Since the beginning of my mandate as Commissioner for Human Rights in 2012, I have paid special attention to human rights violations experienced by children, including those who are particularly disadvantaged and who suffer discrimination: street children; victims of human trafficking; unaccompanied migrant children; those who are stateless; those who live in slums; children with disabilities; children placed in institutions and children compelled to work by poverty. These children are more vulnerable than others to various forms of violence and exploitation, including sexual abuse. This is both because not enough is done to minimise the risks they are exposed to due to their life circumstances and because, once these risks materialise in actual human rights violations, these children tend to have very limited access to justice. They are often not aware of their rights and do not seek redress because they do not expect that state institutions will provide it. These children and the rights violations they experience will continue to be an important focus of my work.

I have also addressed the growing risk of becoming a victim of sexual violence to which children are exposed on the Internet. Children should be empowered through better digital education and awareness about potential forms of sexual abuse on the Internet and about the need to protect their private life. Moreover, I have stressed the importance of victims of abuse to be identified, rescued and to have adequate access to justice. Member states should also track and sanction perpetrators of child abuse on the Internet in application of international conventions such as the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention).

I will continue to urge all member states which have not yet done so to ratify this Convention, which is a key instrument to combat this human rights violation.
**Network of contact parliamentarians**

**News: 22nd network meeting, Strasbourg**

Debate on “Sex and relationship education as a means of preventing sexual violence against children”

The network of contact parliamentarians to stop sexual violence against children will hold a joint meeting with the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media on Thursday, 23 April 2015 at 8.30 a.m., during the 2nd part-session of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly. The debate will be introduced by Dr Attila Andics, teacher trainer, psychologist and brain researcher from the Academy of Sciences - Eötvös University Budapest (Hungary) and Ms Sanderijn van der Doef, Technical Advisor on the Sexual Health of Young People and Children, RutgersWPF (the Netherlands).

**Latest event: 21st network meeting, Strasbourg**

“The most important goal: the child who feels loved!” – says Domagoj Štimac

On 27 January 2015, the network of contact parliamentarians held a meeting on “Supporting the recovery of survivors of sexual violence against children”. The discussion was opened by Mr Domagoj Štimac, Psychiatrist, Child Protection Center (Croatia) and Ms Anka Krug, Psychologist, “Wildwasser” NGO (Germany). Council of Europe Deputy Secretary General Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni gave her usual update on the ONE in FIVE Campaign.

As the psychological effects of sexual abuse can last into adulthood, it is important that this type of trauma be processed. The participants discussed the importance of the psychological therapy to be provided to the victims. The experts summarised the activity of their centers, describing various methods and techniques of providing the most adequate treatment for victims of sexual abuse.
Parliamentarians will meet in Chisinau (Republic of Moldova) on 20 May 2015 to discuss strategies and mechanisms to protect children from sexual abuse, trafficking and sexual exploitation. National authorities and NGOs will participate in the meeting.

Mr Valeriu Ghiletchi, Chairperson of the Social Affairs Committee, represented the Parliamentary Assembly at the Europol capacity-building study visit on 17 March 2015 (The Hague). Europol is the European Union’s law enforcement agency whose main goal is to help achieve a safer Europe. One of the top priorities of this organisation is the fight against child sexual exploitation.

Mr Ghiletchi gave an update on the recent developments of the ONE in FIVE Campaign during the 11th meeting of the Committee of the Parties (“Lanzarote Committee”) that followed the study visit.

In the framework of the ONE in FIVE Campaign, a new website devoted to the issue of sexual violence against children has been launched in Sweden: www.dagsattprataom.se
Lanzarote Convention

Cyprus and Poland

By ratifying the convention on 12 February 2015 and 20 February 2015 respectively, Cyprus and Poland have become the 35th and 36th states parties to the convention.

Agenda

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

Next meetings:

- **22nd meeting of the network** on Thursday, 23 April during the April part-session;
- **23rd meeting of the network** on Wednesday, 20 May in Chisinau (Republic of Moldova).

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

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

Contact

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