



Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire

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Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Network of Contact Parliamentarians to stop sexual violence against children

Moscow Declaration 20 November 2012

On the occasion of Universal Children's Day,

We, the members of the Network of Contact Parliamentarians to stop sexual violence against children, attending the Network's 10th meeting on the theme "sexual abuse inflicted on children within the circle of trust", held in Moscow at the invitation of the Russian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly:

Aware of the need to support children who are traumatised by the sexual abuse inflicted on them within their circle of trust, to prevent such abuse, prosecute the perpetrators, establish effective policies and take appropriate action;

Aware of the fact that this serious violation of children's human rights must be eradicated to allow children to live a full and dignified life in a balanced and cohesive society;

Upholding the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (known as the Lanzarote Convention) as the first complete legal instrument to simultaneously cover the protection of children, measures to prevent abuse and the punishment of perpetrators, including in the event of sexual abuse within the home or the family;

Wishing that not only all Council of Europe members but all countries in the world sign, ratify and implement the Lanzarote Convention – to date the Convention has been ratified by 23 member states and signed by 22 others;

Welcome the signature of the Lanzarote Convention by the Russian Federation and encourage the Russian authorities to ratify it as soon as possible;

Undertake to:

ensure that each of our countries puts in place a sound legislative framework to outlaw sexual violence against children, including by people within the child's circle of trust, which we consider to be one of the most heinous crimes and one of the most serious violations of human rights;

ensure that parents, families and those close to children receive support so that they can give them a positive education enhancing their physical and psychological well-being and their future development as adults;

do our utmost to ensure that each state we represent signs, ratifies and implements the Lanzarote Convention and to ensure that appropriate action is taken, including by parliaments themselves;

become actively involved in the Council of Europe ONE in FIVE Campaign to combat sexual violence against children and undertake awareness-raising and prevention activities at local and national, and possibly even international level, in co-operation with our governments and the full range of civil society players;

take initiatives to ensure that our national budgets provide for the funding of such activities.