



Lanzarote Convention and Cybercrime Convention Synergies

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

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16:30-18:00

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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

Key messages:

- **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 themselves**





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

Key message:

- **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.**



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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