Ethical media reporting on sexual violence against children

A journalism handbook



PROGRAMME

Launching event
Strasbourg and online
Room 10, Palais de l'Europe
18 November 2026

Organised in co-operation with the Permanent Representation of San Marino to the Council of Europe on the occasion of the Day for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

LIVE

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#EndChildSexualAbuseDay

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Background information

On 18 November 2026, the Council of Europe will launch "*Ethical reporting on sexual violence against children – A journalism handbook"* at a hybrid event in Strasbourg and online. The launch takes place on the occasion of the 2026 Edition of the Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse and in the framework of the 49th meeting of the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Committee).

Ethical reporting can raise awareness, shape public attitudes and encourage victims and survivors to seek support. Thoughtful choices of language and imagery can also help safeguard children's rights, protect identities of victims and reduce the risk of further harm. The handbook is a practical resource for journalists and other media actors, built around ten key principles for ethical reporting. It can also be a useful tool for any professionals working for and with children.

The handbook offers guidance on conducting sensitive interviews, responsibly including children's perspectives, and choosing language, headlines and images that avoid stereotypes, sensationalism and the disclosure of identity. It also includes practical resources such as key definitions, specialist organisations, official data sources and pre-publication checklists.

This public event aims to present the handbook to a broad set of stakeholders, including journalists and other media actors and members, participants and observers to the Lanzarote Committee. National authorities, regulatory bodies, civil society and journalists and other media actors are encouraged to translate the handbook and adapt its guidance to their national contexts.

Programme

16:00 – 16.30	**Coffee beak -** Offered by the Republic of San Marino
16:30 – 16.45	**Opening remarks** ➢ *Irena Guidikova, Head of the Human Dignity and Gender Equality Department, Council of Europe* ➢ *Michela Bovi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of San Marino to the Council of Europe*
16:45 – 17:30	**Launching of the Journalism Handbook** *Moderated by Agnes von Maravić, Head of the Children's Rights Division and Council of Europe Coordinator for the Rights of the Child* **Setting the scene** ➢ *Mireya García de Murcia, Legal Advisor to the Lanzarote Committee Secretariat* **Why ethical reporting on sexual violence against children matters: A journalism and trauma-informed perspective** ➢ *Ricardo Gutiérrez, General Secretary, European Federation of Journalists (EFJ)* ➢ *Irene Caselli, Program Director, Early Childhood Journalism Initiative, Global Center for Journalism and Trauma* **Putting the Handbook into practice: the experience of Spain** ➢ *Lourdes Collado, Plataforma de Infancia (online)*
17:30 – 18:00	**Q&A session / discussion**

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