

## Slovak Republic

Information provided further the statement by the Lanzarote Committee Chair and Vice-Chairperson on stepping up protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse in times of the COVID-19 pandemic

### National Coordination Centre for Resolving the Issues of Violence against Children (NCC) Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Currently, we have been carrying out the online campaign launched on social platforms (Instagram, Facebook) aimed at raising of awareness of public on the problematic of violence against children during these challenging times as well as information how to be protected on the internet (as the use of internet by children is being understandably increased these days), what kind of risks using ICTs brings, where to seek help in case of need and promotion of contacts of help on our website [www.detstvobeznasilia.gov.sk](http://www.detstvobeznasilia.gov.sk). We constantly prepare posts for social networks reflecting actual unusual situation and potential danger for children resulting from this situation (suffering from any form of violence, including cyber bullying). On our website, we temporarily placed special banner informing where to seek help in case of abuse, neglect, maltreatment or cyberbullying emphasising the Police number.

We also modified our *"It does concern me"* videos on our [Youtube channel](#)- there is a video with the text *"The child's voice reaches you only if you let him to. Listen carefully, maybe it's you he/she wants to tell you something."* and in the end of videos, the special infographic with contacts for help is included (the graphic is the same as the above mentioned banner on our website). **Videos are being sponsored on our official accounts on Facebook and Instagram. They are also being broadcasted in Slovak national television (on its three channels) several times during the day.**

#### Videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2OrXGCNouc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hbl1tVuUjys>

On our Facebook account we have been organising small **competitions for children**. To overcome boredom and the absence at school, we have been asking children how they have been spending their time at home, how they have been learning at home etc. (the winners are rewarded with our promotion "It does concern me" materials such as notebooks, pens, T-shirts, etc).

Facebook account: <https://sk-sk.facebook.com/NKSpreRPNnD/>

Instagram account: [detstvo\\_bez\\_nasilia](#)

Together with our colleagues from [Coordination- Methodological Centre for gender-based and domestic violence](#), we created simple **leaflets for owners of shops, cosmetic stores and pharmacies** containing information for their employees how to react in case the potential victim of violence reaches them at their workplace with request for help (e.g. during shopping

as it could be the one and only option how to address unknown people for help in this time of isolation and quarantine).

Small initiatives have been taken on regional level as well- through our coordinators on the protection of children against violence (in several Slovak districts) - distribution of information leaflets promoting the contacts for help.

In addition, we are preparing translation of several information from Council of Europe and UNICEF websites related to COVID-19 tips for children and parents (will be published on our website and social platforms).

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**Responses to specific questions by the Bureau of the Lanzarote Committee on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse**

1. To what extent, if at all, has the threat of child sexual abuse/exploitation changed due to COVID-19? If so:
  - Please tell us about whether the level of risk has increased/decreased/remained the same and if possible specify this with regard to the various types of sexual offences against children (Articles 18-23 of the Convention);
  - You may also wish to indicate any emerging trends relating to child sexual abuse/exploitation, as the result of COVID-19, and point at measures taken to address them.

No information received.

2. Did lockdown cause child sexual abuse/exploitation cases (identified/reported) to increase, decrease or stay the same? Please submit data (number of victims/offenders) and highlight what you think may explain the trend.

No information received.

3. Please also tell us whether and how general child safeguarding measures were, or are likely to be, affected by measures taken by governments in response to COVID-19. In addition, highlight any additional, specific measures put in place during lockdown to ensure reporting by victims of child sexual abuse/exploitation as well as to support and assist them, and whether these measures will be maintained even when the lockdown is lifted.

No information received.

- 4. Finally, please tell us whether children have been duly listened to on decision-making concerning their protection against sexual abuse/exploitation during this period. Please also tell us whether and how children will be involved in decision-making on or assessing the impact of COVID-19 measures in the future.**

No information received.