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LEARNING, TEACHING,
TRAINING ACTIVITY

WHAT IS CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE?

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Parents Association Step by Step



step by step
PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



Why we are doing this?

*WHILE NOBODY WANTS TO TALK ABOUT IT,
THEY ARE LIVING WITH IT.*

Child victims of sexual abuse

European Parliamentary Research Service

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u5duF1IVXJE>



90 SUSPECTS IDENTIFIED IN MAJOR ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE OPERATION

31 March 2020

Press Release



4 arrested in takedown of dark web child abuse platform with some half a million users

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

Police around the world have taken down a global child abuse ring with links to over 40 countries through a Belgian investigation supported by Europol. 4 suspects have been convicted today by a Belgian court.

This case was sparked by the Belgian East Flanders Federal Judicial Police (Federale Gerechtelijke Politie Oost-Vlaanderen) after more than 9 million pictures and videos of the abuse of thousands of children from around the world were found there during a house search.

The vast majority of this footage had never been seen in circulation before by law enforcement. Suspecting they were producing their own, the Belgian investigators launched Operation GARGAMEL together with Europol across Europe and beyond. The image and video data seized during this investigation has been used for Victim Identification Task Forces hosted by Europol through which 70 children and 30 suspects have been identified. The Belgian Federal Judicial Police succeeded in identifying 60 suspects (of which 24 in Belgium) and 40 victims, which brings the actual total to 90 suspects and 110 victims.



France arrests 14 suspects in sweep against child sexual abuse online

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

STOP



CHILD ABUSE

Did you know?



every five minutes one child dies as a result of some type of violent behavior that they experience in their families, educational institutions, communities and the Internet (WHO)



around 2 million children are sexually abused in the “sex industry” within the period of a year (UNICEF)



the Internet contains more than 1 million photos of between 10.000 to 20.000 sexually abused children (UNICEF)



between 10 % and 20 % of children in Europe suffer sexual abuse before they turn 18 (EU)



sexual abuse occurs mainly in their immediate environment, but the internet and new technologies have brought a new dimension to the sexual exploitation of children (EU)



Face the facts

Source: <https://annualreport2020.iwf.org.uk/>

<https://annualreport2020.iwf.org.uk/>

Internet watch foundation – Report 2019

**Increased amount of
child sexual abuse material detected
in Europe**



Module 1:

WHAT IS SEXUAL ABUSE ?

CONTENT/TOPICS

1.1.Violence and sexual abuse

1.2.What is inappropriate sexual behavior and what is not?

1.3.Forms of sexual abuse

1.4.Signs of sexual abuse

1.5.How to prevent sexual abuse - promote youth safety and react

Human rights framework

Rights of the Child



According to the Council of Europe **Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse** of 25 October 2007, also known as the **Lanzarote Convention**,

the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union proclaimed that sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children, including child pornography, constitute **serious violations of fundamental rights**, in particular of the rights of children to the protection and care necessary for their well-being, as provided for by the 1989 **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)** and by the **Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union**.



CHILD

DEFINITIONS IN LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENTS

Child

1989: Article 1 of the CRC sets forth that, “[f]or the purposes of the present Convention, a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.”

Conclusion: In line with the majority of international legal instruments and with international practice, the participating organisations advise that the term “child” be understood as including any person who is under the age of 18 years.



AGE OF SEXUAL CONSENT



***What is
age of
sexual
consent?***

Signatories of Lanzarote Convention decided the age below which it is prohibited to engage in sexual activities with a child in their national contexts.

Most Member States set a minimum age for sexual consent between 14 and 16 years of age.



VIOLENCE

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

The 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women has become a text of reference at global level and has guided the work of WHO, which, in 2002, defined sexual violence as “any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person’s sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work”.

With regard to children, the terms “sexual abuse” and “sexual exploitation” are firmly established in international law and remain key when addressing violations of children’s rights that are of a sexual nature.



**What is
Child
sexual
assault?**

Child sexual assault

“**Sexual assault**” is defined as “the action or an act of forcing an unconsenting person to engage in sexual activity; a crime involving forced sexual contact” or “sexual contact that usually involves force upon a person without consent”.



CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

A hidden problem

Definitions in legally binding instruments

2007: The Lanzarote Convention

“Sexual abuse” means intentional conduct that is criminalized by EU and national criminal law.

Article 18(1) refers specifically to “sexual abuse”, which it defines for the purposes of criminalisation as follows:

“(a) engaging in sexual activities with a child who, according to the relevant provisions of national law, has not reached the legal age for sexual activities” “(b) engaging in sexual activities with a child where: use is made of coercion, force or threats; or abuse is made of a recognised position of trust, authority or influence over the child, including within the family; or abuse is made of a particularly vulnerable situation of the child, notably because of a mental or physical disability or a situation of dependence.”



World Health Organization provides a detailed definition of “child sexual abuse”:

“**Child sexual abuse** is the involvement of a child in sexual activity that he or she does not fully comprehend, is unable to give informed consent to, or for which the child is not developmentally prepared and cannot give consent, or that violates the laws or social taboos of society.

Child sexual abuse is evidenced by this activity between a child and an adult or another child who by age or development is in a relationship of responsibility, trust or power, the activity being intended to gratify or satisfy the needs of the other person.”

**FORMS
OF
SEXUAL ABUSE OF
CHILDREN**

physical

-

contact

non-physical

-

non-contact



step by step

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

1.

**PHYSICAL
OR
CONTACT
FORM
OF CHILD
SEXUAL ABUSE**

the perpetrator forces a child to participate in sexual activities

the perpetrator penetrates a child with a part of their body or using external object

the perpetrator touches the body of a child (in the cases the child has or hasn't their clothes on)

the perpetrator makes or tricks a child into undressing

the perpetrator makes or tricks a child into touching them or someone else

II.

NON-PHYSICAL

OR

NON-CONTACT

FORM

OF

CHILD SEXUAL

ABUSE

the perpetrator exposes a child to activities of sexual nature

the perpetrator forces a child to masturbate

the perpetrator makes photos or videos of a child and/or distributes them physically and/or online

the perpetrator shows photos or videos with pornographic content to the child

the perpetrator shows intimate parts of their body to the child

the perpetrator secretly watches at (spies on) a child in their private and/or public spaces

The perpetrator forces or tricks a child to be involved into sexual activity through conversations, via the Internet and using digital technology.

This can occur at an international level, especially through the use of the Internet.



International Report data

- In 2019, almost 9 in 10 (89%) known URLs containing child sexual abuse material were hosted in Europe.
- This is followed by North America, which hosted 9% of all known child sexual abuse URLs in 2019.
- The Netherlands hosts 71% of the child sexual abuse content found by the IWF. This equates to 93,962 URLs.

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/increased-amount-child-sexual-abuse-material-detected-europe-2020-04-28_en

IWF:

AN EXPONENTIAL INCREASE in

“SELF-GENERATED” CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CONTENT,

created using webcams or smartphones

and then shared online

via a growing number of platforms.



Online child sexual abuse

can be any form of sexual abuse of children which has a link to the online environment.

Online sexual abuse can take the form of, i.e., sexual molestation and/or harassment through social media or other online channels.

Child sexual abuse also takes on an online dimension when, i.e., acts of sexual abuse are photographed or video-/audio-recorded and then uploaded and made available online, whether for personal use or for sharing with others.

Source: Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, 2016, <https://ecpat.org/luxembourg-guidelines/>



Online child sexual abuse and exploitation

The term “online child sexual abuse” has become a widely used term to refer both to

- 1) the sexual abuse of children that is facilitated by ICTs (e.g. online grooming) and
- 2) to sexual abuse of children that is committed elsewhere and then repeated by sharing it online through, for instance, images and videos - which is where it becomes **exploitation**.

Source: Luxembourg guidelines, 2016



The UN has defined “sexual exploitation” :

“any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another”.

-sexual activities **in exchange for something** (food, money, gifts, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection)

Source: Luxembourg guidelines, 2016

INTERPOL's International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) database

More than
3,800
identified victims
recorded
in 2019



64
countries
are connected
to the database



23,564
identified victims



10,752
identified offenders



INTERPOL

www.interpol.int
October 2020

The younger the victim,
the more severe the
abuse.

84% of images
contained explicit
sexual activity.

More than 60% of
unidentified victims
were prepubescent,
including infants and
toddlers.

65% of unidentified
victims were girls.

Severe abuse images
were likely to feature
boys.


92% of visible offenders
were male.



**We found child sexual
abuse online every 3
minutes in 2020.**

#FaceTheFactsIWF

The IWF analysis shows in 80% of these cases, the victims were 11- to 13-year-old girls.



Children can be both the perpetrators, and victims of child sexual exploitation.

“peer-on-peer” sexual exploitation





FLIRTING

- Both sides are equally motivated
- Both sides like it and are interested in it.
- It makes you feel comfortable
- You feel attractive and flattered
- It results in a positive self-image
- It is an act in which both persons treat each other with respect

sexually inappropriate behavior



SEXUAL HARASSMENT

- It is motivated by a sense of power
- One side likes it, the other doesn't
- It makes you feel uncomfortable
- You feel ashamed and attacked
- It results in a negative self-image
- It is an act between two persons, in which one person sees their feelings and desires as important, and the feelings and desires of the other person as unimportant and secondary

FLIRTING

VS.

**SEXUAL
HARASSMENT**





The Istanbul Convention:

“sexual harassment” - any form of unwanted verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature with the purpose or effect of violating the dignity of a person, in particular when creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating, or offensive environment (Article 40).



COERCION

Sexting and sexual communication that includes exchanging self-generated sexually explicit material is a common form of flirting and experimenting for many young persons.

Adolescents can engage in the creation of self-generated sexually explicit material :

- consensually.
- as a result of coercion.



Online sexual coercion and extortion

SEXUAL COERCION

“the act of using pressure, alcohol or drugs, or force to have sexual contact with someone against his or her will”

“persistent attempts to have sexual contact with someone who has already refused”

COERCION

=A WHOLE SPECTRUM OF DEGREES OF FORCE

Apart from physical force, sexual coercion may involve:

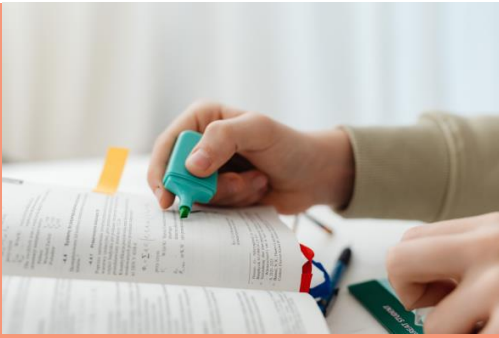
- psychological intimidation,
- blackmail or
- other threats.



Right to education (key prevention tools)

- a serious digital skills deficit amongst children in EU
- 38 % of 9-12 year-olds in Europe who use the internet report that they have a personal profile on a social networking site
- only 56 % of 11-12 year-olds say they know how to change their privacy settings
- Digital and media literacy skills education

Source: Smahel, D., Machackova, H., Mascheroni, G., Dedkova, L., Staksrud, E., Ólafsson, K., Livingstone, S., and Hasebrink, U. (2020). EU Kids Online 2020: Survey results from 19 countries. EU Kids Online. Doi: 10.21953/lse.47fdeqj01of0



RESOURCES

SAFE AND CAREFUL USE

OF THE INTERNET AND SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

1

STOP PROJECT HANDBOOK FOR YOUTH WORKERS

1.5A – Safe and careful use of the
Internet and social media sites

<http://erasmusstop.eu/>



RESOURCES

2

**INTERNET
LITERACY
HANDBOOK** –
Council of
Europe

The new edition of Internet Literacy Handbook.

<https://rm.coe.int/internet-literacy-handbook/1680766c85>



Family structure

Gender

Age



risk factors
for
victimization



❑ risk factors for victimization of children (WHO)

- female sex (though in some developing countries male children constitute a large proportion of child victims);
- unaccompanied children;
- children in foster care, adopted children, stepchildren;
- physically or mentally handicapped children;
- history of past abuse;
- poverty;
- war/armed conflict;
- psychological or cognitive vulnerability;
- single parent homes/broken homes;
- social isolation (e.g. lacking an emotional support network);
- parent(s) with mental illness, or alcohol or drug dependency.



PREVENTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE
A PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Trust your gut.





Prevention Tools

Most adults prefer not to think about CSA (very disturbing).

EDUCATION

about child sexual abuse

proactive

protective

TRUSTED adult



Signs of sexual abuse
Real life story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAKYqCS7Poo>

Physical signs of sexual abuse of children

A sexually transmitted infection and disease

Genital and/or anal bleeding

Unusual scars on the body such as bruises and irritations around mouth, hands, legs, and genital and anal areas

Signs of blood on the underwear, bed sheets and clothes

- Having difficulties while sitting and walking because of the trauma in genital and anal areas
- Having difficulties during urinating or defecation
- Psychosomatic symptoms such as abdominal and head pains, and other psychosomatic symptoms

Emotional and behavioral signs of sexual abuse of children

Changes in eating habits and having eating disturbances (overeating or under-eating)

Changes in sleeping habits and having sleep disturbances (i.e. having nightmares, fears to fall asleep)

Changes in mood, personality, and behavior – such as being aggressive, harmful to themselves and/or others, being more upset and irritated, shy, withdrawn, and clingy

Displaying excessive worry, new fears (especially related to a certain person or group of people) and/or compulsive behaviors

- Inability to concentrate
- Eyes cast downward when talking about the topic
- Problems in school and having difficulties with learning (difficulties with concentrations, lower grades etc.)
- Age-inappropriate (especially sexual behavior) and/or regressive behavior
- Anxiety, depression, feelings of shame and guilt

Emotional and behavioral signs of sexual abuse of children

Changes in language and vocabulary, using words inappropriate to their age

Not wanting to be alone with certain persons and/or frightened to spend time with someone whom they know

Loss or lowering the level of interest to engage in school, leisure activities, and time with friends

- Being secretive and holding secrets
- Spending lots of time alone and being extremely quiet
- Child having unexplained money and gifts of unknown source

APROPPRIATE RESPONSE

INAPROPPRIATE / DISEMPOWERING RESPONSE

Calm response

Over-reactive response

Abuse is the responsibility of the perpetrator

Blaming the child

Tell the child that you believe them and that you are glad they are telling you, listen

Judging, doubting, denying, minimizing the abuse

Focusing to solution

Focusing to victimization of the child





TIPS TO REMEMBER

1

If the younger child mimics sexual activities, when they mimic sexual intercourse, it is a warning sign.

This behavioral sign has high correlation with child being sexually abused.

2

Check if there are patterns of signs and behaviours that can give you reasons to believe a child has been sexually abused. You can keep a journal of warning signs.

A Legal Duty to Report



- protection of children through multi-stakeholder cooperation
- NATIONAL PROTOCOLS **on the procedure in case of abuse of children**

Aim:

- to realize the rights of the child in the area of abuse
- to provide help and protection to children that are exposed to abuse

Protocols officially define key stakeholders dealing with child sexual abuse from all sectors:

- The Police,
- social welfare centre,
- judicial authorities,
- health-care institutions including hospitals and clinics, and
- educational institutions.

REPORT

- A child shows a pattern of signs of child sexual abuse
- A child says:
 - they are being sexually abused by an adult person
 - that another child has been engaging them in sexually inappropriate behavior
 - they have sexually assaulted another child
- An adult person:
 - is aware that a child or another adult person watching child sexual abuse material,
 - is aware of child sexual abuse material online,
 - says that they sexually abused a child.

Protocols officially define key stakeholders dealing with child sexual abuse from all sectors:

- The Police,
- social welfare centre,
- judicial authorities,
- health-care institutions including hospitals and clinics,
and educational institutions.

Surviving child sexual abuse

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkWMgEudwrw>



RESOURCES

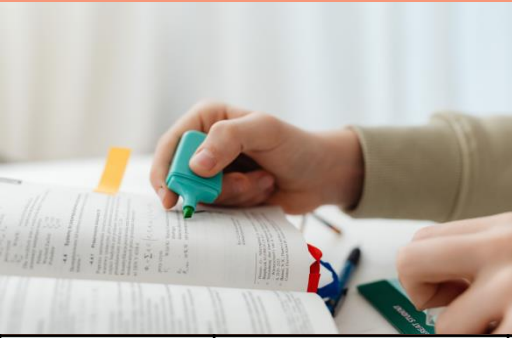
1

**World Health Organization:
Violence against children**

This is the official website of World Health Organization and its work in relation to ending violence against children.

A May 2016 World Health Assembly resolution endorsed the first ever WHO Global plan of action on strengthening the role of the health system within a national multisectoral response to address interpersonal violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children.

https://www.who.int/health-topics/violence-against-children#tab=tab_1



RESOURCES

2

The Council of Europe - Children's Rights

The Council of Europe protects and promotes the human rights of everyone, including children.

Based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the European Convention on Human Rights and other legal standards, the Council of Europe promotes and protects the rights of 150 million children in Europe.

Here you can find legal as well as policy documents on human rights of children in general, and in regards to sexual abuse specifically.

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/children/publications>

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/children/sexual-violence>



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