

Stopping sexual violence against children through international standards

A Side Event at the 55th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women co-organised by

- the Council of Europe
- the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations
- the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children

New York

Conference Room 7 (NLB)

28 February 2011

1.15 pm – 2.30 pm



Available estimates in Europe suggest that about one in five children would be a victim of some form of sexual violence. They also show that most victims of sexual violence are girls.

The objective of the round table will be to present complementarity of the two most important treaties to combat sexual violence against children: the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (the Lanzarote Convention) and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

The key note addresses:

Ms. Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe

H.E. Mr. Yuriy Sergeyev, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations

Ms. Marta Santos Pais, UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children

Ms. Gordana Buljan Flander, Associate Professor, Director of Center for ChildProtection (Croatia)

The round table is organised as part of the programme activities of the Council of Europe ONE in FIVE Campaign to stop all forms of sexual violence against children.

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SRSG on VIOLENCE
AGAINST CHILDREN



PERMANENT MISSION OF UKRAINE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



one in five
un sur cinq



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The international community has responded to the urgent need to address all forms of sexual violence against children through the elaboration of a number of standards firmly anchored in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

The Optional Protocol (OPSC) was adopted by the General Assembly on 25 May 2000 and its implementation is monitored by the Committee on the Rights of the Child. It calls for the criminalisation of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, lays down minimum standards for the protection of child victims and witnesses, promotes international co-operation and assistance and the adoption of extra-territorial legislation to fight impunity for these child rights violations.

The OPSC is in force in 142 states. The SRSG on Violence against Children, with other UN partners, is running a two-year campaign aiming at the universal ratification of the OPSC by 2012, the year of the 10th anniversary of its entry into force.

The Lanzarote Convention

Adopted in 2007, the Lanzarote Convention represents a major step forward in the prevention of sexual offences against children, the protection of child victims, the prosecution of perpetrators and the promotion of national and international co-operation against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children. The Convention is also the first universal legal text to criminalise all forms of sexual violence against children, regardless of whether commercial or not. The systematic monitoring of the implementation of the Convention will be one of its major strengths.

Although elaborated by the 47 Council of Europe member states, the Convention is also open to accession by the European Union and by non-European States who wish to join forces in tackling sexual violence. The Lanzarote Convention has been signed by 32 states and ratified by 10 Council of Europe member states: Albania, Denmark, France, Greece, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, San Marino, Serbia and Spain. It entered into force on 1 July 2010.

Fighting violence against children, especially sexual violence, has been a long-standing priority at the Council of Europe and its programme "Building a Europe for and with children".



Building a Europe for and with children
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