



# Lanzarote Convention and Cybercrime Convention Synergies

Convention for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

Workshop 4, Octopus Conference, 13 December 2023 16:30-18:00 Naomi Trewinnard Legal Advisor Lanzarote Committee Secretariat



## What is the Lanzarote Convention?



- The most holistic international instrument for the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse:
  - Prevention
  - Protection,
  - Prosecution
  - Promoting international co-operation
- 2007: opened for signature
- 2010: entry into force
- 2023: Currently 48 State parties
- Simultaneous monitoring of the implementation of the Convention in all State parties in thematic monitoring rounds by the Committee of the Parties (Lanzarote Committee)





## 1. Criminal justice action: Gaps





## Criminalisation of Child Sexual Abuse Material is not sufficient

- CSAM may be used by abusers to groom other children and to coerce/blackmail child victim – important to criminalise all forms of sexual abuse
- Evidence of the sexual abuse shown in the material
- These are serious offences against the physical integrity of the child= among the most serious types of harm

#### **Procedural safeguards:**

- Obtain best evidence from child victims and their families: strengthen prosecution and ensure accurate indictment/charge
- Protect child from intimidation and further abuse during investigation
- Evidential rules to ensure evidence admissible in court: protect child and uphold the right to a fair trial
- Delayed disclosure: sufficient time to bring prosecution required

- There is a real child victim that needs to be identified and protected
- The child should always be treated as a victim, not criminalised even if it appears that the child 'made' the material themself

Key messages:



### 2. Prevention and Protection: perspectives





#### **Prevention**

- Screening professionals upon entry into profession (register of convicted offenders)
- Initial and continuous training of all relevant professionals
- Prevention authorities and co-ordination
- Awareness raising and education

#### **Protection**

- Reporting obligations
- Victim support services
- Support services for family members
- Helplines
- Hotlines
- Offender management programmes and civil law consequences

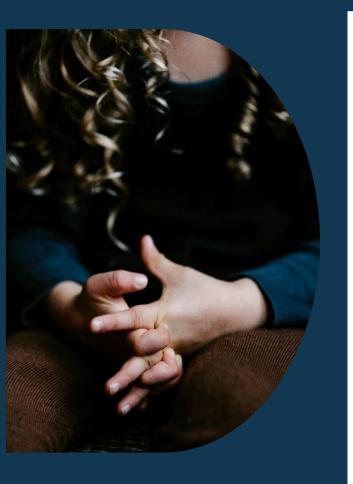
- Child sexual abuse affects children in all countries in all parts of society
- Majority of abuse is committed by someone in the child's circle of trust.

Key message:



### Useful resources





#### **Interpreting the Convention**

- Opinion on Article 23 Solicitation of children for sexual purposes through ICTs (Grooming)
- Interpretative Opinion on the applicability of the Lanzarote Convention to sexual offences against children facilitated through ICTs
- Opinion on child sexually suggestive or explicit images and/or videos generated, shared and received by children

#### **Research and resources**

- Lanzarote Convention
- Convention in a nutshell
- Why join?
- Baseline Mapping of member state responses to prevent and combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse





# Thank you for your attention!

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