



LANZAROTE COMMITTEE

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

Adopted by
the Lanzarote Committee
on 26 March 2026

10th activity report of the Lanzarote Committee

15th anniversary of the
Lanzarote Convention special edition
(covering the period 7 March 2025 - 26 March 2026)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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French edition:
*10^e rapport d'activités
du Comité de Lanzarote*

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Foreword

Maria José Castello-Branco, Chairperson of the Lanzarote Committee

It is an honour to introduce the 10th activity report of the Lanzarote Committee, a special edition marking the 15th anniversary of the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse. This report covers the Committee work between 7 March 2025 and 26 March 2026, a period characterised by both significant achievement and renewed resolve in the face of evolving threats to children.

Over fifteen years, the Lanzarote Convention has served as a foundation for legal reforms, prevention measures and international co-operation. Today, 48 Parties stand together under its framework, representing a unified commitment to fight sexual offences against children and providing a holistic and legally binding response to this ongoing challenge. Despite progress, urgency remains: children continue to be victims, and new risks emerge rapidly through digital technology and shifting societal realities.

This anniversary has been a moment to reflect, to reaffirm, and to chart the way forward. An Informal Conference of Ministers convened under the auspices of the Maltese Presidency of the Committee of Ministers brought together leaders for the first high-level thematic exchange based on the Convention. The Final Declaration, adopted unanimously, commits Parties to break the taboos surrounding child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, strengthen screening of those working with children, enhance access to reporting mechanisms and address technology-facilitated offences. The call to action from Secretary General Alain Berset reminds us: “The threats have changed, but our responsibility has not. We must close the gap between law and practice, with the urgency our children deserve”.

This edition opens with two highlights: the Committee’s impact on the last monitoring round, measuring progress and challenges in legal frameworks to protect child victims of sexual abuse in the circle of trust; and advances in data collection mechanisms, essential for evidence-based policy. The dedicated conference in Chişinău, held under the Moldovan Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, reinforced the importance of cross-sectoral data and multi-agency co-operation, and I thank both the Republic of Moldova and Malta for their vision and leadership.

For the first time, this report includes a section on our co-operation both with other international bodies and Council of Europe entities, and a dedicated overview of European Court of Human Rights case-law, showing how Lanzarote standards are both inspired by and contribute to the Court’s jurisprudence.

The closing section situates the Lanzarote Committee within the broader Council of Europe strategic framework, highlighting the complementarity between standard-setting, monitoring and technical co-operation for the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. This new addition underscores how the Committee’s expertise both draws from and contributes to the intergovernmental work of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF) and the co-operation projects of the Children’s Rights Division.

As my mandate as Chairperson expires in November 2026, I am deeply grateful for the dedication and commitment of former and current members of the Bureau and the Committee members, participants and observers, as well as the Secretariat. I wish to sincerely acknowledge Vice-Chair Philippe Olivier (France), who served with dedication from 15 February 2024 to 31 December 2025. The accomplishments of this period are a testament to the dedication of all Committee members.

I shall also emphasise the invaluable role played by civil society and survivor organisations in driving our mission forward. Their voices, amplified through the anniversary exhibition of art created by survivors of childhood sexual abuse, not only inspire hope and resilience, but also ensure that our efforts reflect the realities of those affected. This report features visual artworks from the exhibition, inviting readers to connect directly with these powerful stories and perspectives.

Looking forward, the Lanzarote Committee's agenda remains ambitious and resolute. We continue to follow up on the Final Declaration's mandate to ensure the Convention remains a living and forward-looking instrument, capable of addressing both current and evolving challenges, notably those brought by accelerating digital transformation and artificial intelligence.

LANZAROTE CONVENTION

15 Years of Protecting Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

15th Anniversary of the Lanzarote Convention

Achievements, challenges and way forward

On 1 July 2010, the [Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse](#) (Lanzarote Convention) entered into force as the first comprehensive, legally binding international instrument providing a holistic response to sexual violence against children.

In 2025, the Lanzarote Convention marked its [15th anniversary](#). To date, 48 States have become Parties, and the Convention remains open for accession by countries worldwide, strengthening the global effort to safeguard children. Over the years, the Convention has served as a benchmark, driving advances in national legislation, prevention programmes, and international co-operation and establishing a robust and unified response to child sexual exploitation and abuse across Europe and beyond. Despite this progress, persistent and evolving challenges remain. Children continue to fall victim to sexual exploitation and abuse, with new risks emerging from the rapid spread of abusive content via digital technologies.

To reflect on progress, confront challenges, and chart the way forward, an [Informal Conference of Ministers](#) was held on 30 June and 1 July 2025 under the auspices of the [Maltese Presidency of the Committee of Ministers](#) (May 2025–November 2025). The [Conference](#) provided an opportunity to take stock of progress made since the Lanzarote Convention's entry into force, learn from States' experiences over the past 15 years and explore strategic approaches to address remaining gaps, including those brought by emerging technological challenges. For the first time, ministers and other international political leaders held a high-level thematic exchange on protecting children from sexual exploitation and abuse based on the Lanzarote Convention.



Informal Conference of Ministers on the 15th anniversary of the Lanzarote Convention, 1 July 2025, Valletta, Malta

A [Final Declaration](#) was unanimously adopted, reaffirming commitment to break the taboos surrounding sexual violence against children and fight impunity for perpetrators. States pledged to promote effective and regular screening of persons working with children, ensure access to reporting mechanisms and enhance responses to all forms of technology-facilitated violence.

In his opening address, Secretary General Alain Berset emphasised the Council of Europe's steadfast dedication: "Fifteen years on, the Lanzarote Convention remains the only legally binding treaty dedicated to protecting children from sexual exploitation and abuse. The threats have changed," he reminded, "but our responsibility has not. We must close the gap between law and practice, with the urgency our children deserve."

Delegates also highlighted the need to educate children about sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and how to access help as an essential pillar of prevention. The complex challenges posed by travel and tourism for the purpose of exploiting children were additionally discussed, emphasising the importance of collaboration with the financial sector for early detection and disruption of criminal activities targeting children.



Opening the Committee's 45th plenary meeting of the Lanzarote Committee which followed the Conference, Marja Ruotanen, Director General of Democracy and Human Dignity, called for more than words, demanding sustained resources, political commitment, and collective resolve to transform the Declaration into action. She emphasised the Committee's distinct position as both a guide and a partner, uniquely equipped to drive and support national implementation.

Following the conference, the Committee identified several priorities for future action, including enhancing responses to technology-facilitated abuse, proactively addressing risks linked to artificial intelligence, strengthening legal frameworks across borders, promoting meaningful child participation, and improving measures to prevent re-offending.

The Committee also agreed to follow up on paragraph 25 of the Final Declaration, calling on the Committee to "[e]nsure the Lanzarote Convention remains a living and forward-looking instrument addressing both current and evolving issues, with a view of upholding children's protection in the context of an accelerating digital transformation." The Committee has therefore conducted a gap analysis of the Convention's scope in light of emerging technologies and evolving international norms and currently discusses available mechanisms for ensuring the Convention remains up to date.

Surviving childhood sexual abuse through art



Riina Marin – *Rakkaus on Sotkuista*
(*Love is Messy*)

To mark the 15th anniversary of the entry into force of the Lanzarote Convention, the Council of Europe held an [art exhibition](#) in Strasbourg on 16-27 June, giving visibility to the lived experiences of victims and survivors of childhood sexual abuse. Organised under the auspices of the [Maltese Presidency](#) of the Committee of Ministers and in partnership with the [Brave Movement](#), a global association of survivors, the exhibition was made possible thanks to a voluntary contribution from the Maltese authorities. It was opened by Marja Ruotanen, Director General of Democracy and Human Dignity, Council of Europe, Ambassador Francesca Camilleri Vettiger, Permanent Representative of Malta to the Council of Europe and Matthew McVarish, Co-Founder of the Brave Movement.

The exhibition featured fifteen powerful works of visual art, together with spoken and written pieces, created by survivors from Canada, Finland, France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Each artwork was accompanied by the authors' personal reflections, including their perspectives on the most important actions States can take to prevent child sexual abuse.

A [dedicated webpage](#) provides further resources, including a short video about the exhibition's opening.

As part of the 15th anniversary communication campaign, the webpage now features video testimonies from Committee members and observers on the Lanzarote Convention's impact, survivors' experiences engaging with the Committee, and insights into the benefits for countries considering joining the Convention in the future.

This report features some of the visual artworks from the exhibition.



Key highlights

Practical impact of the monitoring work on the “circle of trust”

The [implementation report](#) on “Protecting children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust: Legal frameworks”, adopted by the Lanzarote Committee on 3 July 2025, measures progress made since the [first monitoring report](#) in 2015 which covered 26 countries (see also section II.A.1).

Significant progress has been made to protect all children under 18 against sexual activities with a person in a recognised position of trust authority or influence without the need to prove coercion, threat or force with 21 Parties fully in line and the remaining Parties partially in line with Article 18. 43 Parties have brought their legislation in line with the Lanzarote Committee [opinion on Article 23](#) on the solicitation of children for sexual purposes (grooming). 44 Parties provide equal protection to all children regardless of their sex or sexual orientation or that of the perpetrator. 46 Parties ensure that a special representative or guardian ad litem can be appointed where there is a conflict of interest between the child victim and the holder of parental authority. Procedural

safeguards for child victims have been strengthened across all 48 State Parties with all Parties ensuring the child's testimony can be video recorded and is admissible as evidence in court. 34 Parties have general legal protections in place to prevent disclosure of the child victim's identity in the media.

Improvements have also been made in the context of investigations and criminal proceedings to avoid secondary victimisation. Since 2015, there has been an 18% increase in parties allowing proceedings to be initiated without a victim's complaint; however, 9 out of 48 still require victims to file complaints, posing a barrier to justice for many children. The use of pre-recorded testimony over live participation has grown by 35%, yet 21 Parties have yet to adopt this safeguard. The implementation of the Barnahus model to protect and support child victims has also increased, now present in 28 countries compared to just 6 previously.



Conference “Strengthening the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse through Evidence-Based Policy Making”, 18 November 2025, Chişinău, Republic of Moldova

Leveraging data to combat child sexual exploitation and abuse

The Lanzarote Convention requires State Parties to set up or designate mechanisms for data collection or focal points for observing and evaluating the phenomenon of sexual exploitation and abuse of children. This requires data to be collected and collated across multiple sectors to provide a holistic understanding of the nature and trends in child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Without robust data States cannot develop evidence-based policies to prevent and respond to these crimes.

On 3 July 2025, the Lanzarote Committee adopted the [implementation report](#) on data collection mechanisms concerning child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (see also section II.B.1). To highlight the findings and recommendations, the Lanzarote Committee chose to focus on this topic in 2025 for its capacity building and awareness raising activities. The conference “[Strengthening the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse through Evidence-Based Policy Making](#)” was held in Chişinău on 18 November 2025, under the Moldovan Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, to mark the annual [Day](#) for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse.



High-level government officials, including the Minister of Internal Affairs and the Minister of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova, delivered opening remarks, emphasising the crucial role of data in strengthening national child protection systems and combating child sexual exploitation and abuse. Throughout the day, experts, practitioners, researchers and civil society representatives engaged in thematic discussions and interactive workshops on evidence-based policy making.

The panel on “Evidence-based policy making” emphasised the importance of multi-agency co-operation and active engagement with civil society for effective data collection, in line with Article 10 of the Lanzarote Convention. Presentations from the United Kingdom and the Netherlands illustrated the benefits of national population surveys, harmonised data across agencies, and comprehensive official crime statistics. Ongoing challenges, including complex privacy regulations and the lack of standardised definitions, were acknowledged as significant barriers to thorough data analysis and policy development. Participants were also updated on latest trends in data observed by the non-profit research and advocacy organisation Child Light.

In the panel on “Harnessing data from Barnahus and other MDIA services to inform policies and practice”, case studies from Iceland, Cyprus, and the Republic of Moldova highlighted how Barnahus data facilitates the identification of emerging trends, supports culturally sensitive interventions and exposes systemic gaps requiring legislative reform. The essential contribution

of civil society organizations to data collection and analysis was recognised. Panellists identified ethical governance, continuous research, and robust data protection as priorities for strengthening evidence-based policy.

A workshop on “Enriching evidence-based policy making through engagement with children, including victims and survivors” centred on the positive impact of involving children, including victims and survivors, via surveys and direct interviews. Practical safeguards to mitigate risks identified include thorough preparation, informed consent, risk assessments, and clear opt-out procedures. Concerns were raised about potential parental barriers to participation, particularly in cases where parents may be offenders, underscoring the need for effective strategies to ensure children’s rights to participate are protected.

Discussions in the workshop on “Enhancing data collection and sharing across different agencies and feeding into international data collection efforts” stressed the need for coordinated national data collection, active civil society participation, and alignment with international statistical standards. The Republic of Moldova’s ongoing work towards a unified data system and the integration of Violence Against Children Survey (VACS) findings in policy planning were presented as promising practices. Government leadership and reliable data aggregation were highlighted as crucial for producing statistics and supporting international monitoring. Participants noted the need for increased investment, especially in prevention and research.

Finally, the panel on “Transnational sex offenders: strengthening policies to prevent re-offending abroad” highlighted that most traveling offenders do not have prior convictions, emphasising the necessity for comprehensive prevention approaches, including community awareness, education, and effective post-release supervision. Efficient international co-operation and timely data exchange were identified as essential reduce opportunities for re-offending abroad. Persistent challenges were noted in the areas of DNA profile sharing and criminal law harmonisation.

MEASURING PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LANZAROTE CONVENTION

1 Ex officio initiation of proceedings

9 out of 48 Parties still require a victim to file a complaint, creating significant barriers to justice, especially for children who may be unable or unwilling to report abuse due to fear, trauma, coercion, or lack of awareness.

Consequence: This can lead to serious offences going unprosecuted and perpetrators remaining free, weakening child protection and legal deterrence.

18% 

More Parties provide for proceedings to be initiated *ex officio* **without a prior complaint by the victim** in all cases of sexual crimes against children

2 The use of pre-recorded testimony

While most Parties accept video evidence, 21 out of 48 do not use it to replace in-person or remote testimony.

Consequence: Children may still be called for live testimony or cross-examination, undermining the Convention's goal of protecting child victims from re-traumatisation.

 35%

More Parties allow pre-recorded testimony as a **replacement for the child victim's live participation** in the criminal hearing

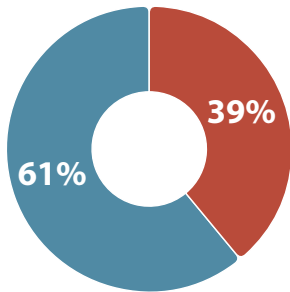
3 Barnahus

Despite progress, 20 out of 48 Parties still lack Barnahus or Barnahus-type services. As a result, nearly half of the Parties still do not offer child victims of sexual abuse an integrated, child-friendly response.

Consequence: This increases the risk of ineffective and fragmented support, and undermines investigations, weakens protection, and may reduce reporting and prosecution rates.

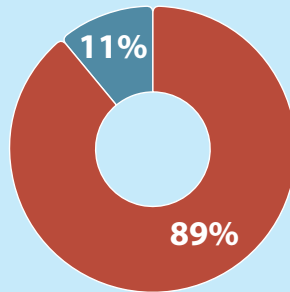
6 to 28% 

More Parties have **Barnahus** and/or **Barnahus-type services** in place



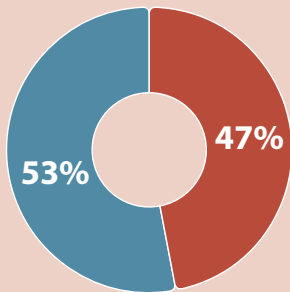
22 States out of 36

Use **standardised operational definitions and indicators** to classify data across administrations and sectors



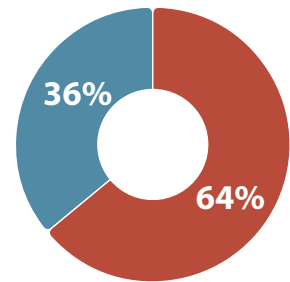
4 States out of 36

Conduct **regular surveys of children** to gather data relevant to child sexual abuse and exploitation



17 States out of 36

Collect **information about the relationship** between the child victim and the perpetrator



23 States out of 36

Provide for the **transmission** of convicted offenders' identity and DNA data to the **competent authority of another Party**



47th meeting of the Lanzarote Committee, Strasbourg, France

I. Composition of the Lanzarote Committee

1. In accordance with Rule 2 of the [Rules of Procedure](#), the Committee is composed of:
 - ▶ **Members:** the 48 State Parties to the Lanzarote Convention;
 - ▶ **Participants:** observer States to the Council of Europe which are not yet Parties to the Convention, States invited to accede to the Convention, the European Union, the United Nations, other intergovernmental organisations and Council of Europe institutions and bodies;
 - ▶ **Observers:** representatives of civil society who have been granted observer status by the Committee.

2. The Lanzarote Convention has **48 State Parties**, comprised of 46 member states of the Council of Europe, along with the Russian Federation and Tunisia.¹



■ States Parties to the Lanzarote Convention

3. The Lanzarote Convention is open to accession by states that are not of the Council of Europe, as specified in Article 46. Parties to the Convention are able to participate fully in the activities of the Lanzarote Committee, which include sharing information and experiences, engaging in peer review of the Convention's implementation through thematic monitoring rounds, and contributing to the interpretation of the Convention through the Committee's statements and opinions. Furthermore, the Convention serves as a legal basis for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters or extradition in respect of the offenses established in accordance with the Convention, eliminating the necessity for separate bilateral agreements.

4. The current composition of the Lanzarote Committee appears in Appendix II.

5. Maria José Castello-Branco continued to serve as Chair of the Committee during her second mandate. Philippe Olivier (France) held the position of Vice-Chairperson up to and including the 46th meeting (19-21 November 2025). On 26 March 2026, the Lanzarote Committee elected Páll Magnússon (Iceland) as its new Vice-Chairperson and Alexia de Rocquigny (France) as its new Bureau member. Appendix III contains information on the composition of the Lanzarote Committee Bureau and the list of Committee representatives to other bodies.

1. The map illustrates the countries that have ratified or acceded to the Lanzarote Convention. In accordance with Article 46 of the Convention, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe has extended an invitation to Morocco to join the Convention. However, as of the adoption date of this activity report, Morocco has not yet deposited the necessary instruments of accession.



44th meeting of the Lanzarote Committee, Strasbourg, France

II. Functions of the Lanzarote Committee

6. The functions of the Lanzarote Committee are outlined in Article 41 of the Convention. The Committee's primary roles include:

- ▶ monitoring how States Parties implement the Convention, and
- ▶ facilitating the collection, analysis and exchange of information, experiences and promising practices to strengthen efforts to prevent and address child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

7. In addition, the Committee promotes the effective application of the Convention, express an opinion on matters related to the Convention's implementation, and facilitate the exchange of information on important legal, policy, or technology developments.

– À part tenir? –

Que faire parfois, souvent,
À part tenir?
Tenir!
Tenir quoi?
La rampe, le cap, le coup.
Pour éviter quoi?
La chute, devenir fou.

Tenir comment?
Debout, droit, dignement.
Coûte que coûte!
A quel prix,
Vue l'inflation?

Que faire parfois, souvent,
À part tenir?
Sans retenir ses larmes
Maintenir son intérieure flamme

Obtenir si besoin
De l'aide, du soutien

Entretenir notre relation au monde
Se tenir prêt à accueillir
La résonance
S'abstenir de toute nuisance

Que faire parfois, souvent,
À part tenir?

Soutenir le langage des rencontres
Contenir la solitude

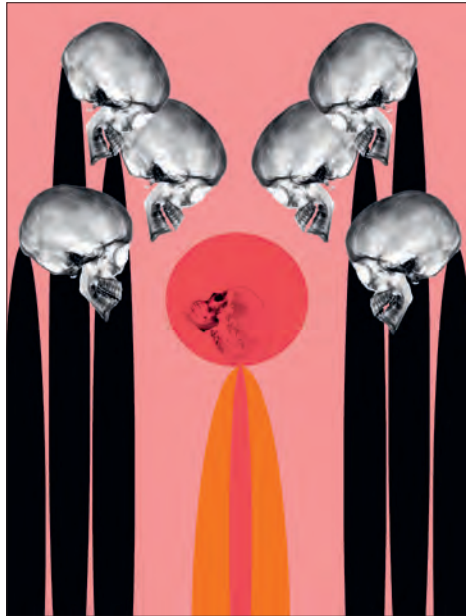
Tenir bon
Tenir à soi
Tenir à vous

Obtenir de l'absurde
D'éphémères mais fréquentes pauses

Appartenir à la vie
S'appartenir
Avec et pour autrui

A. Monitoring the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention

8. The Lanzarote Committee monitors how the Convention is implemented by conducting thematic monitoring rounds, during which all States Parties are reviewed simultaneously. This approach enables the Committee to generate focused attention on specific issues, helping to identify and promote promising practices and to provide recommendations to address common challenges faced by State Parties. It also allows the Committee to respond proactively to new trends and emerging issues as they arise in the course of its work.



*Anthony Lyons - without title
(United Kingdom)*

1. Protecting children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust: implementation report

9. At its 45th meeting (2-3 July 2025), the Committee adopted the [final implementation report](#) on protecting children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust. It examines how the 48 State Parties to the Lanzarote Convention can further strengthen their legal frameworks to better prevent abuse and protect victims in respect of 18 provisions of the Convention. It also measures progress made on this theme since the [first monitoring report](#) in 2015 which covered 26 countries, notably in respect of procedural safeguards for victims during criminal investigations and proceedings. Persistent gaps identified include the criminalisation of sexual abuse of any child under 18 years old, in the context of intrafamilial sexual abuse, and where there is no use of coercion, threat or force. Parties are also called upon to strengthen the provision of legal and psychological support provided to victims and those close to them, and the supervision and monitoring of offenders.²

10. During the discussions, the Committee identified key themes for future work, including the relationship between child sexual exploitation within the family and the criminalisation of “incest”, the use of restorative justice measures, guidance on the protection of professionals against repercussions for reporting, the protection of child victims against disclosure of personal information in the media and improving supervision and monitoring of those convicted of child sexual offences to prevent reoffending.

11. The implementation report was [published](#) in English and French on 15 October 2025. The executive summary and recommendations were also published in [twenty languages](#). Parties were invited to translate the recommendations and widely disseminate them at national level, as well as to hold national events to raise awareness about the key findings. The Committee additionally noted that it is usual practice to return to the “require” and “request” recommendations three years after the adoption of the implementation report to monitor progress made in their implementation.

2. See also the Key Highlights section.



2. Data collection mechanisms on child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse: implementation report

12. In 2025, the Committee continued assessing the information provided by the State Parties in response to the [survey](#) of the existing mechanisms for data collection on child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse launched in February 2024. Following a first examination of the draft implementation report at its 44th meeting (4-6 March 2025), it adopted the final [implementation report](#) at its 45th meeting on 3 July 2025.

13. The implementation report provides an [overview](#) of data collection systems regarding child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in 36 Lanzarote State Parties. It highlights that while all Parties collect some data, only a few have specialised mechanisms, with most relying on basic criminal statistics from police or ministries. Data from other sectors is seldom collected, and collaboration with civil society and strategic use of collected data for policy development is also rare. To address these gaps, the Lanzarote Committee recommends that State Parties diversify their data sources, involve civil society, streamline data entry, and use data for policy making and monitoring.

14. Evidence-based policy making was also the theme of 2025 [Day for the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse](#) marked annually on 18 November.³

3. See also the Key Highlights section and section II.B.1.



3. Technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse: compliance procedure

15. In 2025, the compliance procedure launched in October 2024 continued, evaluating the follow-up by the states of the recommendations made by the Committee in the monitoring round on the [protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies \(ICTs\)](#). The first thematic draft report focusing on the compliance with the 20 recommendations related to criminal and procedural law, was examined by the Committee at its 46th meeting (19-21 November 2025). Its revised version was subsequently adopted by the Committee at the 47th meeting (24-26 March 2026).

16. The second thematic draft report, concerning the compliance with the recommendations related to victim services and prevention, was discussed at the 47th meeting and will be examined again, with a view to adoption, at the 48th meeting (2-5 June 2026).

4. Screening of professionals, volunteers and other persons in contact with children: a new monitoring round

17. At its 46th meeting, the Committee decided to dedicate the next monitoring round to the screening of professionals, volunteers and other persons in contact with children. A draft thematic questionnaire was elaborated in a working group composed of the Committee members representing Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Greece and Lithuania.

18. The thematic questionnaire was adopted by the Committee at its 47th meeting, thus launching a new monitoring round. It was decided that Parties would submit their replies to the questionnaire by 30 June 2026.



Emma Webb – sports abuse (United Kingdom)

– 7 years –

1993 - 1994

I was abused

age 10/11

instead of having an education

A catholic priest took my childhood whilst

I was at school

1 Drawn on the school wall a triangle

When I told the police officer what happened

she said she was catholic and knew the diocese

I never felt so unsafe.

2 Drawn on the school wall a square

CICA in the UK paid me some cash after two years but a six month delay

was down to someone not downloading an email attachment.

I received no apology

3 Drawn on the school wall a circle

The hardest thing I did was the independent enquiry into childhood sexual abuse

When I got home I slept for 16 hours but I felt worse when it took celebrities making social

media comments for my government to consider IICSA recommendations.

4 Drawn on the school wall a rectangle

I've had 3 legal teams and 4 solicitors over seven years to get justice.

I never gave up but many told me I wouldn't win but I did.

5 Drawn on the school wall a star

Seeing my story in the press felt like real justice for me.

6 Drawn on the school wall a prism

I can no longer go into a church.

The last time I forced myself to as it was the wedding of my cousin

but I ended up in tears.

I have lost my faith because of what happened to me.

7 All of these shapes but I still don't fit

Finally after 7 years of legal battle to the high court my school offered

a financial settlement for my case but no apology

Let this poem be an apology for all of those who would turn away from children



18 NOVEMBER

European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

B. Exchange of information, experience and good practice

19. Empowered by the Convention to facilitate the exchange of experiences and promising practices among states to enhance their capacity to prevent and combat child sexual exploitation and abuse, the Committee organises capacity-building activities conferences and hearings on specific issues raised by the implementation of the Convention.

1. Day for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

20. The 11th edition of the Day (18 November 2025) focused on “[Strengthening the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse through evidence-based policy making](#)”.

21. On the occasion of the Day, the Council of Europe Secretary General Alain Berset stressed that actions to protect children and stop offenders must be firmly grounded in evidence. He [called](#) on Council of Europe states to strengthen data collection mechanisms, including by drawing on sources beyond criminal justice statistics, as a necessary and worthwhile investment to improve public policies and ensure better protection for children.

22. The Chairpersons of the Lanzarote Committee and the PACE Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development also adopted a [joint](#)

[statement](#) emphasising the importance of accurate and comprehensive data collection and using data to shape policy.

23. The 46 member states of the Council of Europe, at the initiative of a group of six states (Andorra, Belgium, Luxembourg, Monaco, San Marino and Slovenia) adopted a [joint statement](#) on the theme of this year's edition, in which they called on states to implement the recommendations of the Lanzarote Committee's [implementation report on data collection mechanisms](#). The statement focused in particular on the recommendations concerning cross-sectoral data collection and the involvement of civil society, setting up focal points, and the participation of children.

24. The Republic of Moldova, under the auspices of its Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, organised a capacity-building [conference](#) in Chişinău bringing together Lanzarote Committee members, international experts and high-level local officials and professionals, to discuss how evidence can better inform prevention and response measures, as well as policy making.⁴

25. The Republic of Moldova and North Macedonia launched national awareness-raising campaigns: in the Republic of Moldova the [campaign](#) was designed to inform professionals about the mechanisms for identifying and reporting sexual offences against children and to promote the use of support services; in [North Macedonia](#) it had a more general nature and was addressed to a wide public.

26. Armenia, the Netherlands and Morocco held national conferences: the [broad-spectrum event](#) in Armenia addressed, in particular, the findings of the European Court's judgments against Armenia, and the conferences in the Netherlands and Morocco focused on online child sexual abuse, with the Netherlands concentrating in particular on [cross-sectoral co-operation](#) and Morocco on [artificial intelligence risks](#).

27. In Italy, the national helpline association Fondazione SOS Azzurro also held a [conference](#) on the importance of data to protect children against sexual offences. In addition, a [Guide for Girls and Boys](#) to the National Plan for Preventing and Combating Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (2025-2027) was published by the authorities, intending to raise awareness and provide children and young people with key information about the actions included in the National Plan for their protection, using child-friendly language.

28. [Georgia](#) and Portugal held awareness-raising events in schools. Portugal also [published](#) a selection of child-friendly materials to educate children about their rights and body autonomy.

4. See also the Key Highlights section.

29. The Office of the Commissioner for Children in Malta published [an article](#) dedicated to the Day in the leading national newspaper.

30. Civil society organisations in [Belgium](#), [Cameroon](#), [Ethiopia](#), [France](#) and [Germany](#) undertook various awareness-raising and visibility-enhancing initiatives: from school plays and workshops to public manifestations to community and survivor workshops and publication of academic articles, all on the subject of the protection of children against sexual offences and assistance to victims and survivors.

31. A [social media kit](#) was developed and shared with key stakeholders to help raise awareness of the Day. 52 press articles covering activities associated with the 2025 Day were published in international media outlets. See the dedicated [webpage](#) for more information on other events organised on the occasion of the Day for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse.

32. At its 47th meeting, the Committee decided to dedicate the theme of the 2026 edition of the Day to ethical media reporting. New media guidelines were developed in [Spanish](#) within the framework of the [European Union-Council of Europe "Barnahus Spain" project](#) and are currently being refined into an international version that could be adapted to different national contexts.



*Melanie Boomsma - Inner Me, Inner Free
(Netherlands)*



44th meeting of the Lanzarote Committee, Strasbourg, France

2. Implementation of the Lanzarote Convention in State Parties

33. During the reporting period, the Committee continued to organise roundtable discussions in which members informed of national developments demonstrating the implementation and impact of the Lanzarote Convention in strengthening the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

34. At its 46th meeting, Lanzarote Committee representatives shared information on the national criminalisation of AI-generated child sexual abuse material (CSAM). 16 State Parties⁵ reported that their legal frameworks already criminalise such material, either explicitly or by implicitly including it within the broader definition of child sexual abuse material or “pornography.” In Germany, while the dissemination of AI-generated CSAM is already a criminal offence, additional legislative work is underway to more comprehensively address the specific phenomenon of “deep fakes”. Lithuania, meanwhile, informed the Committee that it is actively working to clarify the prosecution of AI-generated CSAM within its criminal legislation.

5. Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, France, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye and the United Kingdom.

35. The table below provides an overview of additional updates presented to the Committee at its 46th meeting (see the [meeting report](#) for more detail):

Type of change	Countries concerned
Amendments (and ongoing reforms) to substantive and procedural criminal law with regard to offences related to child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse	Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Croatia, Czechia, Germany, Greece, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom
National strategies or action plans	Albania, Czechia, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Republic of Moldova, Norway, Slovak Republic and Ukraine
Barnahus/MDIA centres for child victims	Armenia, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Greece and Portugal
Measures to address violence against children in the digital environment	Albania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova and Norway
Measures for child victim support and early intervention	Belgium, Czechia, Latvia, Lithuania and United Kingdom
Data collection and research	Germany and Republic of Moldova
Awareness-raising, education, and resources	Albania, Estonia and Lithuania

– All Mothers Do Their Best - But in What? –

All mothers do their best, I hear often.

But in what? I ask.

My mother did her best to give her all
to her chosen children -not to me.

She did her best to keep me silenced, framed unstable.
No one wanted to hear my story,
after all, it was easier to ignore the troubled child
and say all mothers do their best.

All mothers do their best, you say.

I know. Oh, I do know that so well.
The mother of the criminals did everything to keep their children safe
from getting caught.

But did you know that the mother of your child's friend could easily keep
your child's secret, and your child silenced?
After all, she would want to give all her energy to her own children
and avoid getting involved.
The days are long, family life demanding.
She is just trying her best as a mother.

Look away and secure your back.
Who cares about one child or two?

Nobody judges you. People understand you.
After all, all mothers do their best, and that is the end of the conversation.

*Daughter and relative of strong feminist women and mother.
They all did their best.*



25th OSCE Alliance against Trafficking in Persons conference – Council of Europe side event, 1 April 2025, Vienna, Austria

3. Participation in meetings on behalf of the Lanzarote Committee

36. Representatives from both the Committee and Secretariat frequently attend meetings and events on the Committee’s behalf to raise awareness about the Lanzarote Convention and the Committee’s work, engage with key partners, contribute to the creation of new standards and research, and help foster improved coordination and collaboration among stakeholders working to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse (see Appendix IV).

37. On the occasion of the 25th OSCE Alliance against Trafficking in Persons conference, the Council of Europe organised a side-event, in Vienna, on 1 April 2025, on [preventing trafficking and online exploitation among displaced children of Ukraine](#). The event focused in particular on the increased situation of vulnerability of displaced Ukrainian children to online sexual exploitation and trafficking. The event showcased how the Lanzarote Convention, the Cybercrime Convention and the Convention against Trafficking in Human Beings work together to protect children against sexual exploitation. The event underlined that these standards complement each other and explored the nexus between technology and trafficking. Corah Caples (Ireland) shared insights from the Lanzarote Committees work on technology-facilitated child sexual abuse, in particular as regards the solicitation and sexual extortion of children.

38. On the occasion of the [Mid-Term Review Conference of the Strategy for the Rights of the Child \(2022-2027\)](#), Lorna Muscat (Malta) and Sara Alaoui (Global Collaborative) shared insights about protecting children from violence through age-appropriate, comprehensive sexuality education. This session fed into the stakeholder consultation on the draft recommendation on this topic⁶.

39. On 22 May 2025, Maria José Castello-Branco (Chairperson, Portugal) [held an exchange](#) with the Committee of Ministers to present the Committee's [9th activity report](#). An active exchange followed her presentation which centred on the importance of protecting children against sexual offences facilitated by technologies and the importance of reducing barriers to justice including through the Committee's work on limitation periods.

40. In July 2025 three training workshops for child protection officers took place in various cities in Tunisia. George Nikolaidis (Greece), Philippe Olivier (Vice-Chairperson, France) and Lorna Muscat (Malta) each spoke at one of the trainings on preventing and protecting children against sexual violence. They presented the legal framework set out by the Lanzarote Convention along with promising practices of implementation in State Parties.

41. During the 46th meeting of the Lanzarote Committee, and on the occasion of the [Moldovan Presidency of the Committee of Ministers](#), the Chairperson took part in an exchange with parliamentarians at the Moldovan Parliament. The Chairperson delivered a presentation on the Lanzarote Convention, with a focus on technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse. This was followed by an informal discussion with the parliamentarians on the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention in the Republic of Moldova and on AI-facilitated sexual offences against children.

42. The Secretariat, alongside various representatives of the Lanzarote Committee, actively participated in several Council of Europe intergovernmental committees and standard-setting activities throughout the reporting period⁷:

- ▶ [Committee of Experts on Combatting Technology-Facilitated Violence against Women and Girls \(GEC/PC-eVIO\)](#): The Secretariat and Committee representatives attended the 3rd (3-4 April 2025) and 4th (30 September-2 October 2025) meetings of the Committee to contribute to discussions on the draft Recommendation on accountability for technology-facilitated violence against women and girls. This draft was subsequently [approved](#) by the Gender Equality Commission (GEC) and the Council of

6. See also section III.A.

7. For information about the Lanzarote Committee participation in the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child working groups (ENF-VAE and ENF-JUS), see also section III.A. For information about its participation in CGU meetings, see also section III.B.

Europe Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) on 26 November 2025. [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2026\)2](#) was subsequently adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 4 March 2026.

- ▶ [Committee of Experts on Online Safety and Empowerment of Content Creators and Users \(MSI-eSEC\)](#): The Secretariat and Committee representatives also participated in the 4th meeting of the MSI-eSEC (21-22 October 2025), where the draft Recommendation on online safety and the empowerment of users and content creators was finalised. This Recommendation was approved by the Steering [Committee on Media and Information Society \(CDMSI\)](#) on 5 December 2025 and is currently awaiting consideration by the Committee of Ministers with a view to adoption.



*Gemma Baker - Without title
(United Kingdom)*

– The Paths of Righteousness –

You led me down
The paths of righteousness
In search of justice
To restore my soul
And ease my pain
I've never lost faith
Or taken your name in vain
Yet, vindication eludes me

I've defended the oppressed
Took up the cause of the fatherless
Pleaded the case of the widow
Supported those in need
Yet failed to uphold righteousness
Consumed by anger and heed
Justice cannot be achieved
Does God not love the damned?

Alas, the siting of a unicorn
In the midst of the darkness
Its mystical horn illuminated
The paths of the righteousness
Like a beacon of hope
Towards a brighter future
While striking terror in the hearts
Of the evildoers who stained my soul
A sense of joy and satisfaction
Began taking control of me

Revenge is not justice
A criminal conviction is not justice
Civil judgments are not justice
Justice is a feeling of peace
Found in the depths of our souls
Allowing those who do not sway
From the paths of righteousness
To heal the pain endured
And move on feeling assured
The evildoers did not escape retribution



Satellite event for Latin America and the Caribbean: “Global Solutions for Global Problems: Lanzarote Convention against Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation”, 13 June 2025, Chile and online

4. Promoting accession to the Lanzarote Convention

43. Interest in the Lanzarote Convention continues to grow across all regions of the world, with many states expressing a desire to learn more about the Convention and the potential for accession. In response, the Lanzarote Committee and its Secretariat have maintained active efforts to promote the Convention at the international level.

44. These global outreach activities are mainly supported by the co-operation project “Lanzarote Convention as a tool to ensure a global coordinated protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.” During the reporting period, Cyprus, Liechtenstein, and Malta made financial contributions to support this project. The Committee and Secretariat used various opportunities, such as conferences, workshops, and bilateral or side meetings to raise awareness of the Lanzarote Convention and discuss possibilities for accession. The project, which runs until 31 December 2027, is currently only 10% funded, and remains open to additional financial contributions.

45. A notable example of these outreach activities was the participation in the [5th World Congress on Justice With Children](#), celebrated in Madrid on 2 June 2025. The Council of Europe organised a [parallel session](#) “Bridging the Gap: International Standards and National Practices in Child Sexual Violence

Proceedings” to promote the Lanzarote Convention and to explore how policy makers and legal operators can use these international standards and the Council of Europe Guidelines on Child-friendly Justice, in the light of European Court of Human Rights case-law, to prevent secondary victimisation. The session additionally showcased the Barnahus model as a promising practice to protect child victims and witnesses of violence.

46. In the same framework, a [satellite event](#) for Latin America and the Caribbean was organised on 13 June jointly by the Council of Europe and the Office of the Ombudsman for Children in Chile ([Defensoría de La Niñez](#)) and supported by [Baker McKenzie](#). This high-level roundtable “[Global Solutions for Global Problems: Lanzarote Convention against Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation](#)” was held in Santiago (Chile) and online to address the urgent global issue of sexual violence against children, with a special focus on international co-operation. María José Castello-Branco, Chair of the Lanzarote Committee, opened the roundtable with a brief overview of the Lanzarote Convention. Eugenia Pozo Morillas (Netherlands) shared practical insights and the impact of the Lanzarote Committee’s work across State Parties. The Council of Europe Children’s Rights Division presented the Barnahus model as a promising practice for implementing the Convention, along with other Council of Europe resources, such as the [HELP online training course](#) on the Protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse. The event brought together 85 national and international stakeholders in the context of Chile’s growing interest in the Lanzarote Convention. In this context, the Children’s Ombudsman launched an awareness campaign “[MovimientoPorLanzarote](#)” (Movement For Lanzarote), to raise awareness about the Lanzarote Convention and promote coordination among various government led initiatives in this area.

47. On 5 June 2025, the Secretariat organised a [workshop](#) on “Child sexual exploitation and abuse materials (CSAM) in the era of artificial intelligence” in the framework of the [Octopus Conference](#) (4-6 June 2025, Strasbourg). During the workshop, participants were informed about the Lanzarote Committee’s work including the [Declaration](#) on protecting children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by emerging technologies adopted in 2024.

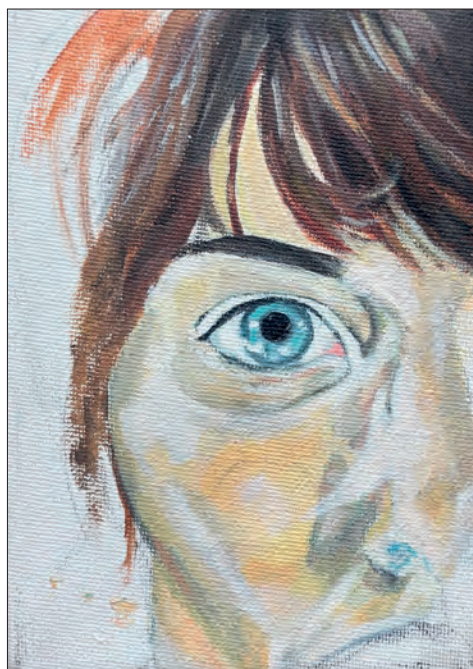
48. On 4 September 2025, the Secretariat presented the Lanzarote Convention and the Committee’s work at the 32nd International Congress on the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse (Afecto) in the panel “Towards Safer Recruitment in Sports”.

49. In October 2025, the Executive Secretary of the Lanzarote Committee participated in two major international events to promote the Committee’s work and objectives. She attended the [UNICEF Ministerial Conference](#) on

Ending Violence Against Children in Bucharest, building on the momentum from the [Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children](#) held in 2024. Additionally, she took part in the [ISPCAN Conference](#) in Vilnius the same month. Both events provided valuable opportunities for bilateral discussions with representatives from numerous countries, further supporting efforts to advance the Lanzarote Convention's aims.

50. On 9 December 2025, the Secretariat participated in the webinar “Legislation and Policies Against Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse: Central Asia”, organised by UNICEF ECARO. During the webinar, the Secretariat delivered a presentation on the international standards established by the Lanzarote Convention.

51. On the same date, the Secretariat participated in the Workshop “[Gender-Based Violence in Digital Spaces: From Social Networks to Virtual Worlds](#)”, organised by the Council of Europe Office in Rabat and the Moroccan National Crime Observatory, to raise awareness about the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention in the digital age.



*Sarah Michelle - Without title
(United Kingdom)*

52. On 12 November 2025, the Secretariat led an Informal exchange on the Convention for the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (Lanzarote Convention), organised ahead of the [33rd Cybercrime Convention Committee \(T-CY\) Plenary](#). The aim of the exchange was to raise awareness among Spanish-speaking Parties to the [Convention on Cybercrime](#) of the complementary nature and added value of the Lanzarote Convention.

53. On 19 January 2026, the Secretariat presented the most recent Lanzarote Committee activities in the [Twenty-fourth meeting of the Council Working Group on Child Online Protection \(CWG-COP\)](#). This Working Group serves as a platform for International Telecommunications Union (ITU) member states, sector members, and child online protection experts to share insights, exchange knowledge, and engage in discussions on good practices, collaborations, and initiatives at local, national, and international levels in the field of child online protection. The [Joint Statement on Artificial Intelligence and the Rights of the Child](#) was signed on the margins of this event.

54. Following an interest expressed by the authorities of Chile, a representative of its Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended the 47th Plenary meeting of the Lanzarote Committee as an ad hoc observer.



Launch of the HELP course on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, 4 February 2026, Zagreb, Croatia

5. HELP courses on children's rights

55. The Council of Europe's European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) aims to strengthen the capacity of professionals in all 46 Council of Europe member states and beyond, to effectively apply human rights standards in their daily work. HELP courses are offered free of charge upon registration, and participants receive certification upon successful completion of each course.

56. The HELP course on the [Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse](#) was launched in March 2025 in English and French. Since then, it has been translated into Arabic, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Croatian, Spanish and Ukrainian. The nationally adapted versions of the course, which take into account the national legal and policy frameworks, have been launched in [Azerbaijan](#), [Armenia](#), [Croatia](#) and [Spain](#) and will soon be launched in Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova. More than 1,800 participants have enrolled in the course across the different language versions. This course is designed to equip professionals with a better understanding of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, including the Lanzarote Convention, and provide them with a detailed knowledge of the legal and policy instruments available to address it.

57. The 2023 updated version of the HELP course on [Child-friendly Justice](#) has already been translated into Albanian, Arabic, Bulgarian, Greek, Italian, Macedonian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Serbian, Slovenian, and Spanish. The course covers key international and European instruments on child-friendly justice and offers practical guidance on their application.

58. An new course on [Children's Rights in the Digital Environment](#) is also available in English on the same platform. It aims to support legal professionals and other relevant stakeholders in understanding the current challenges and developments in the field and identify and apply the existing and emerging legal standards in relation to children's rights in the digital environment.



Council of Europe Workshop on Freedom of Expression in immersive realities, 2 October 2025, Strasbourg, France

6. Co-operation with other Council of Europe bodies

59. Effective implementation of the Lanzarote Convention is strengthened through close co-operation with other Council of Europe bodies and monitoring mechanisms. During the reporting period, the Lanzarote Committee continued to engage with key partners such as the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), the Parliamentary Assembly and the Cybercrime Convention Committee. These collaborative efforts facilitate the exchange of expertise, enhance coherence across different areas of the Council of Europe’s work and reinforce joint responses to the evolving risks of child sexual exploitation and abuse.

60. At its 44th meeting (4-6 March 2025), the Lanzarote Committee held an exchange with Antoaneta Vassileva (President ad interim of GRETA) and Petya Nestorova (Executive Secretary to the [Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings](#)). They updated the Committee about GRETA’s [ongoing monitoring activities](#), highlighted a notable shift toward online forms of sexual exploitation, including an increase in trafficking related to child sexual abuse material, and emphasised the particular situation of vulnerability of missing children and [those affected by the war in Ukraine](#). They also noted a marked rise in children being sexually abused online and stressed the importance of child victims having access to tailored support

services regardless of how the crime is prosecuted. The discussion revealed shared challenges, such as completing and streamlining criminal law definitions, ensuring child victims are not held criminally liable for self-generated material and recognising the elevated risks faced by unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. The Committee [agreed](#) on the need to address these issues collaboratively and to continue strengthening co-operation and information sharing with GRETA.

61. The Lanzarote Committee and its Secretariat have maintained contacts with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), in particular with the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development and the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination. Rónán Mullen (Member of the PACE Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development) participated in the 46th meeting of the Lanzarote Committee and informed that a report is currently being prepared within the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination on the issue of [violent pornography](#), to which the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development will contribute an opinion. He noted that on 3 October 2025, PACE adopted [Resolution 2629 \(2025\) on “Sexual violence against men and boys”](#), which calls for the abolition of statutes of limitations for sexual offences against children and emphasises the importance of involving victims and survivors in policy development. In advance of the 2025 edition of the Day for the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, the Social Affairs Committee had an exchange of views with the Lanzarote Committee Secretariat.

62. On 2 October 2025, the Secretariat presented the [background paper](#) and [Lanzarote Committee Declaration](#) on “Emerging technologies: threats and opportunities for the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse” at a [workshop](#) organised under the authority of the [Steering Committee on Media and Information Society \(CDMSI\)](#) to discuss a Feasibility study on freedom of expression in immersive realities.

63. The Lanzarote Committee and its Secretariat have continued to work in close collaboration with the [Council of Europe Cybercrime Convention Committee \(T-CY\)](#)⁸ and the [Cybercrime Programme Office \(C-PROC\)](#). At its 46th meeting, the [Second additional protocol on enhanced co-operation and disclosure of electronic evidence](#) to the Convention on Cybercrime was presented, which provides concrete tools for international co-operation and investigations. At this meeting, the Lanzarote Committee [agreed](#) to hold a joint exchange with T-CY on 2 June 2026 during the Committee 48th meeting.

8. For more information about joint activities with T-CY, see also sections II.B.5) and 7).



European Court of Human Rights case-law on child sexual exploitation and abuse

64. The case-law of the [European Court of Human Rights](#) plays a key role in shaping and reinforcing the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention. The European Court of Human Rights has interpreted Articles 3 (prohibition of torture and ill-treatment) and 8 (right to private and family life) of the European Convention on Human Rights as imposing on states the obligation not only to criminalise sexual offences against children but also to ensure the effective enforcement of such laws through investigation and prosecution. In fulfilling these duties, states must give due consideration to the particular situation of vulnerability of children, as well as to their dignity and rights, given due weight to their best interests.

65. In its [judgments](#), the Court has increasingly referred to the the Lanzarote Convention as a relevant international instrument when interpreting states' positive obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights, in particular with regard to the prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, effective investigation and child-friendly judicial proceedings. Conversely, the monitoring work of the Lanzarote Committee takes due account of the Court's jurisprudence, ensuring consistency between the Lanzarote Convention's standards and the evolving interpretation of the European Convention on Human Rights. This contributes to the coherent development of legal standards at European level and strengthens the practical impact of both instruments in the protection of children.

66. During this reporting period, in [L. and Others v. France](#) (nos. 46949/21, 24989/22 and 39759/22, 24 April 2025), concerning three girls 13, 14, and 16 at the time of the events and in particularly vulnerable situations, the Court found violations of Articles 3 and 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights in respect of the failures to protect them from sexual offences and to conduct effective investigations. The Court emphasised the need for legal frameworks and practices that protect children and prevent secondary victimisation, a concern also central to the Lanzarote Convention's monitoring and recommendations.

67. More recently, in [Z v. Iceland](#) (no. 3538/21, 13 January 2026), which concerned the investigation into Z's complaint that she had been sexually assaulted at a festival when she was 16 years old, the European Court held, unanimously, that there had been a violation of Article 8 of the European Convention, and no violation of Article 14 read in conjunction with Article 8. The Court found that, while the police investigation had been thorough, the prosecuting authorities had failed to apply a consent-centred standard when assessing whether to prosecute the suspect. Although he had admitted initiating sexual contact with Z without any prior indication of her consent, the authorities had focussed on whether the harassment had been intentional rather than on whether he had had any reason to assume consent had been given.

68. A further illustration of the interconnection between the European Court of Human Rights and the Lanzarote Convention is provided by the judgment in [Helme v. Estonia](#) (no. 3023/22, 7 October 2025) a case concerning online grooming and covert online surveillance. The Court found no violation of the rights of the persons convicted as a result of an online undercover police operation involving sexually explicit exchanges with an officer posing as a 12-year-old child, holding that the authorities had acted on credible information and had conducted the operation in a passive manner without incitement. Importantly, the Court recognised that online grooming may occur entirely in the digital sphere, without any physical meeting, and emphasised the particular situation of vulnerability of children, who may not realise that they are being victimised or be able to report such offences. This approach is consistent with the Lanzarote Committee's 2015 Opinion on Article 23 of the Lanzarote Convention, which encourages states to consider extending criminalisation of grooming to situations where the sexual abuse takes place online without any physical meeting.



45th meeting of the Lanzarote Committee, Sliema, Malta

7. Co-operation with other international organisations

69. Co-operation, coordinated action, and strong partnerships between the Lanzarote Committee and other intergovernmental organisations are essential to effectively combine efforts to combat child sexual exploitation and abuse. According to Rule 2.2.2. of the [Rules of Procedure](#) of the Lanzarote Committee, international organisations (EU, UN, EUROPOL, INTERPOL, among others) are invited to participate in the Committee meetings. In the reporting period, State Parties' representatives and the Secretariat have participated in events organised by other organisations, at which they presented the Lanzarote Convention and the Committee's work.⁹

70. At the 45th meeting of the Lanzarote Committee, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children addressed the Committee and debriefed on her mandate. She highlighted that advancing implementation of the Lanzarote Convention also supports the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. She encouraged the Committee to further strengthen engagement with non-Party countries and stakeholders and underscored the importance of ensuring the Lanzarote Convention remains relevant and responsive to new technological and societal developments.

⁹. See also sections II.B.4) and 5).

71. During the 46th meeting of the Lanzarote Committee, INTERPOL updated the Committee on INTERPOL’s “[Preventing the Cycle of Harm](#)” project, with a focus on improving investigations, building law enforcement capacity, institutionalising victim-centred standards, and enhancing global coordination. The International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) database continues to play a crucial role, now containing details on approximately 58,000 victims and 24,000 offenders from across the globe. An upcoming resolution at the United Nations General Assembly to promote safeguarding standards for law enforcement worldwide was announced.



72. At both its 45th and 46th meetings, the Committee benefited from regular updates provided by EUROPOL on the agency’s evolving priorities and operational achievements in tackling online child sexual exploitation and abuse. EUROPOL informed about [Operation Cumberland](#), targeting the global trade in AI-generated child sexual abuse material created for payment; and [Operation Stream](#), which dismantled a large online platform facilitating live-streamed child sexual abuse for profit; and the project European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats ([EMPACT](#)). EUROPOL also introduced the [Help4U platform](#), a child-friendly online resource providing access to national help services.



Brave Movement intervention during the Informal Conference of Ministers on the 15th anniversary of the Lanzarote Convention, 1 July 2025, Valletta, Malta

8. Co-operation with civil society

73. The Lanzarote Committee continued its established engagement with civil society observers. As part of this collaboration, an annual session is organised for observers to present their latest initiatives and activities, offering valuable insights to inform the Committee's ongoing work. The most recent exchange was held during the 46th meeting of the Committee (see the [meeting report](#) for more detail).

74. The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) presented [IWF's 2024 key annual data and insights](#), reporting 424,047 processed reports of suspected child sexual abuse material (CSAM), an 8% increase from 2023. Notably, 97% of the material involved girls, and 62% was hosted in EU member states. Since June 2025, IWF has addressed 17 incidents of AI-generated CSAM hosted on AI-chatbot websites accessible on the clear web and is now developing best-practice guidance on this issue. Other recent IWF actions include publishing a [paper](#) on technology and privacy and evaluating the effectiveness of the [reThink chatbot](#) for CSAM prevention.

75. The Brave Movement briefed the Committee on the organisation's engagement at the G20 meeting in South Africa and recent campaigns. The new "[Justice Without Borders](#)" report advocates for the abolition of statutes of limitations for child sexual abuse offences in the EU, while "[The Third Richest](#)

Nation” campaign quantifies the economic cost of violence against children and calls for greater investment in prevention. They additionally presented their [concept note](#) on the need for a universal definition of “survivor”, supported by research on the differing wellbeing impacts of victim versus survivor terminology. Following the presentation, Committee members exchanged perspectives on how current usage varies across Parties.

76. Protect Children Finland shared progress on the “[You are Enough](#)” support programme providing evidence-based assistance to families affected by CSEA, the global survivor survey “[Our Voice](#)” and the resulting report on [male survivors](#), and the [Redirection online self-help programme](#). The project “[Tell me more about tech](#)” indicated that by age ten, 17% of surveyed children had seen pornography, 12% had seen CSAM, and 29% had viewed AI-generated CSAM, with 10% stating they had created such material.

77. Missing Children Europe presented [CESAGRAM project](#) outcomes, recommending holistic responses to grooming and missing children’s cases, further research on the role of dating apps and survivor-informed education. The “[Data Missing](#)” project urges member states to collect and publish minimum indicators on missing children, appoint coordinating bodies, and monitor situations of vulnerability among at-risk children.

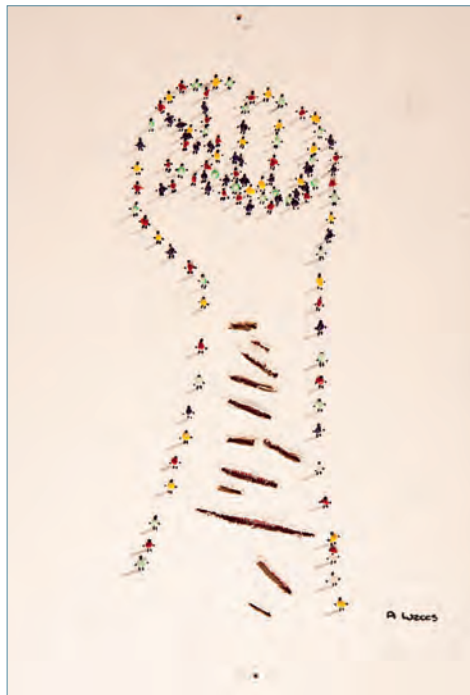
78. INHOPE [reported](#) sharp increases in CSAM in 2024 compared to 2023, with media files per URL shared among hotlines up 218%, files containing CSAM up 202% and new content up 35%. There is continued growth of self-generated, AI-generated, and encrypted material, as well as a rise in sexual extortion, geolocation shifts, and new forms of AI-related CSAM. INHOPE will focus on breaking sectoral silos, strengthening international co-operation, and advancing technical solutions in 2026.

79. The International Association of Youth and Family Magistrates (AIMJF) introduced its recent activities, including global webinars on child justice and [research](#) on child participation as victims or witnesses in criminal cases across 45 countries, exploring the challenges and implications for children in these proceedings.

80. WeProtect Global Alliance regularly updated the Committee, including on a joint report with Thorn titled “[Evolving Technologies Horizon Scan](#)” which reviews technological risks and opportunities in combating online child sexual exploitation. The organisation also highlighted WeProtect’s May 2025 research paper on [the health and wellbeing of frontline responders](#), as well as a report focusing on harmful sexual behaviours and the dynamics of sexual abuse

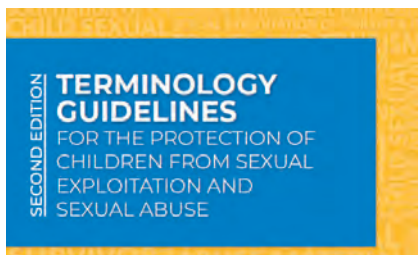
between children. Additionally, it announced a new edition of the [Global Threat Assessment](#).

81. These contributions from civil society continue to inform the Committee's priorities and reinforce collaborative efforts to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse in both offline and online environments. As highlighted during its 46th meeting, the Committee continues to consider how best to strengthen the participation of civil society in its monitoring activities and to identify priorities for enhancing civil society's role in advancing the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention.



*Andrew Watts - Without title
(United Kingdom)*

82. During the Lanzarote Committee 46th meeting, the Secretariat presented the second edition of the [Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse](#). The revised guidelines were published in March 2025 to provide guidance in relation to new technologies, new crime types and provide clarity about existing terms. Over 40 organisations, including the Council of Europe, took part in the interagency working group. [Guiding principles on preventing victim-blaming language, communication and behaviours](#) were published in complement to the revised terminology guidelines.



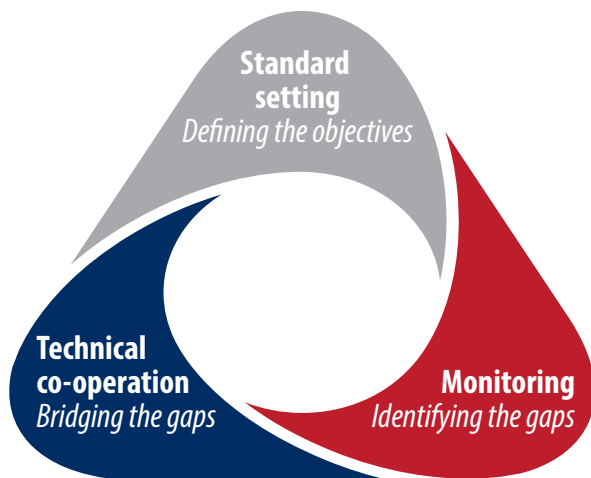


Mid-term Review Conference of the Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027), 3-4 April 2025, Strasbourg, France

III. The Lanzarote Committee within the Council of Europe Strategic Framework

83. The activities carried out by the Lanzarote Committee must be understood within the broader and strategic framework of the Council of Europe's work and in particular within its Sub-programme on [Children's Rights](#) and the [Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child \(2022-2027\)](#).

84. The Council of Europe's action to prevent and combat sexual violence against children is structured around a dynamic triangular approach based on three complementary and interlinked pillars: standard-setting, monitoring and technical co-operation. This approach ensures that policy responses are underpinned by legally binding and non-binding standards, informed by systematic monitoring of their implementation and supported by targeted technical assistance to member states at national, regional and local levels.



85. Within this framework, the Lanzarote Committee plays a central role through its monitoring mandate under the Lanzarote Convention. The Committee's monitoring activities contribute directly to the effective implementation of the Convention, while also informing the further development and clarification of standards and guiding technical co-operation activities.

86. The following section presents the contribution of the Lanzarote Committee's monitoring work to the Council of Europe's broader action in the areas of standard-setting and technical co-operation. It highlights the complementarity and interaction between these functions, which together ensure that the standards of the Lanzarote Convention are translated into practical measures and sustained improvements in the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

A. The Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)

87. Acting under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, and guided by the Council of Europe's legal standards, the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, and the findings and recommendations of relevant monitoring bodies, the [Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child \(CDENF\)](#) leads the Organisation's intergovernmental work in the field of children's rights.

88. During the reporting period, the CDENF's work addressed, inter alia, age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education and multidisciplinary, interagency services for child-friendly justice, including the Barnahus model. Representatives of the Lanzarote Committee and the Secretariat have actively contributed to the work and discussions of the expert groups, have followed attentively [CDENF plenary meetings](#) and participated as speakers at the [Mid-term Review Conference of the Strategy for the Rights of the Child \(2022-2027\)](#).

89. In 2024, the [second implementation review](#) of Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)10 on Council of Europe policy guidelines on integrated national strategies for the protection of children from violence indicated that, while many member states have adopted national strategies addressing various forms of violence, the integration of measures to prevent and address sexual violence remains uneven and, in some cases, insufficient. Against this background, in 2025 the CDENF's specialised expert group on violence against children [ENF-VAE](#)) adopted a [feasibility study](#) on age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education, a [study](#) on sexual violence and harmful sexual behaviour displayed by children and a [guidance note](#) on safeguarding children from the risks of accessing online pornographic content. These outputs aim, inter alia, to strengthen prevention and response mechanisms in relation to sexual violence and harmful sexual behaviour by children.

90. In parallel, in 2025 the expert group responsible for the development of a draft Recommendation on multidisciplinary and interagency services for child-friendly justice, including operational guidelines ([ENF-JUS](#)), initiated work on this instrument. This process is of particular relevance to the Lanzarote Committee and illustrates the interrelationship between monitoring, technical co-operation, and standard-setting, as the Committee had identified the Barnahus model as a promising practice to support child victims and witnesses of sexual exploitation and abuse as early as 2015, subsequently supported its implementation through Council of Europe technical co-operation projects and, on the basis of experience gained through those projects, contributed to identifying the need for an international standard-setting process in the absence of specific intergovernmental legal standards in this area.



B. Co-operation projects

91. Through national and regional [co-operation projects](#), the Co-operation and Capacity Building Unit of the Council of Europe Children's Rights Division supports member states in implementing the Lanzarote Convention and the recommendations of the Lanzarote Committee to prevent and respond to child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. These projects translate legal commitments into practical measures tailored to national and regional contexts, providing technical assistance, professional training, and awareness-raising initiatives. A key focus is on promoting integrated child protection systems that bring together justice, social services, health, and education sectors. Project designs draw systematically on the monitoring outcomes of the Lanzarote Committee and the work of the CDENF, ensuring that international standards and recommendations are operationalised in practice. Further details are provided in the [Technical Co-operation Strategy 2022–2027: Supporting the Implementation of Children's Rights at Regional and National Level](#).

Preventing and combatting violence against children, including sexual violence

92. The Republic of Moldova Phase III project "[Ensuring an effective framework for the protection of children from all forms of violence and ensuring child-friendly justice](#)" aims to strengthen the national child protection system, including responses to online child sexual exploitation and abuse. It is supporting legislative reforms, strengthening interagency co-operation, and enhancing the capacity of professionals to prevent and respond to violence

against children. A public awareness campaign “[Child Protection Starts with You](#)” was launched in November 2025, aiming to strengthen the role of each specialist in preventing, recognising and reporting cases of sexual abuse or exploitation of children. The project is currently developing a methodology for data collection and annual reporting with a view to embed evidence-based policymaking in government processes.

93. The Council of Europe project supporting [Georgia’s](#) reform agenda on the rights of the child continued to focus on strengthening the quality of responses to violence against children, with particular emphasis on online child sexual exploitation and abuse. Throughout the reporting period, the project delivered a [specialised training](#) for legal professionals, as well as a [Social & Behaviour Change methodology](#) training, supported the review of child protection legislation and procedures, and promoted interagency co-operation. Awareness-raising activities were organised nationwide, including educational campaigns in schools.

Supporting the implementation of Barnahus

94. In [Croatia](#), the joint Council of Europe and European Union (SGREFORM) project to support the implementation of the Barnahus model in Croatia adopted a Roadmap and Cost Structure Analysis, a Report on Procedures and Protocols supporting an inter-agency agreement, including a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and a [Survey on Perceptions of Child Sexual Abuse in Croatia](#). On 8 October 2025, the Croatian version of the [HELP course on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse](#) was launched in Zagreb.

95. In [Ireland](#), Phase II of the Council of Europe and European Union (SGREFORM) was launched in September 2025. It aims to scale up Barnahus implementation nationwide, address identified challenges and consolidate sustainable governance structures among the four main agencies involved. On 9-11 December 2025, an [advanced pilot training](#) on adopting a trauma-informed approach to child sexual abuse was delivered.

96. In [Spain](#), Phase II of the Council of Europe and European Union (SGREFORM) Barnahus project launched HELP adapted courses on [child-friendly justice](#) and on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. In September 2025, a national delegation visited Sweden to learn from their experience implementing Barnahus. In November 2025, the Advisory Group adopted an updated national mapping Study, a Baseline implementation report and a [Guide for Journalists](#) promoting ethical and child-sensitive reporting on cases of violence against children, including sexual violence. The latest

has drawn the attention of the Lanzarote Committee and will be adapted into an international version. Finally, the project is currently conducting a Gap analysis on the reporting systems on violence against children, including sexual violence, existing in Spain and its regions that will include a comparative analysis with the [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2023\)8 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on strengthening reporting systems on violence against children and its Explanatory Memorandum](#).

Child-friendly justice

97. The Council of Europe and European Union [Child-friendly justice](#) project, which aims to improve the protection of children in contact with the law as offenders, victims or witnesses, launched the [Child-Friendly Justice Assessment Tool](#) in English, French, Dutch, Polish and Slovenian. It supports member states in evaluating and strengthening their justice systems to ensure they are truly child-friendly and provides key indicators to assess national legislation, institutions and practices in line with the [Council of Europe Guidelines on Child-friendly Justice](#). In addition, between June and November 2025, Training of trainers (ToT) sessions and child rights awareness raising sessions took place in Belgium, Poland and Slovenia.

Upholding the rights of the child during and in post-war contexts

98. In 2025, the Council of Europe continued to support the authorities in [Ukraine](#) through the project “[Protecting the rights of Ukrainian children and ensuring child-friendly justice](#),” with a central focus on improving the institutional response to violence against children in the context of the ongoing armed conflict including sexual violence. The project delivered advanced training workshops for professionals, including social workers, psychologists, [legal practitioners](#), and educators, particularly on [mediation in restorative justice involving children](#), [interagency co-operation](#) and standards for the protection of child victims and witnesses. Resources and guidelines on supporting children affected by war and displacement were developed and disseminated to relevant stakeholders. The project also heavily supported Ukraine’s efforts to uphold child-friendly justice by reviewing two draft laws on child-friendly justice and providing a set of recommendations on how to bring them in line with international standards. Another stream of work focused on the involvement and recruitment of children by the Russian Federation to commit crimes against the national security of Ukraine specifically sabotage, terrorism and targeted arson attacks and how to prosecute such crimes.

99. The Council of Europe project “[Protecting the rights of children in Armenia](#)” has been extended until 31 December 2026, during which it will support



national authorities in implementing the recently adopted child protection package of laws and further strengthening safeguards against child sexual abuse and exploitation. During the reporting period, it launched the Armenian version of the HELP course “Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse”. Additionally, a roundtable was held focusing on the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, during which the Lanzarote Committee’s recommendations for Armenia, as outlined in the report “Protecting Children Against Sexual Abuse in the Circle of Trust: Legal Frameworks”, were presented.

Protecting children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies

100. The End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse@Europe Plus ([EndOCSEA@Europe+](#)) finalised in December 2025. During the reporting period, two gap analyses reports on legislation, policies, and practices to prevent and combat OCSEA (Republic of Moldova and Montenegro) were adopted. The project additionally developed a [Training of trainers module for frontline professionals](#) and designed and delivered two [training programmes](#) (legal professionals and frontline professionals) on preventing and combating OCSEA in each focus country (Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Montenegro). An [independent external evaluation](#) highlights the project’s contribution to tangible impact, including the ratification of the Lanzarote Convention by

Armenia and Azerbaijan, setting up child-friendly interview rooms, national hotlines, and new legal provisions addressing grooming and online abuse.

101. The Council of Europe is currently implementing a two-year project in [Azerbaijan](#) focused on protecting children from violence and sexual exploitation and abuse, including in digital environments, within the framework of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Azerbaijan (2022–2026).

Activities under the Council of Europe Neighbourhood Partnership Agreements

102. Within the framework of the Neighbourhood Partnership agreement between Tunisia and the Council of Europe (2022–2025), three training workshops for child protection officers were held in Tunis from April to July 2025.

103. In the context of the Neighbourhood Partnership agreement between Morocco and the Council of Europe (2022–2025), the Secretariat participated in the Workshop “[Gender-Based Violence in Digital Spaces: From Social Networks to Virtual Worlds](#)”, organised by the Council of Europe Office in Rabat and the Moroccan National Crime Observatory, to raise awareness about the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention in the digital age.

Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine (CGU)

104. The [Council of Europe Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine \(CGU\)](#) is a multilateral co-operation platform dedicated to strengthening the protection of the rights of children affected by the war in Ukraine, whether they have fled to Council of Europe member states, remained in Ukraine or have returned following unlawful deportation to the Russian Federation and Belarus. Bringing together 43 member states, the most relevant international organisations, civil society actors and independent experts, the CGU functions both as a peer-review platform and as a rapid response mechanism, enabling the identification of urgent priority issues and the provision of practical solutions and resources for professionals supporting children from Ukraine. During 2026, the CGU will address, inter alia accountability for conflict-related sexual violence against children as well as online safety and emerging risks associated with AI-generated content in the context of war.

105. In July 2025, Kristina Stepanova (Lithuania) participated in the CGU’s 8th plenary meeting, during which the Manual for professionals on “[Mental health and psycho-social support for children in crisis and emergency situations](#)” was discussed, as well as other topics relevant to the mandate of the Lanzarote Committee, such as heightened risks of trafficking in human beings and online exploitation.



Adapted awareness raising materials

106. Since 2015, the Council of Europe has developed various awareness-raising and communication tools and resources for [children](#), [parents](#), [national authorities](#) and for [professionals](#) working for and with children on the protection of children against child sexual exploitation and abuse.

107. During the reporting period, partners translated a number of child-friendly materials into non-official languages, with the authorisation of the Council of Europe. The EU support for Rule of Law project translated “[Kiko and the Hand](#)” and “[Kiko and the Manymes](#)” (books, guidelines for parents, TV spot and posters), the “[So, this is sexual abuse?](#)” leaflet, and the videos “[Tell someone you trust](#)” and “[The Lake](#)” into Albanian and Macedonian. These translations supported a national awareness-raising campaign launched on the occasion of the [18 November: Day for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse](#) (#EndChildSexualAbuseDay), and were integrated into a planned training programme for kindergarten, primary and secondary school teachers. 17 introductory workshops and 3 online follow-up workshops are planned to be delivered across North Macedonia, with an estimated reach of 425 professionals.

108. The Ministry of Justice and Digital Affairs of Estonia translated Kiko materials and [Training for Trainers manual](#) into [Estonian](#). In Portugal, the National Commission for the Promotion of Rights and the Protection of Children and Young People translated “[Kiko and the Manymes](#)” materials and the leaflet “[So, this is sexual abuse?](#)” into [Portuguese](#) and disseminated them through its website and social media in connection with #EndChildSexualAbuseDay.

109. Curaçao continued its national awareness-raising campaign launched by the Minister of Justice on 18 November 2024. The campaign aims to teach young children the Underwear Rule using Kiko materials translated into Papiamentu. In addition to Kiko [bus and school tours](#), the territory has developed multiple goodies (jigsaws, pencils, water bottles, t-shirts, hand puppets for teachers). These materials are used to raise awareness and empower both children and adults to prevent child sexual abuse and strengthen child protection.

110. In addition, Japan has continued disseminating [translated materials](#) and raising awareness about child sexual exploitation and abuse.

111. Finally, the [Children's Rights Newsletter](#) was relaunched in November 2025, presenting recent developments and main achievements related to the promotion of children's right and child protection. Interested parties may [subscribe online](#) to receive the biannual editions.

Appendices

Appendix I – List of meetings of the Lanzarote Committee

Plenary meetings

- ▶ 45th meeting: In-person only meeting, 2-3 July 2025, Sliema, Malta
- ▶ 46th meeting: In-person only meeting, 19-21 November 2025, Chişinău, Republic of Moldova
- ▶ 47th meeting: In-person only meeting, 24-26 March 2026, Strasbourg, France

Appendix II – Composition of the Lanzarote Committee

(as of 26 March 2026)

Members

State Parties to the Convention

ALBANIA

Alma TANDILI
Chairperson of the
State Agency for the Protection of
Children's Rights
Ministry of Health and Social
Protection

ANDORRA

Lara FORTÓ RIBERA
Psychologue
Unité « Enfance et Adolescence »
Ministère des Affaires sociales et de
la Fonction publique

ARMENIA

Mariam CHIFLIKYAN
Advisor Coordinating Separate
Functions in Structural Units
Ministry of Justice

AUSTRIA

Manuela TROPACHER
Judge
Legal Advisor
Federal Ministry of Justice

AZERBAIJAN

Kamil ABDULLAYEV
Inspector-Translator
Main Department on Combatting
Trafficking in Human Beings
Ministry of Internal Affairs

Jeyran RAHMATULLAYEVA
Head of the Administrative Office
State Committee for Family, Women
and Children Affairs

BELGIUM

Christel DE CRAIM
Head of Service
Service for Criminal Policy
FPS Justice

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Ajla NANIĆ
Expert Advisor
Human Rights Department
Ministry of Human Rights and
Refugees

BULGARIA

Marga STOYANOVA
Chief Expert
Policy and Programmes Directorate
for Children, Strategic Development
and Coordination
State Agency for Child Protection at
the Council of Ministers

CROATIA

Marlena JUKIĆ
Head of Service
Service for criminal substantive law regulations
Sector for criminal law regulations
Directorate for criminal law
Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation

CYPRUS

Stavroulla ELIA-DRAKOU
Social Welfare Officer
Social Welfare Services
Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare

CZECHIA

Pavla BUREŠOVÁ
Senior Ministerial Counsellor
Office of the Director General for International and European Co-operation
Ministry of Justice

DENMARK

Andreas JUHL
Prosecutor
Director of Public Prosecutions

ESTONIA

Tuuli LEPP
Adviser
Department of Criminal Policy
Ministry of Justice and Digital Affairs

FINLAND

Satu SISTONEN
Deputy Director, Senior Specialist,
Legal Affairs
Legal Service
Unit for Human Rights Courts and Conventions
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

FRANCE

Alexia DE ROCQUIGNY
Magistrate – Rédactrice
Bureau de la négociation pénale européenne et internationale
Direction des Affaires Criminelles et des Grâces
Ministère de la Justice

GEORGIA

Ketevani TATUASHVILI
Adviser
Human Rights Secretariat
Administration of the Government

GERMANY

Liesa GUTSCH
Legal Advisor
II A 3 - Division for Criminal Law on Sexual Offences, Human Trafficking, Abortion, Medical Criminal Law
Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection

GREECE

George NIKOLAIDIS
Psychiatrist, Researcher
Department of Mental Health and Social Welfare
Centre for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
Institute of Child Health

HUNGARY

Iván A. BUJDOS
Senior legal advisor
Department of Criminal Law
Codification
Deputy Secretariat of State for
Criminal Law Legislation
Ministry of Justice

András GYÖRE
Child Protection Specialist
Department for Child Protection
and Guardianship Affairs
Deputy State Secretariat for Social
Affairs
Ministry of Interior

ICELAND

Páll MAGNÚSSON
Counsellor
Permanent Mission of Iceland in
Geneva

Hlín SÆPÓRSDÓTTIR
Senior Adviser
Ministry of Education and Children

IRELAND

Corah CAPLES
Assistant Principal Officer
Criminal Justice Policy
Department of Justice, Home Affairs
and Migration

Cormac FLOOD
Administrative Officer
Criminal Justice Policy
Department of Justice, Home Affairs
and Migration

ITALY

Elena FALCOMATÀ
Senior Expert
Presidency of the Council of
Ministers

Marino DI NARDO
Senior Expert
Presidency of the Council of
Ministers

LATVIA

Indra AIZUPE-DZINTARE
Head of the
Criminal Law Department
Ministry of Justice

LIECHTENSTEIN

Sarah FRICK
Psychologist
Children and Youth Service Division
Office of Social Services

LITHUANIA

Kristina STEPANOVA
Head of the
Family and Child Rights Protection
Group
Ministry of Social Security and
Labour

LUXEMBOURG

Claudia MONTI
Cheffe de service
Service des droits de l'enfant
Ministère de l'Éducation nationale,
de l'Enfance et de la Jeunesse

MALTA

Lorna MUSCAT
Head of Office
Office of the Commissioner for
Children

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Tatiana URSU
Principal Officer
Directorate of Policy in the field
of Public Order and Security,
Combating Crime
Ministry of Internal Affairs

MONACO

Marie THOUVENIN-RAPPAIRE
Directrice
Direction de l'Action et de l'Aide
Sociales

MONTENEGRO

Jelena GRDINIĆ
General Director
Directorate for Criminal and Civil
Legislation
Ministry of Justice

NETHERLANDS

Eugenia POZO MORILLAS
Senior policy officer (sexual
violence crimes)
Ministry of Justice and Security

NORTH MACEDONIA

Ljubica NAJDOSKA
Desk Officer for Family Relations
Ministry of Social Policy,
Demography and Youth

NORWAY

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Special Adviser International Affairs
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Ministry of Children and Families

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Magdalena BOCHIŃSKA
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Division of Children's Rights and
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Department of Family and Juvenile
Matters
Ministry of Justice

PORTUGAL

Maria José CASTELLO-BRANCO
Legal Adviser
Civil Justice Unit
International Affairs Department
Directorate General for Justice
Policy
Ministry of Justice

ROMANIA

Alina ION
Legal Adviser
Department for Drafting Legislation
Ministry of Justice

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Larisa FALKOVSAYA
Director
Department for Children's Rights
Protection
Ministry of Education

SAN MARINO

Filippo PANZAVOLTA
Second Secretary
Department of Foreign Affairs

SERBIA

Stevan POPOVIĆ
Independent Advisor
Family Protection Department
Ministry for Family Care and
Demography

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Petra GRZNÁROVÁ
Chief State Counsellor
National Coordination Centre for
Resolving the Issues of Violence
against Children (NCC)
Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs
and Family

SLOVENIA

Jana LOVŠIN
Head of Division
EU Affairs and International
Co-operation
Office for International
Co-operation and Mutual Legal
Assistance
Ministry of Justice

SPAIN

Álvaro GARCÍA PÉREZ-IRAOLA
Prosecutor advisor
General Secretariat
Ministry of Justice

SWEDEN

Sara PLATTEN BÄCKSTRÖM
Investigator and Senior Legal
Advisor
Department for Investigation and
Analysis
Ombudsman for Children - Swedish
Children's Rights Agency

SWITZERLAND

Laura FONTANA
Juriste | Avocate
Unité Droit pénal international |
International Criminal Law Unit
Office fédéral de la justice | Federal
Office of Justice
Département fédéral de justice
et police | Federal Department of
Justice and Police

TUNISIA

Nidhal HLAIEM
Cheffe de Service
Suivi de la situation de l'enfance
Ministère de la Famille,
de la Femme, de l'Enfance et
des Personnes âgées

TÜRKİYE

Gökçen TÜRKER
Head of Department
Directorate General for Foreign
Relations and European Union
Affairs
Ministry of Justice

Bahattin EMRE
Rapporteur Judge
Directorate General for Foreign
Relations and European Union
Affairs
Ministry of Justice

UKRAINE

Awaiting nomination

UNITED KINGDOM

Leah BUCK
International Lead - CSEA
Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Unit
Tackling Exploitation and Abuse Directorate
Public Safety Group
Home Office

Participants

States having participated in the drafting of the Convention

CANADA

Awaiting nomination

HOLY SEE

Aleksandra BRZEMIA BONAREK
Professeure
Membre du Dicastère pour les Laïcs,
la Famille et la Vie
Faculté de Droit Canonique
Université Pontificale Jean-Paul II
de Cracovie
Juge ecclésiastique au Tribunal
métropolitain de Katowice

JAPAN

Awaiting nomination

MEXICO

Awaiting nomination

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Awaiting nomination

State invited by the Committee of Ministers to accede to the Convention

MOROCCO

Khalid HANEFIOUI
Chargé des droits de l'enfant et de
la jeunesse
Conseil national des droits de
l'Homme (CNDH)

Sara EL BOUAYCHI
Cheffe d'unité chargée de la
protection de l'enfance
Présidence du Ministère Public

Non member state

CHILE

Javiera VERDUGO TORO
Head of the
International Co-operation Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

International organisations

COUNCIL OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES (CBSS)

Kadi LAURI
Senior Adviser, Head of Children at
Risk Unit

**EUROPEAN NETWORK OF
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS
INSTITUTIONS (ENNHRI)**

Debbie KOHNER
Secretary General
Permanent Secretariat

**EUROPEAN NETWORK OF
OMBUDSMANS FOR CHILDREN
(ENOC)**

Awaiting nomination

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Emilio PUCCIO
Secretary General
European Parliament Intergroup on
Children's Rights

EUROPEAN UNION

Antonio LABRADOR JIMENEZ
Policy Officer – Fight Against
Cybercrime and Child Sexual Abuse
Unit D4: Cybercrime
Directorate General for Migration
and Home Affairs
European Commission

**EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR
FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS (FRA)**

Astrid PODSIADLOWSKI
Head of Social Rights Sector
Equality, Roma and Social Rights
Unit

EUROPOL

Anton Toni KLANČNIK
Strategic Specialist in Child
Protection
O3 European Cybercrime Centre
(EC3)

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION
OF LA FRANCOPHONIE (IOF)**

Delphine
COUVEINHES-MATSUMOTO
Spécialiste de programme
Direction « affaires politiques et
gouvernance démocratique »
(DAPG)

**INTERNATIONAL
TELECOMMUNICATION UNION
(ITU)**

Carla LICCIARDELLO
Corporate Strategy Division

INTERPOL

Mark BEAVAN
Head
Crimes against Children Unit
VCO/Organized and Emerging
Crime Directorate

UNICEF

Artashes MIRZOYAN
Partnerships Advisor
Europe & Central Asia Regional
Office (ECARO)

**UNITED NATIONS HIGH
COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES
(UNHCR)**

Andreas WISSNER
UNHCR Representative to the
European Institutions in Strasbourg

**UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL
RAPPORTEUR ON THE SALE
AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF
CHILDREN**

Mama Fatima SINGHATEH
Special Rapporteur on the sale and
sexual exploitation of children,
including child prostitution, child
pornography and any other child
sexual abuse material

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
(WHO)**

Jonathon PASSMORE
Programme Manager – Road Safety,
Injury & Violence Prevention
European Center for Environment &
Health
WHO Regional Office for Europe

**Council of Europe
Institutions and Bodies**

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON YOUTH

Awaiting nomination

**CONFERENCE OF INGOS OF THE
COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

Katerina MELISSARI
Coordinator of Child Protection
Department
Hope for Children

**CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND
REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF THE
COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

Brigitte van den BERG
Rapporteur for Children's Rights
Netherlands

**COUNCIL OF EUROPE
COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS**

Michael O'FLAHERTY
Commissioner for Human Rights

**CYBERCRIME CONVENTION
COMMITTEE (T-CY)**

Awaiting nomination

**EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON CRIME
PROBLEMS (CDPC)**

Awaiting nomination

**EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON LEGAL
CO-OPERATION (CDCJ)**

Awaiting nomination

**GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF
THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER
AND THE EUROPEAN CODE OF
SOCIAL SECURITY
(T-SG)**

Awaiting nomination

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF
THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

Awaiting nomination

**STEERING COMMITTEE FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS (CDDH)**

Awaiting nomination

Observers

THE BRAVE MOVEMENT

Matthew McVARISH
Co-Founder

ECPAT INTERNATIONAL

Andrea VARRELLA
Research and Child Rights
Monitoring Manager

GLOBAL COLLABORATIVE

Sara ALAOUI
Co-founder and President

“HOPE FOR CHILDREN” CRC Policy Center Cyprus

Katerina MELISSARI
Coordinator of Child Protection
Department

INHOPE (International Association of Internet Hotlines)

Samantha WOOLFE
Global Partnerships and Expansion
Lead

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF YOUTH AND FAMILY JUDGES AND MAGISTRATES (IAYFJM)

Daniel PICAL
Magistrat honoraire représentant
l’AIMJF auprès du Conseil de
l’Europe

INTERNET WATCH FOUNDATION

Hannah SWIRSKY
Head of Policy and Public Affairs

MISSING CHILDREN EUROPE

Aagje IEVEN
Secretary General

PROTECT CHILDREN (SUOJELLAAN LAPSIA RY)

Nina VAARANEN-VALKONEN
Executive Director
Trauma focused Cognitive
Psychotherapist
Victim Services and Offender
Management Sub-Group Chair
Interpol SGCAC

SAFE ONLINE

Marija MANOJLOVIC
Executive Director

SAVE THE CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL

Tiina-Maria LEVAMO
Senior Child Rights and Advocacy
Advisor
Save the Children Finland

WePROTECT Global Alliance

Iain DRENNAN
Executive Director

Secretariat

Agnes VON MARAVIĆ
Head of the Children's Rights
Division
Executive Secretary to the
Lanzarote Committee

Naomi TREWINNARD
Co-secretary to the Lanzarote
Committee

Ekaterina MALAREVA
Legal Advisor

Mireya GARCÍA DE MURCIA
Legal Advisor

Corinne CHRISTOPHEL
Assistant to the Lanzarote
Committee

Yuliia NOSACH
Assistant

Appendix III – Composition of the Bureau of the Lanzarote Committee and list of representatives of the Lanzarote Committee to other entities

Composition of the Bureau of the Lanzarote Committee

- ▶ Chairperson: Maria José CASTELLO-BRANCO (Portugal)
- ▶ Vice-Chairperson: Philippe OLIVIER (France) until 31/12/2025
Páll MAGNÚSSON (Iceland) as of 25/03/2026
- ▶ Members: Alexia DE ROCQUIGNY (France) as of 25/03/2026
George NIKOLAIDIS (Greece)
Kristina STEPANOVA (Lithuania)
Jelena GRDINIĆ (Montenegro)
Jana LOVŠIN (Slovenia)

List of representatives of the Lanzarote Committee to other entities

Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDEFN)

George NIKOLAIDIS (Greece), representative

Committee of Experts on Combatting technology-facilitated violence against women and girls

Maria José CASTELLO-BRANCO (Portugal), representative
Jana LOVŠIN (Slovenia), substitute

Committee of Experts on access to child-friendly justice through multi-disciplinary and interagency services (ENF-JUS)

Magdalena BOCHIŃSKA (Poland), representative
Iván BUJDOS (Hungary), substitute

Committee of Experts on the prevention of violence (ENF-VAE)

Lorna MUSCAT (Malta), representative
Stevan POPOVIĆ (Serbia), substitute

Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine (CGU)

Kristina STEPANOVA (Lithuania), representative

Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY)

Maria José CASTELLO-BRANCO (Portugal), representative

European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ)

Magdalena BOCHIŃSKA (Poland), representative

Páll MAGNÚSSON (Iceland), substitute

European Committee for Social Cohesion (CCS)

Lorna MUSCAT (Malta), representative

Gender Equality Rapporteur

Maria José CASTELLO-BRANCO (Portugal), representative

Matthew McVARISH (The Brave Movement), substitute

Appendix IV – Participation of the Lanzarote Committee and of the Council of Europe Secretariat in meetings on behalf of the Lanzarote Committee

- ▶ 25th OSCE Alliance against Trafficking in Persons conference, 31 March-1 April 2025, Vienna, Austria
- ▶ Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF), 1-2 April 2025, Strasbourg, France
- ▶ Mid-Term Review Conference of the Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027), 3-4 April 2025, Strasbourg, France
- ▶ 3rd meeting of the Committee of Experts on combating technology-facilitated violence against women and girls (GEC/PC-eVIO), 3-4 April 2025, Strasbourg, France
- ▶ Exchange with the Committee of Ministers (GR-SOC), 22 May 2025, Strasbourg, France
- ▶ 32nd plenary meeting of the Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY), 2-3 June 2025, online / France
- ▶ 5th World Congress on Justice with Children, 2-4 June 2025, Madrid, Spain
- ▶ 5th meeting of the Committee of Experts on the prevention of violence (ENF-VAE), 4-5 June 2025, Strasbourg, France
- ▶ Octopus Conference workshop on Child sexual exploitation and abuse materials (CSAM) in the era of artificial intelligence, 5 June 2025, Strasbourg, France
- ▶ Global Solutions for Global Problems: Lanzarote Convention against child sexual abuse and exploitation Satellite event 5th World Congress on Justice with Children, 13 June 2025, online / Chile
- ▶ 6th meeting of the Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine (CGU), 7-9 July 2025, Strasbourg, France
- ▶ Training workshops for child protection officers in Tunisia, 14 July 2025, online / Tunisia
- ▶ Training workshops for child protection officers in Tunisia, 17 July 2025, online / Tunisia
- ▶ Training workshops for child protection officers in Tunisia, 21 July 2025, online / Tunisia
- ▶ Launch event HELP course on Lanzarote Convention in Armenia, 19 August 2025, Yerevan, Armenia

- ▶ 32nd International Congress on the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse (Afecto), 4 September 2025, online
- ▶ Committee of Experts on combating technology-facilitated violence against women and girls (GEC/PC-eVIO), 30 September-2 October 2025, Strasbourg, France
- ▶ Side event of the Fourth session of 2025 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, 1 October 2025, Strasbourg, France
- ▶ Workshop on Freedom of Expression in Immersive Realities, 2 October 2025, Strasbourg, France
- ▶ 6th meeting of the Committee of Experts on the prevention of violence (ENF-VAE), 7-8 October 2025, Strasbourg, France
- ▶ ISPCAN congress, 6-9 October 2025, Vilnius, Lithuania
- ▶ UNICEF Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children, 13-14 October 2025, Bucharest, Romania
- ▶ 2nd meeting of the Committee of Experts on access to child-friendly justice through multidisciplinary and Interagency services (ENF-JUS), 14-15 October 2025, Strasbourg, France
- ▶ 4th meeting of the Committee of Experts on Online Safety and Empowerment of Content Creators and Users (MSI-eSEC), 21-22 October 2025, Strasbourg, France
- ▶ SafeOnline Data for Change Community Call: Data Sharing, 30 October, online / United States
- ▶ Gender Equality Rapporteur Training, 3-4 November 2025, Strasbourg, France
- ▶ 33rd plenary meeting of the Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY), 13-14 November 2025, online / France
- ▶ Exchange with parliamentarians at the Moldovan Parliament within the framework of the 46th plenary meeting of the Lanzarote Committee, 20 November 2025, Chişinău, Republic of Moldova
- ▶ 8th meeting of the Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine (CGU), 1-3 December 2025, Strasbourg, France
- ▶ Study visit with judges, 4 December 2025, Strasbourg, France
- ▶ UNICEF-ECARO conference "Legislation and Policies Against Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse: Central Asia", 9 December 2025, online
- ▶ Gender-Based Violence in Digital Spaces: From Social Networks to Virtual Worlds, Conference, 9 December 2025, online / Morocco

- ▶ 22nd meeting of the Inter-Secretariat Coordination Group on Migration (CGM), 9 December 2025, Strasbourg, France
- ▶ Twenty-fourth meeting of the Council Working Group on Child Online Protection (CWG-COP), 19 January 2026, online / Switzerland
- ▶ Launch event of the European Commission Network for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, 13 January 2026, Brussels, Belgium

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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