosing sexual abuse?^[24] Please provide details.

[24] *Ibid*

- Yes
- No

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

c. allow for the removal of the suspected perpetrator from the family environment in case of reasonable suspicion of sexual abuse of a child living in the same environment together with the suspect?^[25] Please provide details.

[25] This question results from the Committee's reasoning that "before resorting to the removal of the victim, the removal of the perpetrator should be preferred" (page 28 of the 1st implementation report).

- Yes
- No

Please provide information in support of your answer, if possible referring to specific legal provisions and their exact wording (7.c Yes)

According to section 222 a of the Criminal Procedure Act, the prosecution authorities may impose a ban on visits among others if there is reason to believe that a person will otherwise commit a criminal act against another person. The ban on visits may provide that the person subject to the order may not be present in a specific place, or stalk, visit or otherwise contact another person. If it is an obvious risk that the suspect will commit a criminal act against another person, the ban may cover the suspect's home. A ban covering the suspect's home is to be brought before the court by the prosecuting authority.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

d. **consider the removal of the child victim from the family environment as a last resort procedure? Is that procedure clearly defined, and does it set out conditions for and duration of the removal?**^[26] Please provide details.

[26] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 27

- Yes
 No

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

e. **ensure that the different agencies involved in the coordination and collaboration concerning child sexual abuse are allowed to share personal information as appropriate?**^[27] Please provide details.

[27] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 25

- Yes
 No

Please provide information in support of your answer, if possible referring to specific legal provisions and their exact wording (7.e Yes)

Norwegian law contains several relevant provisions limiting the duty of secrecy. When it comes to information concerning child abuse, including sexual abuse, it is especially relevant that anyone working for, or rendering services to, an administrative agency as well as people working within health and care services, family counselling services, crisis centres, kindergartens and public and private schools are obliged to inform the child welfare service if it is reason to believe that a child is or will be abused, cf. the Child Welfare Act section 13-2, the Crisis Centre Act section 6, the Kindergarten Act section 46, the Education Act section 15-3 and the Private Schools Act section 7-4. Furthermore, according to the Public Administrative Act Section 13 b first paragraph nr. 6 the duty to prevent others from gaining access to, or obtaining knowledge of, any matter disclosed to someone working for an administrative agency concerning an individual's personal affairs shall not prevent the administrative agency from reporting or providing information about violations of the law to the prosecuting authorities or the relevant supervising authority if this is deemed desirable in the public interest or if prosecution of the offence falls naturally within the scope of the reporting agency's functions. This also applies to people working in kindergartens and public and private schools, cf. the Kindergarten Act section 44, the Education Act section 15-1 and the Private Schools Act section 7-3.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

CHILD VICTIMS' RIGHTS TO PROTECTION AND PARENTAL RIGHTS

Question 8. Does your national legal framework clearly distinguish:

- cases of suspension of parental rights as a provisional measure to protect the child before a court decision on the conviction of the concerned parent is taken, and
- cases of withdrawal of parental rights once the court has convicted the said parent?^[28] Please provide details.

[28] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 32

- Yes
 No

If appropriate, please provide more information (8 No)

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

CHILD VICTIMS' RIGHTS TO PROTECTION AND PARENTAL RIGHTS

Question 9. Does your national legal framework provide for:

- a. automatic suspension of parental, visitation, and child hosting rights of parents against whom criminal proceedings for sexual abuse of own child are pending?^[29] Please provide details.

[29] Question included for capacity-building purposes, i.e. to map whether there are Parties that have a particular legal framework in such cases.

- Yes
 No

If appropriate, please provide more information (9.a No)

There are no rules in the Norwegian Children's Act that automatically suspend or withdraw parental rights without a legal consideration by the judge on the best interests of the child in the specific case.

The court must decide on parental rights in each individual case (cf. the Norwegian Children's Act Section 43: If such access (with the parent) is not in the best interests of the child, the court must decide that there shall be no access.) According to the Children's Act Section 60 the court may make an interim decision before an action is brought, if there are special reasons for doing so. Following a request from one of the parties, the court shall in all cases make an interim decision if there is a risk that the child will be subjected to violence or in any other way be treated so as to harm or endanger his or her mental or physical health.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

b. [automatic withdrawal of parental rights of parents convicted of sexual abuse of own child](#)?^[30] Please provide details.

[30] *Ibid*

- Yes
 No

If appropriate, please provide more information (9.b No)

There are no rules in the Norwegian Children's Act that automatically suspend or withdraw parental rights without a legal consideration by the judge on the best interests of the child in the specific case.

The court must decide on parental rights in each individual case (cf. the Norwegian Children's Act Section 43: If such access (with the parent) is not in the best interests of the child, the court must decide that there shall be no access.) According to the Children's Act Section 60 the court may make an interim decision before an action is brought, if there are special reasons for doing so. Following a request from one of the parties, the court shall in all cases make an interim decision if there is a risk that the child will be subjected to violence or in any other way be treated so as to harm or endanger his or her mental or physical health.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

GUARANTEES OF PROTECTION FOR PERSONS REPORTING SUSPECTED OFFENCES Question 10.

How does your national legal framework ensure that any person reporting in good faith suspected sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of a child, including a person bound by professional confidentiality rules, does not get prosecuted or punished by judicial proceedings for defamation, libel or similar offences?^[31]

[31] Based on *Yuppala v. Finland* (no. 18620/03), 2 December 2008 and *M.P. v. Finland* (no. 36487/12), 15 December 2016. Partly based on Article 12 of the Lanzarote Convention.

Healthcare personnel must prevent others from gaining access to or knowledge of information about personal circumstances that they learn about in their capacity as healthcare personnel, cf. the Healthcare Personnel Act § 21. The clear main rule is therefore that it is forbidden to pass on information to others without the patient's consent.

In some, specified situations, healthcare personnel still have the right to pass information, e.g. when weighty private or public interests make it lawful to pass on the information, cf. the Health Personnel Act § 23 first paragraph no. 4. Health personnel also have, in specified situations, an obligation to provide information, e. g. towards the supervisory authorities, emergency services and the Child Welfare service. Healthcare personnel also have, in specified situations, an obligation to report, e.g. about births.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

ASSISTANCE TO THIRD PARTIES Question 11.

What kind of legislative or other measures does your national legal framework have in place to ensure that persons close to the victim may benefit, where appropriate, from therapeutic assistance, notably emergency psychological care?^[32]

[32] 1st Implementation Report "Protection of Children against Sexual Abuse in the Circle of Trust: The Framework", Recommendation 30

Everyone who has a permanent and legal residence in Norway has, regardless of the reason for the need for help, the right to immediate help and necessary health and care services from the municipality, cf. the Patient and User Rights Act § 2-1 a. Everyone who has a permanent and legal residence in Norway also has, regardless of the reason for the need for help, the right to immediate health care and necessary health care from the specialist health service, cf. the Specialist Health Services Act § 2-1 b.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

ASSISTANCE TO THIRD PARTIES Question 12.

When determining the support required to the victim and the persons close to him or her, how does your national legal framework ensure that the child's disclosure does not worsen his or her situation and that of the other non-offending members of the family?^[33]

[33] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 31

Healthcare personnel must prevent others from gaining access to or knowledge of information about personal circumstances that they learn about in their capacity as healthcare personnel, cf. Section 21 of the Healthcare Personnel Act. The clear main rule is therefore that it is prohibited to pass on information to others without the patient's consent. Sections 4-4 and 4-5 of the Patient and User Rights Act has special provisions on who can give consent on behalf of children under the age of 16.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

MONITORING OF OFFENDERS Question 13. Does your national legal framework provide for:

a. a mechanism to monitor or supervise persons convicted of child sexual abuse and, specifically, persons convicted of child sexual abuse while holding a recognised position of trust, authority or influence?^[34] Please provide details.

[34] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 33

- Yes
 No

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

b. sharing with other countries data concerning persons convicted of child sexual abuse?^[35] Please provide details.

[35] Based on Article 38 of the Lanzarote Convention.

- Yes
 No

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

MEASURES IN RESPECT OF PROFESSIONALS AND LEGAL PERSONS Question 14. Does your national legal framework:

a. allow for the immediate removal or suspension of a professional or volunteer working with children suspected of sexually abusing a child?^[36] Please provide details.

[36] Based on Article 27§3(b) of the Lanzarote Convention.

- Yes
 No

Please provide information in support of your answer, if possible referring to specific legal provisions and their exact wording (13.a Yes)

The Norwegian Board of Health Supervision can revoke an authorisation, license or specialist approval if the holder is unfit to exercise his or her profession properly due to behavior that is considered incompatible with the exercise of his or her profession, cf. section 57 of the Health Personnel Act.

The Norwegian Board of Health Supervision can further prohibit health personnel from carrying out certain activities until a final decision has been taken in the case (limited suspension), if it is necessary to stop activities that may endanger the safety of and trust in the health and care service, cf. Section 58 of the Health Personnel Act.

Reactions against personnel who do not have authorization, license or specialist approval must be handled within the framework of employment law.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

b. ensure that professionals working in the public, private or voluntary sectors failing to report offences of child sexual abuse occurring in “out-of-home care”^[37] settings are held liable?^[38] Please provide details.

[37] In accordance with the Declaration of the Lanzarote Committee on protecting children in out-of-home care from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse adopted at its 25th meeting (15-18 October 2019), “out-of-home care” represents all settings in which children can be placed out of their home for care (see point b of the Declaration).

[38] Based on the Declaration of the Lanzarote Committee on protecting children in out-of-home care from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, point 6.

- Yes
 No

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

c. ensure that legal persons failing to protect children in their care from sexual abuse are held liable?^[39] Please provide details.

[39] *Ibid.*, see point 7.

- Yes
 No

Please provide information in support of your answer, if possible referring to specific legal provisions and their exact wording (13.c Yes)

According to section 196 of the Penal Code everyone has a duty to avert several sexual offences against a child, including abusing a position to obtain sexual intercourse and equivalent actions with child. A legal person is liable to punishment if a provision in the Penal Code is violated by a person who has acted on behalf of an enterprise.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES Question 15. How does your national legal framework ensure that special representatives and guardians ad litem who are appointed to avoid a conflict of interest between the holders of parental authority and the child victim:

- a. receive appropriate training and legal knowledge to ensure and safeguard the best interests of the child victim during criminal investigations and proceedings?^[40]

[40] 1st Implementation Report "Protection of Children against Sexual Abuse in the Circle of Trust: The Framework", Recommendation 35

The Guardianship Act § 6 states that "The County Governor shall provide the guardians in their district with necessary training, guidance, and assistance."

The duty of the County Governor to provide training, guidance, and assistance is further regulated in the Guardianship Regulation § 1:

"The County Governor shall ensure that the appointed guardians in their district receive the necessary training to perform their duties properly. Guardians shall receive training upon their appointment, and later when considered needed. The training shall be tailored to suit the content and scope of the guardianship assignment.

The County Governor shall provide the guardians in their district with necessary guidance and assistance when considered needed. The County Governor shall get acquainted with the case and, as far as possible, provide specific advice in the current situation. If necessary, assistance must also be provided to the guardian so that the guardian can follow up on the advice."

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

- b. avoid combining the functions of a lawyer and guardian ad litem in one person?^[41]

[41] Ibid., Recommendation 36

The Guardianship Act § 6 states that "The County Governor shall provide the guardians in their district with necessary training, guidance, and assistance."

The duty of the County Governor to provide training, guidance, and assistance is further regulated in the Guardianship Regulation § 1:

"The County Governor shall ensure that the appointed guardians in their district receive the necessary training to perform their duties properly. Guardians shall receive training upon their appointment, and later when considered needed. The training shall be tailored to suit the content and scope of the guardianship assignment.

The County Governor shall provide the guardians in their district with necessary guidance and assistance when considered needed. The County Governor shall get acquainted with the case and, as far as possible, provide specific advice in the current situation. If necessary, assistance must also be provided to the guardian so that the guardian can follow up on the advice."

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

c. **are provided free of charge for the child victim?**^[42]

[42] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 37

According to the Guardianship Regulation §§ 16 and 18, the guardian is entitled to compensation for his or her work as a guardian and has the right to get necessary expenses related to the guardianship assignment covered.

Furthermore, according to the Guardianship Regulation § 19, the County Governor shall cover the compensation and expenses for the guardian if the person under guardianship has a gross income and assets below a certain threshold.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES Question 16. [for 22 Parties + Malta]

a. **Do you appoint a special representative or guardian ad litem when there is a conflict of interest between the holders of parental authority and a child?**^[43] Please provide details.

[43] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 34

- Yes
 No

Please provide information in support of your answer, if possible referring to specific legal provisions and their exact wording (16.a Yes)

In the case of a minor, the guardian is the person who has parental responsibility for the minor under the rules of the Child Welfare Act and who is of legal age, as stated in the Guardianship Act § 16. If those with parental responsibilities are disqualified as guardians, the child will be without a functioning guardian, and the Guardianship Act § 16 stipulates that:

"If the minor is without a functioning guardian, the County Governor shall appoint a new guardian or a temporary guardian."

The appointment of a special representative or guardian ad litem in cases of conflict of interest between the holders of parental authority and a child, is governed by the Guardianship Act. According to the Guardianship Act § 34, "a guardian is considered disqualified to act on behalf of a person under guardianship when the guardian or someone closely related to the guardian has an interest in the matter that conflicts with the interests of the person under guardianship. Those who are always considered closely related to the guardian include:

- a. The guardian's spouse or cohabitant.
- b. The guardian's direct descendants and siblings.
- c. The direct descendants and siblings of a person mentioned in letter a.
- d. The spouse or cohabitant of someone mentioned in letter b.
- e. A person represented by the guardian.

If the guardian is disqualified, a temporary guardian shall be appointed under § 27.

A father or mother may, as a guardian for their own child, safeguard the child's interests in relation to their other children and to others as mentioned in the first paragraph."

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

b. **Is this person allowed to be present throughout the criminal proceedings?**^[44]Please provide details.

[44] *Ibid*

- Yes
 No

Please provide information in support of your answer, if possible referring to specific legal provisions and their exact wording (16.b Yes)

The procedural rights granted to victims under 18 years of age during criminal proceedings are exercised by their guardian ad litem, unless otherwise specified by law. The Criminal Procedure Act § 93 g states that: "The victim and survivors have the right to be present at all court hearings, subject to the reservations specified in §§ 245 and 284. They also have the right to be present at court hearings held in closed sessions, pursuant to the Courts Act § 127, and when witness statements are to be given in closed sessions with only the parties present and subject to confidentiality obligations, as specified in the Criminal Procedure Act §§ 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 124 and 125."

The Prosecution Instructions § 8-12 contains specific rules regarding the questioning of witnesses under 16 years of age: "Under the Criminal Procedure Act § 239, witnesses under 16 years of age and witnesses with

intellectual disabilities or other impairments are interviewed through specially adapted interviews in specified cases. The rules for specially adapted interviews are governed by the Criminal Procedure Act §§ 239 to 239f and the Regulation of 24 September 2015 No. 1098 on the Interview of Children and Other Particularly Vulnerable Victims and Witnesses.

Even if an interview with a child under 16 years of age is not conducted as a specially adapted interview, the child's parents, a guardian, or another person trusted by the child should be given the opportunity to be present during the interview, except when that person is a suspect in the case or other reasons argue against it. If a suspected person in the case is one of the child's parents or guardians, a temporary guardian should generally be appointed to assist the child during the interview. Emphasis should be placed on conducting the interview in a considerate manner."

The role of the interviewer is emphasized during specially adapted interviews, including checking whether the witness has a guardian who, by their mandate, can provide assistance and can be informed, pursuant to the Criminal Procedure Act § 239b, second paragraph, and reporting to the County Governor if the witness does not have such a guardian and may need one, in accordance with the Regulation on Specially Adapted Interviews § 3.

The presence during consultation meetings is regulated in § 7 of the Regulation: "The interviewer is responsible for holding a consultation meeting before each interview. An employee from the child advocacy center must participate in consultation meetings. The witness's guardian, the witness's attorney, and child protection services or care services must be given the opportunity to participate in consultation meetings unless there are strong reasons against it.

The consultation meeting may be conducted by telephone or video conference.

A specially adapted interview may be conducted without a consultation meeting if, after consulting with the child advocacy center, the interviewer believes that a consultation meeting will not provide a better basis for determining how the interview should be conducted and how the witness should be cared for before, during, and after the interview, or that it is better for the witness to be interviewed immediately."

The post-interview meeting is regulated in § 12 of the Regulation: "The interviewer is responsible for holding a post-interview meeting right after each interview. [...]. The witness's guardian, the witness's attorney, and child protection services or care services must be given the opportunity to participate in the post-interview meeting unless there are strong reasons against it.

During the post-interview meeting, discussions should take place regarding whether there is a need to follow up with the witness and how the follow-up should be conducted, [... and] regarding when and how child protection services or care services should talk to the witness about the case.

If the witness has a disability, and it is unclear whether it necessitates the same need for a specially adapted interview as witnesses with intellectual disabilities typically require, discussions should take place about the witness's functional level so that the interviewer can clarify as early as possible whether the witness will have to give testimony during a main hearing.

During the meeting, the scope of confidentiality imposed under the Criminal Procedure Act § 239d, fifth paragraph, should be clarified.

The post-interview meeting should be held at the location where the specially adapted interview took place. If one or more of the participants followed the interview via video transmission from another location, the post-interview meeting can be conducted by telephone or video conference.

The post-interview meeting can be omitted if, after consulting with the child advocacy center, the interviewer deems it unproblematic because the matters to be discussed in the post-interview meeting have already been clarified."

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

SUPPORT FOR CHILD VICTIMS IN INVESTIGATIVE AND JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS Question 17. In investigative and judicial proceedings how does your national legal framework ensure that:

- a. **protection measures are available to all children irrespective of their age?**^[45] Please provide details.

[45] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 38

Yes, were they are appropriate. The police and the court have a number of means at their disposal that can enhance the security of victims. Restraining orders and secret address are among these.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

- b. **specificities of sexual abuse committed in respect of a child by someone in a recognised position of trust, authority or influence are taken into account in the measures and procedures applied during criminal investigations and proceedings in order not to aggravate the trauma experienced by the child?**^[46] Please provide details.

[46] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 39

No special measures are taken for children who are exposed to abuse by trusted persons. All children exposed to abuse are interviewed at the children's houses, where follow-up is also offered

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

- c. **a child who is a presumed victim of sexual abuse is supported by a professional trained to safeguard children's psychological well-being?**^[47] Please provide details.

[47] Based on *N.Ç. v. Türkiye* (no. 40591/11), 9 February 2021

See upload about the services provided by the Barnehus

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

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SUPPORT FOR CHILD VICTIMS IN INVESTIGATIVE AND JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS Question 18.

Since the adoption of the 1st implementation report in the 1st monitoring round in 2015, has your national legal framework been amended to ensure that the justice system accommodates more fully the specificities attached to the participation of children as victims in proceedings and not solely as perpetrators of criminal offences?^[48] Please provide details.

[48] 1st Implementation Report "Protection of Children against Sexual Abuse in the Circle of Trust: The Framework", Recommendation 40

- Yes
 No

If appropriate, please provide more information (18 No)

The Convention came into force in Norway on 1 October 2018 and Norway's initial report was sent to the Lanzarote Committee in 2019. In order to safeguard the due process protection of children in cases involving sexual offences, a specially adapted interviewing scheme is used for the police interviewing children under the age of 16, cf. section 239 of the Criminal Procedure Act. Children's Houses have been established to ensure that children and other particularly vulnerable groups who may have been victims of violence and sexual assault, and where the matter has been reported to the police, are not subjected to unnecessary stress and strain in connection with examination by the police and that they receive good, coordinated followup.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

INVESTIGATION Question 19. In the investigation phase:

In 2023 the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDEF) circulated a questionnaire in the framework of its mapping study of the implementation and development of Barnahus model in Europe. Should your authorities have responded to this questionnaire, you may reiterate those replies and complete as need be.

a. are interviews of child victims arranged in a child-friendly setting separate from the usual premises where investigations and interviews are conducted (such as police, hospital or court premises), and are such settings provided throughout your territory?^[49] Please provide details.

[49] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 41

- Yes
 No

Please provide information in support of your answer, if possible referring to specific legal provisions and their exact wording (19.a Yes)

In 2015, the Criminal Procedure Act (“Straffeprosessloven”) was amended, and new regulations for facilitated interviews were brought into force. The new main rule is that Children’s Houses should be used for facilitated investigative interviews with children under the age of 16 and other particularly vulnerable victims and witnesses in cases involving sexual abuse, direct and indirect physical violence, homicide and gender mutilation.

Children’s Houses are organised as separate units within the police district where they are localised, and a regular staff is/are employed as civilians in the police district. See also upload on childrens houses

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

b. [are all staff responsible for interviewing child victims required to undergo suitable qualifying training?](#)^[50]
Please provide details.

[50] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 42

- Yes
- No

Please provide information in support of your answer, if possible referring to specific legal provisions and their exact wording (19.b Yes)

In recent years the way child interviews are conducted has been changed and improved. Specially trained police officers do the interview while a prosecutor and the defence lawyer follow by watching a television in a separate room. Depending on the case, a defence counsel, a police investigator, the child’s legal counsel, the child’s legal guardian, and sometimes also a childcare worker may be present in the room with the prosecutor. There will also be a Technician to operate the audio/video viewing and recording. There may also be a need for an interpreter. This is an increasing and challenging requirement as Norway becomes more multi-cultural. The accused is not usually present, although it is the norm that he/she is informed that the session will be taking place. The interview is taped and can later be presented in court.

All police officers in Norway are required to take a 3-year Bachelor’s degree in Policing. On top of that, those undertaking forensic interviews with child and vulnerable witnesses are subject to intensive training for 6 months before becoming qualified to conduct interviews. They are subject to face-to-face tuition, on-the-job training and coaching and rigorous examination.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

c. [does your national legal framework require that interviews with child victims are conducted as soon as possible after the offence, that their duration and number are limited, and that in their organisation account is taken of the child’s age and attention span?](#)^[51] Please provide details.

[51] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 43

- Yes
 No

Please provide information in support of your answer, if possible referring to specific legal provisions and their exact wording (19.c Yes)

Facilitated interviews must be carried out as soon as possible and within one week, two or three weeks depending on the case.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

d. **[for Serbia]** how do you ensure that child victims of sexual abuse by someone in a recognised position of trust, authority or influence are not repeatedly interviewed during the proceedings?^[52]

[52] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 54

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

e. where it is indispensable to interview the child victim more than once, does your national legal framework require that the interviews should, if possible and where appropriate, be conducted by the same person and under the same material conditions as the first?^[53] Please provide details.

[53] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 44

- Yes
 No

Please provide information in support of your answer, if possible referring to specific legal provisions and their exact wording (19.e Yes)

If consideration for the witness does not speak against it, supplementary questioning can nevertheless be taken by another questioner.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

f. does your national legal framework offer criminal defence the possibility to contest a child's disclosure during the interview through questions, thus obviating the need for the child to be present in the court room during the proceedings?^[54] Please provide details.

[54] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 45

- Yes
 No

If appropriate, please provide more information (19.f No)

The defense counsel, the witness's legal counsel, the police investigator and the prosecuting attorney may, before or during the questioning, propose questions to the witness. The same applies to lawyers assisting other witnesses in the case, if the interviewer thinks it is appropriate. The interviewer decides whether the questions should be asked. Defense counsel's questions must be allowed to be asked, unless consideration for the witness clearly speaks against it. The interviewer also decides other questions about the conduct of the interview.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS Question 20. In the judicial proceedings:

In 2023 the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF) circulated a questionnaire in the framework of its mapping study of the implementation and development of Barnahus model in Europe. Should your authorities have responded to this questionnaire, you may reiterate those replies and complete as need be.

a. [is systematic use of video equipment made in order to record interviews of child victims or enable him or her to testify remotely during the proceedings?](#)^[55] Please provide details.

[55] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 46

- Yes
 No

Please provide information in support of your answer, if possible referring to specific legal provisions and their exact wording (20.a Yes)

Barnehus in Norway, provides custom designed facilities for the interviews and other services to support child witnesses. These include dedicated interview rooms, featuring high quality audio and video links to a conference/viewing room for all those entitled to observe the proceedings.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

b. [does your national legal framework make an exception in the requirement to be physically present at court hearings for child victims of sexual abuse, including when they are giving evidence?](#)^[56] Please provide details.

[56] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 59

- Yes
- No

Please provide information in support of your answer, if possible referring to specific legal provisions and their exact wording (20.b Yes)

The Criminal Procedure Act stipulates rules concerning facilitated interviews, which are interviews of witnesses conducted during the investigation by the police and prosecuting authority, and which are videoed. Facilitated interviews should be used when interviewing witnesses younger than 16 in cases involving sex offences, assault and battery, homicide, abuse in close relationships, and female genital mutilation. If a witness is younger than 16 at the time of the main proceedings, video recordings of interviews shall take the place of testifying in person in court. The same applies if the witness has turned 16, unless for the sake of the accused's right to contradiction it is necessary for the witness to testify in person in the main proceedings.

Facilitated interviews can also be used when interviewing witnesses younger than 16 in cases concerning other criminal offences when this is deemed appropriate for the sake of the witness, and on the same conditions when interviewing witnesses aged 16-18 in cases involving incest and sexual activity between other close relations. As a rule, video recordings replace testifying in person in the main proceedings, unless the court finds that a witness should testify in person following an overall assessment of the accused's right to contradiction and other considerations concerning the witness and information in the case.

In general, the accused has the right to be present during the main hearing, including when children testify in court. Nevertheless, pursuant to the Criminal Procedure Act, the court may decide that the accused should leave the courtroom while a witness is being examined if there is special reason to fear that an unreserved statement will not otherwise be made. The court can also decide that the accused should leave the courtroom in the case of anonymous testimony. During examinations of victims, survivors, or witnesses younger than 18, the court can also decide that the accused or others should leave the courtroom, including if particular reasons indicate that this should be done for the sake of the victims, survivors, or witnesses. Instead of instructing the accused or others to leave the courtroom, the court can decide to implement measures such that the person concerned cannot see the witness. The same rules apply to court proceedings during an investigation.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

c. [is there any difference in the scope of the application of this requirement based on the child's age?](#)^[57]

Please provide details.

[57] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 60

- Yes
- No

Please provide information in support of your answer, if possible referring to specific legal provisions and their exact wording (20.c Yes)

See answer 20 b

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

d. [are video recordings of interviews of child victims regarded as admissible evidence?](#)^[58] Please provide details.

[58] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 47

- Yes
- No

Please provide information in support of your answer, if possible referring to specific legal provisions and their exact wording (20.d Yes)

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

e. [what measures do you take to guard against any further contact between a child victim of sexual abuse by someone in a recognised position of trust, authority or influence and a presumed offender during the criminal proceedings?](#)^[59]

[59] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 48

see answer 20 b

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

f. [does your national legal framework allow taking the child's testimony without the presumed offender being present?](#)^[60] Please provide details.

[60] *Ibid*

- Yes
- No

Please provide information in support of your answer, if possible referring to specific legal provisions and their exact wording (20.f Yes)

see answer 20 b

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

g. [how do you ensure that face-to-face confrontation with the defendant during the proceedings does not take place?](#)^[61]

[61] *Ibid*

see answer 20 b

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

h. [what measures do you take to prevent violation of the child victims' right to privacy by the media through disclosure or publication of personal information or data?](#)^[62]

[62] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 49

Pursuant to the Act relating to the Courts of Justice (Courts of Justice Act), court sessions are public and proceedings and court decisions can be reported publicly, unless otherwise is stipulated in law or by the court pursuant to law.

Pursuant to the Courts of Justice Act, the court may decide to hold a hearing, in whole or in part, in camera, including if privacy considerations or public decency so require. If a court determines that the information in a case should, wholly or partly, be kept secret for particular reasons, they can order those present to observe this.

As a general rule, there is no right in criminal cases to publicly report proceedings in court sessions outside the main proceedings or in cases involving a judgement entered on a plea of guilty. In main proceedings and cases involving a judgement entered on a plea of guilty, a court may, wholly or partly, forbid public reporting of the proceedings when the court fears this could have an adverse impact on information in, or adjudication of, the case, or when the court session is held, or could be held, in camera.

Photographing, filming, and recording for radio and television is basically prohibited during criminal proceedings. The court can grant exemptions from this prohibition if there are particular reasons in favour of doing so and it is not thought that the exemption will have an adverse impact on the consideration of the case, and other considerations do not decisively suggest this should not be done.

Pursuant to the Courts of Justice Act, a court can forbid the public reporting of, all or parts of, a court decision if privacy considerations or the victim's reputation so require.

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

i. [does your national legal framework provide for free legal aid to child victims of sexual abuse by someone in a recognised position of trust, authority or influence under the same or more lenient conditions as that available to adults?](#)^[63] Please provide details.

[63] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 50

- Yes
 No

Please provide information in support of your answer, if possible referring to specific legal provisions and their exact wording (20.i Yes)

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

j. [does your national legal framework grant to child victims of sexual abuse by someone in a recognised position of trust, authority or influence the right to be represented in their own name by a lawyer trained in the relevant matters?](#)^[64] Please provide details.

[64] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 51

- Yes
- No

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

k. [what assistance, if any, do you provide to child victims of sexual abuse by someone in a recognised position of trust, authority or influence, once a criminal justice decision has been taken?](#)^[65]

[65] *Ibid.*, Recommendation 52

See uploads about services offered in childrens houses

Here you can upload any file(s) in support of your answer

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