



# INFORMAL CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS ON THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LANZAROTE CONVENTION:

## ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND A WAY FORWARD TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

30th June & 1st July 2025

### Monday, 30 June

19:00 - 20:00	Arrival of Delegations at the Mediterranean Conference Centre (MCC)
20:15 - 22:00	Official Welcome Dinner (Hosted by the Minister for Social Policy and Children's Rights of Malta)

### Tuesday, 1 July

08:30 - 09:30	Arrival of the participants and registration
09:30 - 10:00	<p><b>Welcome and Opening Remarks and Taking Stock: 15 years of the Lanzarote Convention</b></p> <p>What were the concerns at the time that led to the development of the Lanzarote Convention? What have been the key achievements over the 15 years since it entered into force?</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Hon. Michael Falzon</b>, Minister for Social Policy and Children's Rights of Malta</li><li>- <b>Alain Berset</b>, Secretary General of the Council of Europe</li><li>- <b>Glenn Micallef</b>, EU Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport (Video Recording)</li></ul>



## Tuesday, 1 July

10:00 - 11:00	<p><b>Keeping harm away from children</b> Sexual violence is an ever-evolving phenomenon. How to address persisting challenges and new trends to better prevent sexual exploitation and abuse and protect children?</p> <hr/> <p><b>Moderation and setting the scene:</b> Hon. Michael Falzon, Minister for Social Policy and Children's Rights of Malta</p> <p><b>Session II: Keeping harm away from children</b>, aims to generate a vital discussion on proactive strategies and measures to prevent the unimaginable trauma of child sexual abuse from occurring in the first place.</p> <p><b>Speaker: Juliana Scerri Ferrante</b>, Member of the United Nations Committee of Rights of the Child, and also now the Focal Point for the EU region</p> <p><b>Iain Drennan</b>, Executive Director, WeProtect Global Alliance</p> <p><b>Ministerial Interventions</b></p>
11:00 - 11:20	Family photo of the Heads of Delegations (Sacra Infermeria)
11:20 - 11:30	Coffee-break
11:30 - 13:00	<b>Keeping harm away from children (cont.)</b>
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch (Hosted by the Minister for Social Policy and Children's Rights of Malta)
14:30 - 16:00	<p><b>Empowering children to flourish free from sexual violence</b> How can legislation, policies and programmes contribute to better protection and prevention? How can we address new trends, including harmful sexual behaviours by children themselves?</p>



## Tuesday, 1 July

14:30 - 16:00

**Moderation and setting the scene: Hon. Michael Falzon,**  
Minister for Social Policy and Children's Rights of Malta

**Session III: Empowering children to flourish free from sexual violence,** will delve into the critical role of legislation, policies and programmes in breaking the cycle of harm and empowering children to thrive in a safe environment that prioritises their well-being.

**Speaker:**

- **Matthew McVarish**, Survivor Activist, Co-founder of the Brave Movement
- **Ministerial Interventions**

16:00 - 16:30

**Way forward: Preventing and protecting children from sexual exploitation and abuse**

Linking the Lanzarote Convention with the wider international context: UNSDGs, Ministerial Conference on Violence against Children in Bogotá, developments at EU level, etc.

**Moderation: Hon. Michael Falzon,** Minister for Social Policy and Children's Rights of Malta

**Session IV: Way forward**, will delve into the avenues to integrate the Lanzarote Convention within the broader international landscape, including in the context of the United Nations and the European Union.

**Speakers:**

- **Maria José Castello Branco**, Chairperson of the Lanzarote Committee
- **Mama Fatima Singhateh**, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children



## Tuesday, 1 July

16:30 - 17:00	<p>Closing session</p> <p>The <b>Closing session</b> will feature a children's statement and the adoption of an outcome document.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Antoinette Vassallo</b>, Commissioner for Children of Malta</li></ul> <p>Adoption of the Declaration: 15 years of the Lanzarote Convention: Achievements, challenges and the way forward to prevent and protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Hon. Michael Falzon</b>, Minister for Social Policy and Children's Rights of Malta</li></ul> <p>Concluding Remarks</p>
17:00	<p>End of the Conference</p>

