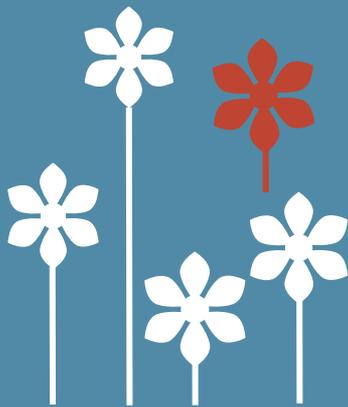


# TOWNS AND REGIONS: A PACT TO STOP SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN



**one in five**  
**un sur cinq**

One child in five in Europe is estimated to be a victim of some form of sexual violence. Given the extent of the problem, the Council of Europe launched the **ONE in FIVE** Campaign to raise the awareness of everyone – children, parents and those coming into contact with children – and to promote the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse – the Lanzarote Convention – by the 47 Council of Europe member states and beyond.

As part of its contribution to the Council of Europe's **ONE in FIVE** Campaign, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities has devised the **Pact of Towns and Regions to Stop Sexual Violence against Children** and is urging local and regional authorities, elected representatives, as well as national associations of local and regional authorities and other organisations to sign up for it en masse.

# TAKING PART IN THE ONE IN FIVE CAMPAIGN

Towns and regions, local and regional elected representatives, but also associations of local and regional authorities and other organisations, are invited to participate in the ONE in FIVE Campaign and to showcase the policies and initiatives they are implementing.

Local and regional authorities have a key responsibility, along with national governments, to protect and promote citizens' human rights, which includes safeguarding and promoting the safety and welfare of children and young people living in their areas. The services that are needed to help victims of sexual violence and abuse are provided, in the main, at the local level. This is also the level where preventive and awareness-raising measures can be most effective. Local and regional authorities are therefore on the frontline of the fight to stop sexual violence against children and must develop and implement action plans and strategies to deal with and prevent future cases.

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe has devised this "Pact of Towns and Regions to Stop Sexual Violence against Children" to guide authorities in their fight against sexual exploitation and abuse. It provides a list of practical initiatives and policies to be implemented at local and regional levels in order to develop child-friendly services, protect children and help prevent sexual violence within the community.

These proposals are based on the four "Ps": prevention of abuse, protection of victims, prosecution of perpetrators and participation by children throughout the procedure.

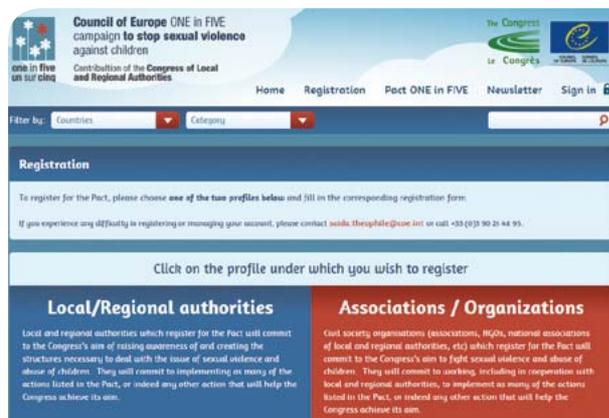
## Some examples of initiatives:

<b>PROMOTING</b>	the ONE in FIVE Campaign at local and regional levels
<b>FACILITATING</b>	access to support services
<b>CREATING</b>	multi-disciplinary centres
<b>AWARENESS-RAISING</b>	for children in schools and other facilities
<b>TRAINING</b>	stakeholders who work with children
<b>ORGANISING</b>	debates and information meetings
<b>COOPERATING</b>	with NGOs, media and the private sector
<b>DISTRIBUTING</b>	information materials

# SIGNING UP FOR THE PACT VIA INTERNET

An online platform has been specially developed to facilitate the exchange of information and ensure a Europe-wide promotion of local and regional authorities' efforts to stop sexual violence against children.

An individualised account enables local and regional authorities, elected representatives and associations to post their content online and share their initiatives. They thus have a user-friendly webpage for publishing information on their activities to promote them at European level.



1

Select a profile - Local/Regional Authorities OR Associations/Organisations - and fill in the online registration form which will automatically create an account with a login composed of your e-mail address and a password.



2

Via this account, submit information on your initiatives and activities which will be published on a dedicated web page.

# PROMOTING THE LANZAROTE CONVENTION

All of the stakeholders participating in the ONE in FIVE Campaign are invited to promote the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse – also known as the Lanzarote Convention - among their national authorities to achieve as many signatures and ratifications as possible of this legal instrument.

The objective of the Lanzarote Convention is to ensure coherency in Europe and the equal protection of all children by establishing clear common standards and definitions that are applicable in all European countries, in particular through harmonising criminal law and other relevant measures.

The Lanzarote Convention was opened for signature on 25 October 2007 in Lanzarote, Spain, and entered into force on 1 July 2010. Its provisions aim at preventing sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, protecting child victims of sexual offences and prosecuting perpetrators.

With an emphasis on keeping the best interests of children in the forefront, the Convention covers the following main aspects:

- preventive and protective measures;
- assistance to child victims and their families;
- intervention programmes or measures for child sex offenders;
- criminal offences, including several entirely new offences, such as child grooming;
- child-friendly procedures for investigation and prosecution;
- recording and storing of data on convicted sex offenders;
- international co-operation;
- a monitoring mechanism.

More information about the Lanzarote Convention: [www.coe.int/lanzarote](http://www.coe.int/lanzarote)

A political organisation set up in 1949, the Council of Europe works to promote democracy and human rights continent-wide. It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 47 member states. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe represents local and regional authorities and promotes grassroots democracy. It has two chambers, the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions, and brings together 318 full and 318 substitute members representing more than 200,000 European territorial communities.



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