ONE in FIVE.

According to estimates, statistics, surveys and police data, one child in five is a victim of sexual violence. These figures vary from region to region in the world but they illustrate the scale of an unspeakable and alarming human problem. When the Council of Europe contacted me after seeing some of my films dealing with hushed-up issues in family conflicts, I was on holiday with my daughters on a lake shore where the children were playing in their swimming costumes on a beach. I imagined myself taking my eldest daughter to school and made the chilling calculation that out of 20 pupils, four of her classmates would be victims of sexual violence before they reach adulthood. When I pictured the faces of these children’s parents, friends and neighbours, I initially refused to believe these figures. And yet, when the actress playing the part of a victim’s mother showed the finished film to her women friends, two of them were overcome by emotion and told her about the sexual abuse to which they had been subjected during their adolescence and which they had long kept secret.

The vehemence of the many comments posted following the wide-scale dissemination of the film on the Internet is a sign of contemporary society’s rejection of and disgust with the perpetrators of these acts. It is these same feelings of rejection and disgust that haunt the victims and sometimes those in whom they have confided, and which prompt them to remain silent, guided by a fear of destroying a family or a fear of shame. They unintentionally protect the assailant and enable him or her to continue, thus compounding the offence.

By dispelling the collective taboo that surrounds this type of violence, we will give victims the courage to speak openly and will be able to break this vicious circle.
Network of contact parliamentarians

News: 21st network meeting, Strasbourg

Debate on “Supporting the recovery of survivors of sexual violence against children”

The network of contact parliamentarians to stop sexual violence against children will hold a meeting on Tuesday 27 January 2015 at 2 p.m. during the 1st part-session of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly. The debate will be introduced by Mr Domagoj Štimac, Psychiatrist, Child Protection Center (Croatia) and Ms Anka Krug, Psychologist, “Wildwasser” NGO (Germany).

Latest event: 20th network meeting, Strasbourg

“Naked has become the new normal”, says Ms Nadine Schirtz

On 2 October 2014, the network of contact parliamentarians held a joint meeting with the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media on “Over-sexualisation of children in society”. The debate was introduced by Ms Lucy Emmerson, Co-ordinator, Sex Education Forum (United Kingdom) and Ms Nadine Schirtz, chief editor and project manager, BEE SECURE, National Youth Service (Luxembourg). Ms Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni gave her usual update on the Council of Europe ONE in FIVE Campaign.

The experts discussed the definition of the term “over-sexualisation” of children, a phenomenon which has become a subject of serious concern affecting all European countries. Over-sexualisation, present in all spheres of society (the media, including television, advertising and the Internet), has a negative impact on the mental health and development of children. Age-appropriate sex and relationship education is essential to help children deal with their sexual identity and form healthy relationships with their peers.

Azerbaijan

Samira Huseynzada, 13 years old, was awarded the first prize for her work of art

Within the framework of the ONE in FIVE Campaign, an art exhibition “Children say ‘no’ to violence in a language of colours” was organised in October 2014 in Baku. Children from 15 schools were awarded diplomas and certificates of merit. Members of parliament and representatives from the executive and the State Committee on Family, Women and Children’s Affairs were present at the exhibition.
Cyprus

A series of events and activities aimed at ending sexual violence against children in Cyprus was presented at a press conference on 12 November 2014, in the A.G. Leventis Art Gallery in Nicosia. On 13 November 2014, the House of Representatives ratified the Lanzarote Convention. In this context, several events took place: a parliamentary event celebrating the ratification of the Lanzarote Convention, a seminar on sexual violence within families held by the “Hope for Children” UNCRC Policy Center and a seminar on the presentation of the “Sweetie 1,000” project (initiated by Terre des Hommes, this project shed light on the relatively new subject of webcam child sex tourism thanks to the virtual girl Sweetie). Furthermore, a series of seminars and events for students, educators, parents and nursing services were organised. The steering group of the pilot project held a meeting on 9 December 2014, followed by the announcement, at an event in Nicosia on 10 December, of the results of the prevalence study of the University of Cyprus: sexual violence affects one in four children in Cyprus.

Greece

At the initiative of Ms Eleni Rapti, an animated film, Nicky’s secret, was made in Greek. Produced in a child friendly manner, the movie teaches children how to recognise sexually abusive behaviour.

Turkey

Under the auspices of the PACE Turkish delegation, the Turkish Parliament held a panel discussion on the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention, on 27 November 2014 in Ankara. The President of the International Children’s Center (ICC), Professor Tomris Türmen called on parliamentarians to raise awareness about child sexual abuse in Turkey, as well as to conduct evidence-based research on this issue and to focus on the implementation of legislation.
**Lanzarote Convention**

**Georgia and Monaco**

By ratifying the convention on 23 September 2014 and 7 October 2014 respectively, Georgia and Monaco have become the 33rd and 34th states parties to the convention.

**Cyprus**

Cyprus passed a bill ratifying the convention on 13 November 2014.

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**Agenda**

The network of contact parliamentarians will continue to meet in 2015.

**Next meeting:**

- **21st meeting of the network** on Tuesday 27 January 2015 during the January part-session.

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**Website and social networks**

Interviews, handbooks, compendia, newsletters, leaflets: find all the information you need about the parliamentary dimension of the campaign at the following address:

[www.assembly.coe.int/oneinfive](http://www.assembly.coe.int/oneinfive)

and on Facebook: “Council of Europe One in Five Campaign”.

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