

Shedding light on a taboo: Cinema's contribution to the elimination of sexual violence against children



**Round Table
Friday 9 September 2011**

Hotel Excelsior, Spazio Digital Expo-Industry Office
Lungomare Marconi, Lido di Venezia
15h00 - 17h00

PROGRAMME

Welcome address by

- Paolo Baratta, President of the Venice Biennale
- Tiziana Agostini, Town Councillor for cultural activities, women citizenship and culture for diversities, Municipality of Venice

Combating sexual violence against children: from governmental to individual responsibilities

- Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe
- Donald Findlater, Director of the child sexual abuse prevention campaign 'Stop it Now! UK and Ireland'

Shedding light on a taboo: the role of Cinema

A panel of artists and film directors will be invited to present their views and respond to questions from the floor



Shedding light on a taboo:

Cinema's contribution to the elimination of sexual violence against children

ROUND TABLE PRESENTATION



Available data suggest that about 1 in 5 children in Europe is a victim of some form of sexual violence. It is estimated that in 70% to 85% of cases, the abuser is somebody the child knows and trusts. Child sexual violence can take many forms: sexual abuse within the family circle, child pornography and prostitution, undue exposure of children to sexual content or activities, solicitation of children via Internet and sexual assault by peers.



Children who are sexually abused often take refuge in silence because they feel shame, guilt and fear. This form of violence is nourished by the taboos surrounding sexuality and protected by the wish to preserve the reputation of a family, a school, a church, a state care institution for children or a sports club.

Raising awareness on the prevalence of sexual violence is of capital importance. Society needs to be empowered so that each institution and each person can take the adequate measures to protect children, prosecute the criminals, prevent, identify and report abuse.



The Council of Europe campaign One in Five aims at promoting the changes in legislation and policies needed for those measures to be effectively taken.



After exploring the main features of sexual violence against children, the objective of the Round table will be to analyse the Cinema's contribution to the awareness raising effort. On the one hand, films are contributing to shedding light on a topic otherwise confined by taboos. On the other hand, cinema stars can be precious role models for campaigning purposes, inciting people to take the necessary action. The languages of the debate will be English and Italian (simultaneous interpretation).

Council of Europe campaign
to stop sexual violence
against children



www.coe.int/oneinfive

Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe
contre la violence sexuelle
à l'égard des enfants