

LANZAROTE COMMITTEE

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

Replies to the thematic questionnaire

“Screening of professionals, volunteers and other persons
in contact with children”

Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights

UKRAINE

Main relevant provisions of the Lanzarote Convention and previous recommendations

Article 5 paragraph 3 of the Lanzarote Convention requires Parties to take the necessary legislative or other measures, in conformity with their internal law, to ensure that the conditions to accede to those professions whose exercise implies regular contacts with children ensure that the candidates to these professions have not been convicted of acts of sexual exploitation or sexual abuse of children. The Explanatory Report to the Lanzarote Convention indicates that this obligation can be also applied to voluntary activities (see paragraph 57).

In the 2nd implementation report of the 1st monitoring round (2018), the Lanzarote Committee urged those Parties that limited mandatory screening to certain professionals to extend it to the recruitment of all professionals (public or private) in regular contact with children (R19) and invited Parties to encourage continuous screening of all professionals (R20) and volunteers (R21) in regular contact with children.

Article 27 paragraph 3.b of the Lanzarote Convention requires Parties to take the necessary legislative or other measures to deny the perpetrator, temporarily or permanently, the exercise of professional or voluntary activity involving contact with children in the course of which the offence was committed.

Article 37 paragraph 3 of the Lanzarote Convention requires Parties to take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the information referred to in paragraph 1 (i.e. data related to the identity and to the genetic profile (DNA) of persons convicted of the offences established in accordance with the Convention) can be transmitted to the competent authority of another Party, in conformity with the conditions established in its internal law and the relevant international instruments.

Whenever the term ‘screening’ is used in this questionnaire, this should be understood as ‘verification of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children’.

In all your answers, please provide details to the extent possible and refer to specific laws, policies, programmes, measures, etc.

Please describe the legislation, policy and practice which are in force on 27 March 2026 or are in the process of adoption (in this case, please specify the planned date of entry into force).

Please indicate:

- a. Your name and position**
- b. State Party in respect of which the questionnaire is submitted**
- c. Entities and bodies which have been involved in responding to this questionnaire**

Institution of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights

Persons concerned by screening requirements

- 1. Is the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children required as a pre-condition in order to accede to professions, employment or volunteer positions whose exercise implies regular contacts with children? Please specify whether such restrictions apply to professions, employment or volunteer positions in the following sectors or areas of activities (additional details to be inserted below the table):**

	Criminal conviction check for employment in public sector?	Criminal conviction check for voluntary activity?	Criminal conviction check for employment in private sector?	Criminal conviction check for selfemployed professionals?	Please specify the professionals to whom this requirement applies
Education – Pre-school	Yes. Part 3 of Article 25 of	Yes. Part 3 of Article 25 of	Yes. Part 3 of Article 25 of	Yes. Part 3 of Article 25 of the	All employees of a preschool

	the Law of Ukraine ‘On Preschool Education’ and Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’	the Law of Ukraine ‘On Preschool Education’ and Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’	the Law of Ukraine ‘On Preschool Education’ and Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’	Law of Ukraine ‘On Preschool Education’ and Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’	education institution
Education – Primary	Yes. Article 19 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Complete General Secondary Education’ and Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’	Yes. Article 19 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Complete General Secondary Education’ and Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’	Yes. Article 19 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Complete General Secondary Education’ and Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’	Yes. Article 19 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Complete General Secondary Education’ and Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’	All parties involved in the educational process
Education – Secondary	Yes. Article 19 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Complete General Secondary Education’ and Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’	Yes. Article 19 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Complete General Secondary Education’ and Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’	Yes. Article 19 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Complete General Secondary Education’ and Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’	Yes. Article 19 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Complete General Secondary Education’ and Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’	All parties involved in the educational process.
Education – Tertiary	Article 42 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Higher Education’. Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’	Article 42 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Higher Education’. Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’	Article 42 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Higher Education’. Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’	Article 42 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Higher Education’. Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’	All parties involved in the educational process.

Education – Extracurricular (e.g. language schools)	Article 42 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Higher Education’. Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’	Article 42 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Higher Education’. Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’	Article 42 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Higher Education’. Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’	Article 42 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Higher Education’. Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’	All parties involved in the educational process.
Childcare (e.g. kindergartens, crèches, childminders)	Yes. Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’	Yes. Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’	Yes. Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’	Yes. Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’	All employees
Institutional or residential care (e.g. foster homes, orphanages, closed residential facilities)	Yes. Subparagraph 3 of paragraph 3 of Section X of the Order of the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine No. 115 dated 9 March 2021. Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’. Article 212 of the Family Code of Ukraine.	Yes. Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’. Article 212 of the Family Code of Ukraine.	Yes. Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’. Article 212 of the Family Code of Ukraine.	Yes. Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’. Article 212 of the Family Code of Ukraine.	All persons who wish to work in contact with children.
Detention	Yes, but this is not a specific screening procedure based specifically on the criteria set out in the provisions of	Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’.	No private places of detention.	None.	At the same time, no single specific mechanism for the initial and periodic screening of all employees, as

	the Lanzarote Convention. Law of Ukraine ‘On the National Police of Ukraine’. Additionally, Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies.				well as other persons who may come into contact with children in places of detention, has been established.
Migration facilities (e.g. reception centres)	Yes, partially. For employees of state migration authorities and institutions, general requirements for recruitment to civil service apply (Article 19 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Civil Service’). If an employee has regular contact with children, Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies.	No separate general screening procedure is in place. If a volunteer has contact with children, Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies.	None. If a private organisation provides services to children at a migration facility, Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies.	None. If a person provides services to children at a migration facility, Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies.	Employees of the State Migration Service, social workers, psychologists, interpreters, and humanitarian mission personnel.
Sport	Partially. There is no single specific	Partially. There is no single specific	Partially. There is no single specific	Partially. There is no single specific	Coaches, instructors, physical education

	procedure for initial and periodic screening. At the same time, Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies. In addition, pursuant to Article 49 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Physical Culture and Sports’, coaches and sports referees are subject to mandatory certification.	procedure for initial and periodic screening. At the same time, Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies. In addition, pursuant to Article 49 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Physical Culture and Sports’, coaches and sports referees are subject to mandatory certification.	procedure for initial and periodic screening. At the same time, Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies. In addition, pursuant to Article 49 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Physical Culture and Sports’, coaches and sports referees are subject to mandatory certification.	procedure for initial and periodic screening. At the same time, Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies. In addition, pursuant to Article 49 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Physical Culture and Sports’, coaches and sports referees are subject to mandatory certification.	teachers, heads of sports sections, sports referees, and other specialists who regularly work with children.
Culture and leisure activities	Partially. There is no single specific procedure for initial and periodic screening. At the same time, Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies.	Partially. There is no single specific procedure for initial and periodic screening. At the same time, Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies.	Partially. There is no single specific procedure for initial and periodic screening. At the same time, Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies.	Partially. There is no single specific procedure for initial and periodic screening. At the same time, Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies.	Employees and heads of clubs and extracurricular groups, teachers of arts disciplines, organisers of children’s events, museum employees, theatre employees, cultural centre employees, and camp staff.
Entertainment sector	Partially. There is no single specific	Partially. There is no single specific	Partially. There is no single specific	Partially. There is no single specific	Animators, hosts of children’s events, and

	procedure for initial and periodic screening. At the same time, Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies.	procedure for initial and periodic screening. At the same time, Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies.	procedure for initial and periodic screening. At the same time, Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies.	procedure for initial and periodic screening. At the same time, Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies.	employees of children’s entertainment centres.
Faith and religion	Partially. There is no single specific procedure for initial and periodic screening. At the same time, Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies.	Partially. There is no single specific procedure for initial and periodic screening. At the same time, Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies.	Partially. There is no single specific procedure for initial and periodic screening. At the same time, Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies.	Partially. There is no single specific procedure for initial and periodic screening. At the same time, Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies.	Clergy members, Sunday school teachers, and leaders of children’s religious groups.
Healthcare (including psychological and psychiatric services)	Partially. There is no single specific procedure for initial and periodic screening. At the same time, Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies.	Partially. There is no single specific procedure for initial and periodic screening. At the same time, Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies.	Partially. There is no single specific procedure for initial and periodic screening. At the same time, Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies.	Partially. There is no single specific procedure for initial and periodic screening. At the same time, Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies.	Doctors and other medical personnel, psychologists.
Social protection services	Partially. Subparagraph 3 of paragraph 3	Partially. Article 10 of the Law of	Partially. Article 10 of the Law of	Partially. Article 10 of the Law of	Social workers, social work specialists,

	of Section X of the Order of the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine No. 115 dated 9 March 2021. Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’.	Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’.	Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’.	Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’.	psychologists, social managers, social service providers, and employees of services for children and families.
Law enforcement	If an employee has regular contact with children, Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies, as well as specific legislation.	None.	None.	None.	
Judicial	Partially. Article 69 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On the Judiciary and the Status of Judges’; for employees of court offices, Article 19 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Civil Service’ and Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ apply.	None.	None.	None.	Court office employees, judges, and judicial assistants.

Civil society organisations	Not applicable as a category.	Partially. Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies.	Partially. Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies.	Partially. Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies.	Employees of non-governmental organisations, social workers, psychologists, and case managers.
Victim services (including Barnahus, domestic violence services)	Partially. Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies.	Partially. Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies.	Partially. Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies.	Partially. Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’ applies.	Investigators, prosecutors, psychologists, and social workers.
Any other sectors (please specify)	-	-	-	-	-

2. In requiring the verification of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children in order to accede to the positions listed in question 1, does your State:

a. define the level or threshold of contact with children (one-off, regular, etc.) which necessitates such a verification

No

b. distinguish between direct, indirect or online contact with children?

No

Ukrainian legislation does not establish a general minimum threshold for the duration, frequency, or intensity of contact with children, upon reaching which an obligation arises to conduct a background check to determine whether a person has convictions for sexual offences against children.

For the purposes of applying requirements concerning the safe engagement of persons, the decisive factors are the nature of the activity and the existence of contact with children, rather than whether such contact is one-off, regular, or continuous.

At the same time, specific requirements may depend on the type of activity and the legislation governing the relevant area. In particular, the Model Programme for Preventing Violence and Abuse against Children, approved by Resolution No. 658 of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 4 June 2025 (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Model Programme’), establishes requirements for the safe recruitment and

engagement of employees, volunteers, and other professionals who have contact with children, including checks of candidates for criminal convictions and references¹.

3. Is the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children required to become:

a. an adoptive parent

Yes, it is a mandatory requirement. Pursuant to paragraph 10 of part one of Article 212 of the Family Code of Ukraine ², persons who have been convicted of crimes against the national security of Ukraine; criminal offences against life and health, liberty, honour and dignity, sexual freedom and sexual integrity of a person; against public safety, public order and morality; in the sphere of trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, their analogues or precursors; against peace, security of humanity and international legal order; as well as crimes provided for by Articles 164, 166, 167, 169, 181 and 187 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine,³ or who have an outstanding or unexpunged conviction in accordance with the procedure established by law for other criminal offences, may not be adopters.

b. a foster parent

Yes, the absence of convictions for sexual offences against children is a mandatory requirement for taking a child into guardianship. This process is regulated by national legislation. Pursuant to Article 244, persons referred to in Article 212 of this Code may not be guardians or custodians of a child.

Pursuant to paragraph 10 of part one of Article 212 of the Family Code of Ukraine, persons who have been convicted of crimes against the national security of Ukraine; criminal offences against life and health, liberty, honour and dignity, sexual freedom and sexual integrity of a person; against public safety, public order and morality; in the sphere of trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, their analogues or precursors; against peace, security of humanity and international legal order; as well as crimes provided for by Articles 164, 166, 167, 169, 181 and 187 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, or who have an outstanding or unexpunged conviction in accordance with the procedure established by law for other criminal offences, may not be adopters.

c. a child's legal guardian (including for unaccompanied children)?

In this case, we can also refer to Article 212 of the Family Code of Ukraine. Persons who have been convicted of crimes against the national security of Ukraine; criminal offences against life and health, liberty, honour and dignity, sexual freedom and sexual integrity of a person; against public safety, public order and morality; in the

¹ Model Programme for Preventing Violence and Abuse against Children URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/658-2025-%D0%BF#Text>

² Family Code of Ukraine. URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2947-14#Text>

³ Criminal Code of Ukraine. URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2341-14#Text>

sphere of trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, their analogues or precursors; against peace, security of humanity and international legal order; as well as crimes provided for by Articles 164, 166, 167, 169, 181 and 187 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, or who have an outstanding or unexpunged conviction in accordance with the procedure established by law for other criminal offences, may not be adopters.

4. Is the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children required for the household members of:

a. persons carrying out professional activity in their home who are in contact with children

In Ukraine, the protection and safeguarding of a child's right to be raised in a family environment is ensured through various forms of family-based care and the provision of social services. The main forms of family-based care include adoption, guardianship/custodianship, foster care, and placement in a family-type children's home. Pursuant to Article 256⁶ of the Family Code of Ukraine, persons who fall under the categories specified in Article 212 of the Family Code of Ukraine may not serve as foster parents in a family-type children's home. Therefore, Article 212 of the Family Code of Ukraine also applies in this case.

b. persons carrying out volunteering activity in their home who are in contact with children

c. persons wishing to become an adoptive parent, a foster parent, or a child's legal guardian?

For such persons, Article 212 of the Family Code of Ukraine applies. Persons who have been convicted of crimes against the national security of Ukraine; criminal offences against life and health, liberty, honour and dignity, sexual freedom and sexual integrity of a person; against public safety, public order and morality; in the sphere of trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, their analogues or precursors; against peace, security of humanity and international legal order; as well as crimes provided for by Articles 164, 166, 167, 169, 181 and 187 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, or who have an outstanding or unexpunged conviction in accordance with the procedure established by law for other criminal offences, may not be adopters.

5. Does the requirement to verify the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children also apply to:

a. children applying for professional or volunteer positions

The requirement to check for the absence of convictions for sexual offences against children is primarily aimed at adults who work or engage in activities involving

children, as the law establishes relevant restrictions specifically with regard to such persons.

Children may engage in volunteer activities (in particular, from the age of 14 with the written consent of their parents), but this in itself does not mean that the screening procedure applicable to adult employees/volunteers is applied to them.

b. adults in respect of criminal convictions received before the age of 18?

Yes. Pursuant to Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’⁴, persons whose information has been entered into the Unified Register of Persons Convicted of Crimes against the Sexual Freedom and Sexual Integrity of a Minor are prohibited from working in contact with children. In addition, depending on the field of work, a person undergoes a background check upon employment (the relevant information is provided in the table above).

6. If a person legally changes their name, how does your State ensure that their criminal record remains linked to their new name?

Yes. In Ukraine, a change of name does not sever a person’s connection with their criminal record. Information about the previous name is retained in the records, and following an official change of name, the relevant data are updated in the registers, making it possible to link a conviction to the new name. Pursuant to part two of Article 16 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On State Registration of Civil Status Acts’, the state registration of a change of name is carried out by the relevant civil status registration authority upon the application of an individual who has reached the age established by law, at their place of residence, provided that the relevant civil status records and information are available in the archives of the civil status registration departments and in the State Register of Civil Status Acts of Citizens.

7. Is access to public funds for projects implying contact with children conditional on the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children for persons employed in or volunteering for such projects?

Yes, Ukrainian legislation establishes a mandatory prohibition on working in contact with children for persons whose information has been entered into the relevant Unified Register in connection with a conviction for crimes against the sexual freedom and sexual integrity of a minor. At the same time, this requirement is established directly as a general requirement for access to activities involving contact with children, rather than as a separate universal condition for receiving state funding for a project.

Pursuant to Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Child Protection’, persons whose information has been entered into the Unified Register of Persons Convicted of

⁴ Law of Ukraine “On Child Protection”. URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2402-14#Text>

Crimes against the Sexual Freedom and Sexual Integrity of a Minor are prohibited from working in contact with children.

Thus, a person subject to the above prohibition may not be engaged in work involving contact with children, regardless of the form of ownership of the relevant institution or organisation. The requirement applies, in particular, to institutions and organisations in the fields of education, healthcare, social protection, physical culture and sports, health improvement and recreation, as well as to other entities whose activities involve contact with children.

Additional preventive requirements are established by the Model Programme. The Model Programme applies, in particular, to institutions in the fields of education, culture, healthcare, social protection, physical culture and sports, health improvement and recreation, youth centres, children's and youth associations, and other organisations that have contact with children.

The Model Programme expressly provides that, when recruiting persons who will have direct or indirect contact with children, the risks of violence and abuse against children must be taken into account. The head of the relevant entity must establish recruitment policy requirements related to the prevention of violence, including screening candidates for criminal convictions. At the same time, the Model Programme expressly includes employees, volunteers, and other engaged professionals who have contact with children among the persons covered by the relevant policy.

Information included in screening

8. Does the criminal record check include criminal convictions for:

a. sexual abuse of a child (Article 18 of the Lanzarote Convention)

Ukrainian criminal legislation provides for liability for sexual violence (Article 153 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine), and the commission of the relevant acts against a minor constitutes a qualifying element of the offence. Information on convictions for the relevant crimes is covered by the mechanism of the special register.

In addition, depending on the specific manner in which the act was committed, sexual offences against children may also fall under other articles of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, in particular Articles 152–156.

b. sexual exploitation of a child ('child prostitution' Article 19 of the Lanzarote Convention)

The Criminal Code of Ukraine establishes criminal liability for acts related to the sexual exploitation of children, including involving minors in criminal activities and other forms of sexual exploitation. At the same time, Ukrainian legislation does not use the term 'child prostitution' as a separate designation for a criminal offence, and the relevant acts are classified under specific articles of the Criminal Code.

c. acts involving child sexual abuse material ('child pornography' Article 20 of the Lanzarote Convention)

The Criminal Code of Ukraine contains specific criminal offences relating to child pornography. In particular, Article 301 provides for liability for intentionally gaining access to child pornography using information and telecommunication systems or technologies, as well as for its acquisition, possession, importation, transportation, production, sale and distribution.

Thus, relevant convictions are subject to screening within the mechanism established by law.

d. offences related to the participation of children in pornographic performances (Article 21 of the Lanzarote Convention)

Ukrainian criminal legislation provides for liability for acts related to involving children in the creation and use of pornographic material and other forms of sexual exploitation of children. The relevant criminal offences are taken into account during screening where they fall within the category of crimes against the sexual freedom and sexual integrity of a minor. (Article 301¹ of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

e. corruption of a child (causing a child to witness sexual activities) (Article 22 of the Lanzarote Convention)

Article 156 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine establishes liability for sexual abuse of minors. Part two of Article 156 provides for liability, in particular, for the commission of such acts against a minor.

Therefore, information on a corresponding conviction is taken into account during the special screening.

f. solicitation of a child for sexual purposes ('grooming'), including online (Article 23 of the Lanzarote Convention)

Ukrainian legislation contains a specific criminal offence, namely Article 156¹ of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, 'Solicitation of a Child for Sexual Purposes'.

It covers, in particular, an offer of a meeting made by an adult to a person under 16 years of age for the purpose of committing sexual or lewd acts against that person, including through the use of information and telecommunication systems or technologies, where, following the offer, at least one act aimed at ensuring that the meeting takes place has been committed.

Therefore, Ukrainian legislation explicitly criminalises conduct corresponding in substance to 'grooming' as provided for in Article 23 of the Lanzarote Convention.

g. aiding and abetting or attempting the above offences (Article 24 of the Lanzarote Convention)

The general provisions of the Criminal Code of Ukraine provide for criminal liability of accomplices to a criminal offence. Pursuant to Article 27 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, in addition to the perpetrator, accomplices include the organiser, instigator, and accomplice. Article 29 establishes the criminal liability of the organiser, instigator, and accomplice under the relevant part of Article 27 and the relevant article of the Special Part of the Criminal Code.

An attempt to commit a criminal offence is defined by Article 15 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, while Article 16 expressly establishes criminal liability for preparation for and attempt to commit a criminal offence under the relevant article of the Special Part of the Code.

Thus, when screening a person, not only the fact of commission of a completed criminal offence is taken into account, but also the relevant criminal-law classification of an unfinished criminal offence or complicity.

h. any other convictions (please specify)?

A general check of information concerning criminal prosecution and the presence/absence of a criminal record may cover other criminal offences not related to sexual offences against children.

At the same time, for the purposes of preventing access to work involving contact with children, particular importance is attached to the special screening through the Unified Register of Persons Convicted of Crimes against the Sexual Freedom and Sexual Integrity of a Minor. Ukrainian legislation prohibits persons whose information has been entered into this Register from working in contact with children. The Register also includes persons whose convictions for the relevant offences have already been expunged or removed.

Thus, the Ukrainian system generally covers the categories of criminal offences provided for in Articles 18–24 of the Lanzarote Convention, although the relevant acts are defined and screened not according to the terminology of the Convention, but in accordance with the elements of criminal offences provided for by the Criminal Code of Ukraine.

9. Does the screening of persons applying for roles or positions specified in questions 1 and 3 above extend beyond criminal convictions for sexual offences against children to:

a. relevant administrative or disciplinary sanctions

b. other information available to the authorities (e.g. judicial decisions in civil proceedings)?

Partially.

In Ukraine, the main mandatory mechanism for screening persons who are permitted to work in contact with children is the verification of information concerning criminal convictions, including the verification of information through the Unified Register of Persons Convicted of Crimes against the Sexual Freedom and Sexual Integrity of a Minor. Ukrainian legislation prohibits persons whose information has been entered into this Register from working in contact with children. The Register also contains information on persons whose convictions for the relevant offences have been removed or expunged.

At the same time, current legislation does not provide for a general and mandatory procedure under which, as part of such screening, all administrative or disciplinary sanctions that have ever been imposed on each candidate are checked.

At the same time, pursuant to the Model Programme, when recruiting employees of entities working with children and youth, the risks of violence and abuse against children must be taken into account. The provisions on the prevention of and response to violence developed by the relevant entity must establish recruitment policy requirements related to the prevention of violence, including screening candidates for criminal convictions and references. The persons covered by such provisions also include volunteers and other engaged professionals who have contact with children.

In addition, the Model Programme provides for the possibility of conducting, during the recruitment of persons who will have direct or indirect contact with children, an interview, which may include situational questions concerning violence or abuse of a child, with the aim of identifying a person's potential propensity for aggressive or violent behaviour or abuse.

Thus, in practice, screening may include not only a criminal record check, but also obtaining and assessing references, conducting an interview/questionnaire, and assessing potential risks, where this is provided for by the internal documents of the relevant entity working with children.

With regard to administrative or disciplinary sanctions, it should be noted that legislation does not establish a general mandatory mechanism for checking such sanctions in respect of each candidate specifically for the purpose of preventing access to work involving children. At the same time, information about a candidate's previous conduct, professional references, and other information may be taken into account by the employer within the framework of the established recruitment policy and risk assessment.

With regard to other information available to public authorities, including court decisions in civil proceedings, it should also be noted that legislation does not establish a general obligation to search, as part of candidate screening, for all existing court decisions concerning that person in civil cases or other information held by public authorities.

Accordingly, the existence of a court decision in a civil case does not in itself constitute a general statutory ground for preventing a person from working in contact with children. Such information may be relevant only within the framework of a specific risk assessment procedure and provided that there are lawful grounds for obtaining and using it.

Therefore, the Ukrainian screening system for persons who work or intend to work in contact with children provides for mandatory criminal record checks and special screening through the Unified Register of Persons Convicted of Crimes against the Sexual Freedom and Sexual Integrity of a Minor, while also allowing for additional candidate assessment measures, including reference checks and interviews. At the same time, systematic checks of administrative or disciplinary sanctions and all other information available to public authorities, including court decisions in civil cases, are not provided for by Ukrainian legislation as a general mandatory component of screening.

10.If restrictions on the exercise of the relevant activities apply as a result of a criminal conviction for sexual offences against children, in line with Article 27 paragraph 3.b:

- a. are they life-long?**
- b. if they are not life-long, please specify the time-limits applicable**
- c. are they applied only to activities in the public sector?**

No, if this refers specifically to the criminal punishment in the form of deprivation of the right to hold certain positions or engage in certain activities.

Pursuant to Article 55 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, deprivation of the right to hold certain positions or engage in certain activities is imposed as a principal punishment for a period of two to five years, and as an additional punishment for a period of one to three years, unless otherwise provided by the specific provisions of the Code.

For a number of criminal offences against the sexual freedom and sexual integrity of children, this punishment is expressly provided for in the sanctions of the relevant articles of the Criminal Code of Ukraine. For example, for solicitation of a child for sexual purposes (Article 156¹ of the Criminal Code of Ukraine), deprivation of the right to hold certain positions or engage in certain activities is imposed for a period of up to three years. Similar restrictions are provided for a number of other sexual offences against children.

Thus, the criminal punishment in the form of deprivation of the right to hold certain positions or engage in certain activities is not imposed for life.

At the same time, it is necessary to distinguish this punishment from the prohibition established under Ukrainian legislation on working in contact with children for persons whose information has been entered into the Unified Register of Persons Convicted of Crimes against the Sexual Freedom and Sexual Integrity of a Minor. The Register also includes persons whose convictions for the relevant offences have already been removed or expunged.

Therefore, such a prohibition should not be equated with the duration of the additional criminal punishment under Article 55 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine.

As noted above, pursuant to Article 55 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine:

- as a principal punishment, deprivation of the right to hold certain positions or engage in certain activities is imposed for a period of 2 to 5 years;
- as an additional punishment, it is imposed for a period of 1 to 3 years;
- for certain criminal offences, the law expressly establishes the maximum duration of such punishment, in particular, up to 3 years.

Where such punishment is imposed as an additional punishment to imprisonment for a fixed term, it applies for the entire period of serving the principal sentence and, in addition, for the period specified in the court judgment. The relevant period of the additional punishment is calculated in accordance with the rules established by Article 55 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine.

At the same time, the prohibition on working in contact with children for persons included in the the Unified Register of Persons Convicted of Crimes against the Sexual Freedom and Sexual Integrity of a Minor operates under a different legal mechanism. The Register was established to record persons who have committed crimes against the sexual freedom and sexual integrity of a minor, including persons whose convictions have been removed or expunged. Information concerning a person is removed from the Register, in particular, in the event of the annulment of the conviction.

Therefore, for monitoring purposes, it is necessary to distinguish between the fixed-term criminal punishment provided for by Article 55 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine and the special prohibition on working in contact with children associated with a person's inclusion in the Unified Register of Persons Convicted of Crimes against the Sexual Freedom and Sexual Integrity of a Minor.

Deprivation of the right to hold certain positions or engage in certain activities under the Criminal Code of Ukraine is not limited to the public sector. Depending on the content of the court judgment, it may prohibit a person from engaging in specified activities regardless of the form of ownership or organisational and legal form of the entity in which such activities are carried out.

Similarly, the prohibition on working in contact with children associated with inclusion in the Unified Register of Persons Convicted of Crimes against the Sexual Freedom and Sexual Integrity of a Minor is not limited to public institutions. Its

purpose is to prevent the relevant person from engaging in activities involving contact with children, regardless of whether such activities are carried out in the public, municipal, or private sector. The Unified Register of Persons Convicted of Crimes against the Sexual Freedom and Sexual Integrity of a Minor itself is a nationwide mechanism and not a mechanism for monitoring only public-sector employers.

Thus, deprivation of the right to hold certain positions or engage in certain activities as a criminal punishment is imposed for a fixed period and, depending on the type and elements of the criminal offence, applies for a period of one to three years as an additional punishment or two to five years as a principal punishment. It is not limited to the public sector. Separately, national legislation establishes a special prohibition on working in contact with children for persons included in the Unified Register of Persons Convicted of Crimes against the Sexual Freedom and Sexual Integrity of a Minor, which is of a different legal nature and should not be equated with the duration of the punishment determined under Article 55 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine.

11. Does the criminal record check verify the existence of an expunged or spent criminal conviction for sexual offences against children for persons applying for roles or positions specified in questions 1 and 3?

As already noted above, in Ukraine, a special mechanism has been introduced for persons who are permitted to work or engage in other activities involving contact with children, involving the verification of information through the Unified Register of Persons Convicted of Crimes against the Sexual Freedom and Sexual Integrity of a Minor.

The Unified Register of Persons Convicted of Crimes against the Sexual Freedom and Sexual Integrity of a Minor contains information not only on persons who have an outstanding or unexpunged conviction, but also on persons whose convictions for the relevant offences have been removed or expunged in accordance with the procedure established by law.

Therefore, the mere expungement or removal of a conviction for a relevant sexual offence against a child does not mean that information concerning such conviction ceases to be taken into account during the special screening of a person seeking to engage in activities involving contact with children.

This differs from the general rule under the Criminal Code of Ukraine, according to which, following the expungement or removal of a conviction, a person is deemed not to have a criminal record. At the same time, national legislation establishes a special record-keeping regime for persons convicted of crimes against the sexual freedom and sexual integrity of a minor, specifically for the purpose of ensuring the protection of children.

Thus, for the purposes of access to activities involving contact with children in Ukraine, screening may reveal information about a previous conviction for relevant sexual offences even where the person's conviction has already been expunged or removed.

At the same time, it is important to distinguish between the expungement or removal of a conviction and the annulment of a conviction. The expungement or removal of a conviction does not constitute grounds for the automatic deletion of the relevant information from the Unified Register of Persons Convicted of Crimes against the Sexual Freedom and Sexual Integrity of a Minor. By contrast, in the event that a conviction is annulled on the relevant legal grounds, information concerning the person is subject to removal from the Register in accordance with the procedure established by law.

Therefore, in the context of Article 27 of the Lanzarote Convention, Ukraine ensures that expunged and removed convictions for relevant sexual offences against children are taken into account during the special screening of persons seeking to engage in activities involving contact with children.

Screening procedure

12. How is the screening procedure set out in your legal framework (in a single piece of legislation, sector-specific legislation, or other)?

In Ukraine, the screening procedure for persons applying for employment or other activities involving contact with children is regulated by a combination of legislative provisions.

The main legislative and regulatory acts in this area include the Criminal Executive Code of Ukraine, the provisions governing the Unified Register of Persons Convicted of Crimes against the Sexual Freedom and Sexual Integrity of a Minor, the Law of Ukraine 'On Protection of Childhood', as well as the Model Programme.

Initial screening upon employment or engagement in activities is carried out by the relevant entity working with children and youth, primarily by its head or a person designated by the head as responsible, in accordance with the entity's internal Regulations.

At the same time, the Unified Register of Persons Convicted of Crimes against the Sexual Freedom and Sexual Integrity of a Minor is a state information resource administered by the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine. The legal framework for the operation of the Register and the procedure for its establishment and maintenance are determined by legislation and regulatory acts of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine.

Child safeguarding requirements apply not only to permanent employees. The

Model Programme expressly provides that the relevant internal Regulations also apply to volunteers and other engaged professionals who have contact with children.

Therefore, depending on the nature of the activity and the internal policy of the particular entity, screening may be carried out in respect of employees, volunteers, and other persons who will have direct or indirect contact with children.

13.If screening is required, who is required to act?

a. the employer, volunteer recruiter or child protection authority is expected to obtain the necessary information directly from the authorities

In Ukraine, the screening of persons applying for employment or other activities involving contact with children is not carried out by the employer through direct access to all necessary state registers. One of the main documents confirming the results of the screening is an extract from the Unified Register of Convicted Persons and Persons Taken into Custody, including the Unified Register of Persons Convicted of Crimes against the Sexual Freedom and Sexual Integrity of a Minor.

Pursuant to the Procedure for the Establishment and Maintenance of the Unified Register of Convicted Persons and Persons Taken into Custody, information from the Register is provided in the form of an extract. An extract from the Unified Register of Persons Convicted of Crimes against the Sexual Freedom and Sexual Integrity of a Minor may be obtained by an individual in respect of information concerning themselves. An extract concerning another person may be obtained with that person's consent, certified in accordance with the requirements of the legislation.

An extract from the Unified Register of Persons Convicted of Crimes against the Sexual Freedom and Sexual Integrity of a Minor contains information on whether or not information concerning the person is recorded in the relevant Register. If no relevant information is available, the extract states that no information concerning the person under the specified search identifiers is available.

Thus, as a general rule, the candidate applies for the relevant extract and provides it to the employer or the entity engaging the person in activities involving children. The employer itself does not obtain direct, unrestricted access to the Unified Register of Persons Convicted of Crimes against the Sexual Freedom and Sexual Integrity of a Minor solely because it needs to screen a candidate.

At the same time, legislation provides for a different mechanism for authorised state users of the Register. Users designated by law have the right to direct access to the relevant modules of the Register and may obtain information electronically or through electronic information exchange. In doing so, they are required to indicate the legal basis for viewing the information or obtaining an extract.

b. the candidate must provide proof of absence of convictions

At the same time, such verification is not limited solely to information on an outstanding conviction. The special screening through the Unified Register of Persons Convicted of Crimes against the Sexual Freedom and Sexual Integrity of a Minor also covers persons whose convictions for the relevant crimes against the sexual freedom and sexual integrity of a minor have been removed or expunged.

c. another scenario. Please specify

14. If screening is required, who bears the costs of screening procedures?

The costs of obtaining information from the Unified Register of Persons Convicted of Crimes against the Sexual Freedom and Sexual Integrity of a Minor are not borne by the candidate, as such information is provided free of charge.

Pursuant to the Procedure for the Establishment and Maintenance of the Unified Register of Convicted Persons and Persons Taken into Custody, approved by Order No. 2023/5 of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine dated 26 June 2018, information from the Register is provided free of charge in the form of an extract. This also applies, in particular, to an extract from the Unified Register of Persons Convicted of Crimes against the Sexual Freedom and Sexual Integrity of a Minor. Any individual may obtain an extract concerning information about themselves, while an extract concerning another person may be obtained upon presentation of the duly certified consent of the relevant person.

Thus, where a candidate independently obtains an extract from the Unified Register of Persons Convicted of Crimes against the Sexual Freedom and Sexual Integrity of a Minor and submits it to the employer or organisation engaging them in activities involving children, no fee is charged to the candidate for the issuance of such extract.

15. How does your State monitor that employers, volunteer recruiters or child protection authorities comply with the relevant regulations on screening?

In Ukraine, compliance with child safeguarding requirements and the prevention of persons who pose a risk to children from working with children are monitored within the general system of state control and monitoring in the field of protection of children's rights. At the same time, the legislation does not establish a separate universal state control mechanism whose sole purpose would be to verify by employers documents concerning candidates' criminal records.

Pursuant to the Model Programme, entities working with children and youth are required to develop and approve their own Regulations on the Prevention of and Response to Violence and Abuse against Children. The head of the relevant entity is responsible for implementing such Regulations and monitors their compliance. The

Regulations must, in particular, establish recruitment policy requirements related to the prevention of violence, including screening candidates for criminal convictions and obtaining references. These requirements also apply to volunteers and other engaged professionals who have contact with children.

Thus, initial control over the screening process is carried out by the entity working with children itself, primarily by its head or another responsible person designated in the internal Regulations. The entity must ensure compliance with its own safe recruitment policy and other measures to prevent violence provided for by law.

At the state level, monitoring is carried out through the system for monitoring compliance with children's rights and state control over the activities of entities working with children.

In particular, pursuant to the Procedure for Responding to Cases of Violence and Abuse against Children, approved by Resolution No. 1513 of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 19 November 2025, the State Service for Children monitors compliance with children's rights. In the event that systematic violations, a threat to the life or health of a child, or reports of cases of violence and abuse against children during the previous two months are identified, the State Service for Children informs the National Social Service of Ukraine for the purpose of carrying out state control measures.

State control may be exercised in respect of entities regardless of their form of ownership. Procedure No. 1513 expressly provides for the possibility of exercising state control over educational, cultural, healthcare, social protection, physical culture and sports, health improvement and recreation institutions, youth centres, children's and youth public associations, and other entities in whose facilities children are present or which have contact with children, regardless of their type or form of ownership.

Based on the results of monitoring and state control, the State Service for Children may take measures to terminate children's stay at the relevant entity where there is a threat to their life or health, submit requests to the relevant authorities to hold the management or employees of the entity accountable, and provide recommendations for eliminating the identified violations.

It should also be noted separately that compliance with labour legislation, including with regard to employees who have contact with children, is monitored within the powers of the relevant state labour supervision authorities. The Law of Ukraine 'On Protection of Childhood' also provides that state control and supervision over compliance with the labour rights of children is ensured in accordance with the procedure established by law.

16.If screening is required, are there sanctions foreseen for failure to comply with it? If yes, what type of sanctions?

For the purposes of monitoring the Lanzarote Convention, it should be noted that sanctions for violations of requirements concerning child safeguarding and the prevention of persons from working with children do exist in Ukraine; however, they are not consolidated into a separate specific offence of ‘failure to conduct screening’. The legal consequences are determined depending on the specific violation, the status of the responsible person, and the consequences of such violation.

Pursuant to Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Protection of Childhood’, persons whose information has been entered into the Unified Register of Persons Convicted of Crimes against the Sexual Freedom and Sexual Integrity of a Minor are prohibited from working in contact with children. Therefore, allowing such a person to work with children in violation of the statutory prohibition constitutes a violation of legislation on the protection of childhood.

In addition, the Model Programme is mandatory for entities working with children and youth when developing their own regulations on the prevention of and response to violence and abuse against children. Such regulations must provide, in particular, for recruitment policy requirements related to the prevention of violence, screening candidates for criminal convictions and references, and must also apply to employees, volunteers and other engaged professionals who have contact with children. The head of the entity is responsible for implementing such regulations and monitors their compliance.

In the event of failure to comply with, or improper compliance with, the requirements for the prevention of violence and abuse against children by the relevant entity, the measures of response and liability provided for by law may be applied, depending on the specific violation.

In particular, where information is received concerning violence or abuse against a child or a threat to the child’s life or health, the head and employees of the relevant entity who committed or allowed the violence or abuse against the child may be suspended from their duties. In specified cases, the State Service for Children may inform the National Social Service of Ukraine for the purpose of carrying out state control measures.

Where a violation is related to non-compliance with labour legislation, administrative liability measures may be applied to officials of the employer under the relevant provisions of the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offences. In particular, Article 41 of the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offences provides for liability for violations of labour legislation by officials of enterprises, institutions and organisations, regardless of their form of ownership. The specific legal qualification depends on the nature of the violation.

17. Is regular screening, beyond the initial recruitment process, required, for:

a. professionals in contact with children

For employees and other professionals who have contact with children, Ukrainian legislation does not establish a general requirement for periodic re-screening of criminal records at a specified interval after initial employment.

The Model Programme for Preventing Violence and Abuse against Children, approved by Resolution No. 658 of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 4 June 2025, provides for taking into account the risks of violence when recruiting employees and establishing requirements for safe recruitment in the entity's internal policy, including screening candidates for criminal convictions and references. At the same time, the Model Programme does not establish a general period, such as annually or once every three years, within which such screening must be repeated. At the same time, entities working with children are required to assess the risks of violence and abuse against children in their activities and take measures to eliminate or minimise them. Therefore, additional screening or other control measures may be carried out by an entity where relevant risks, reports or other circumstances arise, if this is provided for by its internal documents. Thus, mandatory regular re-screening of criminal records for all professionals who have contact with children is not provided for.

b. volunteers in contact with children

The same applies.

c. foster parents and legal guardians?

For foster parents and guardians, Ukrainian legislation provides for regular monitoring of the conditions in which the child is maintained, educated and raised; however, this monitoring is not equivalent to periodic criminal record screening.

In particular, the service for children carries out monitoring of the conditions in which a child under guardianship or custody is maintained, educated and raised by visiting the family. The first inspection is conducted three months after guardianship or custody is established, and thereafter the frequency of visits is determined according to a relevant schedule, but visits must take place at least once a year.

For candidates to become foster parents or guardians, the initial selection process requires the submission of a certificate confirming the presence or absence of a criminal record. The applicable Procedure also provides for the verification of documents, completion of training, and assessment of the applicants' living conditions before a decision is made on their eligibility to become a guardian, custodian, or establish a foster family.

It should also be noted separately that, since 2025, annual medical examinations have been provided for guardians/custodians, foster parents, foster parents in family-

type homes, and other relevant categories. However, this constitutes medical monitoring rather than regular criminal record screening.

Thus, for this category of persons, Ukraine has a system of regular monitoring of the safety and conditions in which the child lives in the family, but legislation does not establish a general rule requiring an annual or other periodic renewal of a certificate confirming the absence of a criminal record.

18. Where a person working or volunteering in contact with children is under investigation for a sexual offence against a child, are law enforcement or other authorities allowed to inform the employer or volunteer organisation about the ongoing investigation? If yes, what is the consequence?

In Ukraine, information relating to pre-trial investigations is information with restricted access. Pursuant to Article 222 of the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine, information relating to a pre-trial investigation may be disclosed only with the written permission of the investigator or prosecutor and to the extent they deem possible. Therefore, the mere fact that criminal proceedings have been initiated does not automatically entail an obligation or an unrestricted right for a law enforcement authority to inform an employer thereof.

At the same time, where information concerning possible sexual violence or other abuse of a child poses a threat to the child's life, health or safety, legislation provides for a special interagency response mechanism.

In particular, pursuant to the Procedure for Responding to Cases of Violence and Abuse against Children, approved by Resolution No. 1513 of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 19 November 2025, employees of an entity working with children who identify signs of violence or abuse against a child are required to immediately contact the National Police authorities and notify the head of the entity. Where the head identifies such signs, they must notify the authorised unit of the National Police and the service for children within no more than three hours, while simultaneously informing the relevant authorities in the field of child protection.

Thus, where information concerning possible sexual violence against a child relates to an employee or another person who has contact with children, the relevant authorities may cooperate with the employer or the entity working with children within the framework of the legally established child protection mechanism. Such cooperation must be carried out in compliance with the requirements of criminal procedure legislation concerning the non-disclosure of information relating to pre-trial investigations and data protection legislation.

Cross-border screening

19. If the candidate for roles or positions specified in questions 1 and 3 has previously resided or worked in different countries, is it required to verify the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children in each of those countries in respect of:

a. professionals

In Ukraine, there is no general statutory requirement under which an employer is obliged to obtain certificates confirming the absence of a criminal record from every country in which a candidate has previously lived or worked.

b. volunteers

Similarly, there is no general obligation for volunteers to obtain criminal record certificates from every country in which the volunteer has previously lived or worked.

c. persons wishing to become an adoptive parent, a foster parent or a child's legal guardian?

For candidates for adoption who reside outside Ukraine, or for foreign nationals, Ukrainian legislation provides for the submission of a document verifying the presence or absence of a criminal record in the country of residence, issued by the competent authority of that country. For certain categories, consent to obtain information from the law enforcement authorities of the relevant states is also required.

For Ukrainian citizens residing in Ukraine, in the context of adoption, establishment of guardianship, or creation of a foster family, the legislation requires a certificate confirming the presence or absence of a criminal record issued by the competent Ukrainian authority. At the same time, there is no general requirement to obtain separate certificates from every country in which the applicant has previously lived or worked.

For candidates for guardianship/custody, the submission of a certificate confirming the presence or absence of a criminal record is also required and, where it is impossible to obtain such a certificate, a special statement concerning the absence of criminal prosecution for offences under specified articles of the Criminal Code of Ukraine is provided for.

20. Is there a mechanism to:

a. request data about a person's criminal convictions for sexual offences against children from the competent authority of another State outside the context of criminal proceedings⁵ (please specify)

For purposes of recruitment, volunteering, adoption, foster care or guardianship.

b. provide data about a person's criminal convictions for sexual offences against children to the competent authority of another State outside the context of criminal proceedings (please specify)?

Yes, but not as a general right of an employer or another private entity.

Ukraine participates in international cooperation concerning the exchange of information on criminal convictions and other relevant information. However, the possibility of obtaining such information depends on the international treaty with the respective State and the status of the authority making the request.

In particular, the European Convention on Information on Foreign Law provides for a system of cooperation between designated state authorities. However, its mechanism concerns information on legislation and provides for a specific request procedure; as a general rule, a request is submitted by a judicial authority and is linked to a specific case.

For the direct obtaining of information on a person's criminal convictions abroad, bilateral treaties of Ukraine on legal assistance may also apply. However, a significant part of such mechanisms is formulated specifically in the context of criminal proceedings. For example, relevant treaties provide for the provision of information on a person's criminal convictions where that person is subject to criminal prosecution or where a case concerning them is pending before a court.

Therefore, there is no universal Ukrainian mechanism under which an employer, school, non-governmental organisation or other organisation may independently contact directly the competent authority of another State and obtain information on a candidate's criminal convictions.

21. Is there an obligation to provide data about a person's criminal convictions for sexual offences against children at the request of the competent authority of another State outside the context of criminal proceedings?

No. Ukraine has no general obligation to provide a competent authority of another State, upon its request, with information on a person's criminal convictions for sexual offences against children outside the context of criminal proceedings. The transfer of such information may be possible in cases provided for by a specific international treaty to which Ukraine is a party or on another appropriate legal basis, subject to the requirements concerning the protection of personal data and the applicable access-to-information regime.

Additional details and reflections

22. Please add any further details regarding the modalities of the screening procedures applicable in your State, if relevant.

23. What challenges related to the screening for criminal convictions for sexual offences against children of professionals, volunteers and persons wishing to become adoptive parents, foster parents or a child's legal guardian exist in your State in practice (e.g. administrative costs, delays, cross-border co-operation)?

1. Cross-border screening

For employees and volunteers who have contact with children, Ukrainian legislation does not provide for a universal mechanism under which an employer or organisation can automatically verify a candidate's criminal record in all States where the candidate has previously lived or worked.

This creates a practical challenge with regard to candidates with an international history of residence or employment. Ukrainian screening makes it possible to establish whether relevant information is contained in national registers; however, it does not guarantee the automatic obtaining of information on criminal convictions in other States.

The international exchange of such information depends on the existence of an appropriate legal basis, an international treaty, and the capabilities of the competent authorities of the relevant foreign State.

2. Differences in the definition of criminal offences

Another issue is that the legal systems of different States define sexual offences against children differently.

The Ukrainian system screens for specific criminal offences under Ukrainian legislation and based on the information contained in the relevant state information systems. In a foreign State, the same conduct may have a different legal classification, a different name, or may be included within a broader category of offences.

This may complicate the assessment of information received from a foreign State and the determination of whether a particular conviction falls within the categories of sexual offences against children provided for under Ukrainian legislation.

24. What promising practices, if any, would your State like to highlight in the screening of professionals, volunteers and other persons in contact with children?

Ukraine would like to highlight as a positive practice the combination of specialised screening through the Unified Register of Persons Convicted of Crimes against the Sexual Freedom and Sexual Integrity of a Minor with a broader system for the safe recruitment and engagement of persons working with children. The Unified Register of Persons Convicted of Crimes against the Sexual Freedom and Sexual Integrity of a Minor also contains information on persons whose convictions for

relevant sexual offences against children have been expunged or removed, and legislation prohibits such persons from working in contact with children.

Since 2025, the Model Programme for Preventing Violence and Cruel Treatment of Children has provided for a comprehensive approach to the safe recruitment and engagement of persons, covering employees, volunteers and other professionals who have contact with children. This approach includes checking candidates for criminal convictions, obtaining references, mandatory training on the protection of children's rights, familiarisation with the violence prevention policy, and mechanisms for reporting and responding to cases of violence.

Thus, Ukraine's positive practice consists in the gradual transition from an exclusively criminal-record-based screening of candidates towards a comprehensive safeguarding model, which involves not only checking a person's background, but also preventive measures, training, risk assessment and the continuous maintenance of a safe environment for children.