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10 March 2022

## LANZAROTE COMMITTEE

Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe  
Convention on the protection of children against sexual  
exploitation and sexual abuse

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**Statement on protecting children from sexual exploitation and  
sexual abuse resulting from the military aggression of the  
Russian Federation against Ukraine**

Adopted by the Lanzarote Committee on 10 March 2022

Recalling that the unjustifiable and unprovoked military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, in violation of international law and human rights, including the rights of the child, has been strongly condemned by the Council of Europe,

Affirming that the safety and protection of all children should be a priority and that children in vulnerable situations such as unaccompanied and missing children are at a higher risk of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse,

Noting the increasing number of refugee, migrant and internally displaced children and recognising the urgent need for safe passages,

The Lanzarote Committee solemnly reaffirms, in the current context, its [Declaration on protecting refugee and migrant children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse](#) adopted on 28 June 2018, which calls upon the States Parties to the Convention to:

1. *uphold the rights and best interests of the child at all times, regardless of their migration status;*
2. *ensure that follow-up is given to the recommendations contained in its urgent monitoring round report on “[Protecting children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse](#)”;*
3. *take measures to address the specific risk of exposure to sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of migrant and refugee children, taking into account the increased vulnerability caused by factors such as deprivation of liberty, family separation, inadequacy of reception and care and lack of effective guardianship systems;*
4. *cooperate with relevant stakeholders in Europe and beyond to:*
  - *prevent the exposure of migrant and refugee children to the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse;*
  - *provide appropriate support and assistance to child victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in their physical and psychosocial recovery;*
  - *fight against the impunity of sexual offenders.*