

Ukraine

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

No information received.

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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

**Ministry for Digital Transformation /
Ombudsman for Children with the President of Ukraine Office**

- 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.**

We have noted increase in cases of domestic violence. Hence children suffer from abuse even more. Moreover, children spend their free time online and as a result they are more vulnerable on the Internet.

Re steps done to protect children online. Within #Stop_sexting project we have launched our page in TikTok as there are a lot of children and we would like to protect them.

We also have chatbot in Telegram where you can get an instruction describing what to do in case of sexual abuse and can find a lot of useful information. Moreover, we developed lessons and exercises for parents and children and carry out a lot of webinars.

- 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.**

Within #Stop_sexting team we will continue all of our activities after quarantine as we understand that children are vulnerable on the Internet.

- 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.**

During quarantine we have launched our special project with young people from Teenergizer (organization which connects young people from Central Europe and Central Asia). We have asked Ukrainian teens how they feel during quarantine. We also sent them our educational materials and asked them to share feedback how useful it can be.

In addition, we have also cooperated with children in developing special survey which we will launch in TikTok.