Parliaments united in combating sexual violence against children

Council of Europe ONE in FIVE Campaign to stop sexual violence against children

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Editorial by Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio

We need ZERO in FIVE

When, in November 2010, as Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, I launched the ONE in FIVE Campaign in Rome, I said that “[i]f I were brave enough, I would ask the adults in this room who have been victims of sexual violence during their childhood to raise their hands. If the shame, social codes and emotional barriers […] were […] not standing before us like giants, it is very likely that at least 20% of the participants of this conference would raise their hands.” This is what the campaign was about.

More than an awareness-raising campaign, it was an empowering campaign. Governments, members of parliaments, the business sector, ombudspersons, local authorities, professional networks, religious leaders, NGOs, journalists, researchers and in particular children and young people had a role to play. And so did the Council of Europe’s Committee of Ministers and Parliamentary Assembly, as well as the UN family and the EU. As UN Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, I note that the distinction between sexual abuse and exploitation is getting more and more blurred. One can lead to another. Ending impunity of the perpetrators must go hand in hand with ending social tolerance of sexual abuse and providing children with accessible and child-friendly reporting mechanisms.

The ONE in FIVE Campaign has produced tangible results in all these respects. Since it was launched, 28 additional countries have ratified the Lanzarote Convention, bringing the total number of ratifications to 38. But we all know that ratification alone is not enough. Implementation and full and consistent commitment by all actors to end this intolerable breach of children’s human rights, with devastating and frequently lasting effects on child victims, is a must.

Therefore, the end of the campaign cannot be the end of that commitment. Quite the opposite. We all feel empowered by it. For my part, in my current role, I will continue to uphold the message of the campaign: we shall not stop until the ratio is ZERO in FIVE.
Network of contact parliamentarians

**News: 25th network meeting, Strasbourg**

The network of contact parliamentarians to stop sexual violence against children will meet on 1 October 2015 at 2 p.m. The presentations to be made by Mr Kristof Claesen, Policy and Public Affairs Manager of the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), and Ms Jutta Croll, Executive Director of the Online Child Protection Centre (I-KIZ), Germany, will introduce the debate on “Protecting children from sexual violence online”. These presentations will be followed by an exchange of views with contact parliamentarians.

The Council of Europe’s Deputy Secretary General, Gabriella Battaini Dragoni, is invited to give her usual update on the ONE in FIVE Campaign.

**Latest event: 24th network meeting, Strasbourg**

“Treatment of child sex offenders can be successful”, says Ms Eleni Karayianni

The network of contact parliamentarians held a meeting on Thursday 25 June 2015. The discussion on “Treatment of child sex offenders” was introduced by Ms Eleni Karayianni PsyD, Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Clinical Training Co-ordinator in the Department of Psychology at the University of Cyprus. The participants discussed psychological treatment methods to help offenders avoid relapse and successfully reintegrate into society. Treatment programmes hold promise for reducing sex offender recidivism, while appropriate therapy for potential abusers can minimise the risk of offending.

**Network activities in 2016**

During the in camera joint meeting of the network with the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, the network of contact parliamentarians decided to pursue its activities for another year, organising thematic debates twice a year and providing visibility materials, subject to the availability of funds. Council of Europe Deputy Secretary General, Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, supported the idea of continuing the fruitful activities of the network in 2016.
EACA Care Awards for The Lake

The two-minute video clip The Lake, a striking video produced by PACE in 2013 with the aim of encouraging adolescents who suffer sexual abuse to seek help, has won joint first prize at the European Association of Communications Agencies (EACA) Care Awards, in the category “Government and Non-Profit”. Created by French film director Roland Edzard, the video illustrates the psychological pressure that abusers in children’s circles of trust can put on their victims.

Sixteen social marketing campaigns from 12 countries were shortlisted for the final judging round of the 2015 EACA Care Awards and were judged by a panel of agency professionals and media representatives. The main aim of the EACA awards is to highlight the advertising industry’s specific contribution to society by selecting and celebrating the most powerful and relevant social marketing campaigns.

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities: seminar for national associations of local and regional authorities (Netherlands)

The Congress held a seminar for national associations of local and regional authorities on 30 June 2015 in ‘s-Hertogenbosch (Netherlands), devoted to the Congress’s contribution to the ONE in FIVE Campaign. Its main goal was to present the campaign, in particular, the Lanzarote Convention and the Pact of Towns and Regions to Stop Sexual Violence against Children, drawn up by the Congress. Representatives of more than 20 European countries gathered to share good practices and to explore new ways of co-operating on raising awareness of the ONE in FIVE Campaign, in order to encourage European towns and regions to sign the pact.

Mexico

A new campaign tool was produced in Mexico at the initiative of Ms Diva Hadamira Gastélum Bajo. The book contains the Mexican general law on the rights of children and adolescents.
The ONE in FIVE Campaign to stop sexual violence against children is now coming to its end. Five years of successful campaigning have secured an exceptional 28 additional ratifications of the Lanzarote Convention, raised awareness on the issue of child sexual abuse and exploitation in Europe and beyond, and helped parliamentarians to develop in-depth expertise through more than 25 thematic network debates. However, with nine ratifications still outstanding, and the necessity to address new challenges and ensure proper implementation of the convention across Europe, we need to keep the momentum going. Children’s right to be free from sexual violence must stay high on the agenda of our governments and parliaments, as well as of the Council of Europe and its Parliamentary Assembly.

This is why parliamentarians have decided to pursue the activities of the network of contact parliamentarians to stop sexual violence against children in 2016, subject to the availability of funds. The Assembly received substantial external funding for the parliamentary dimension of the ONE in FIVE Campaign between 2011 and 2015. In this context, the Assembly would like to extend its particular thanks to Germany for its significant voluntary contributions in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014, as well as to all the other parliaments and governments that have provided much-valued support for the campaign’s parliamentary dimension over the years: Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Finland, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Russian Federation and Switzerland. Special thanks also go to the A.G. Leventis Foundation, which has co-funded a pilot project in Cyprus in the framework of the campaign.

However, we require additional funding to finance the extra year of activities of the network of contact parliamentarians to stop sexual violence against children, in particular for the organisation of thematic debates at least twice a year and the preparation of related visibility material. A further call is therefore being made to national parliaments and/or governments for voluntary contributions to keep the fight against child sexual violence going in 2016.

**The network of contact parliamentarians to stop sexual violence against children is committed to protecting children’s rights and determined to continue its activities in 2016. Every contribution makes a difference and we are counting on your support!**

For all questions relating to the funding of the campaign, please contact Ms Jannick Devaux (jannick.devaux@coe.int, tel. +33 (0)3 90 21 49 03), Project Manager, Network of contact parliamentarians to stop sexual violence against children or Ms Tanja Kleinsorge (tanja.kleinsorge@coe.int, tel: +33 (0)3 88 41 29 06), Head of the Secretariat, Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development.

www.assembly.coe.int/oneinfive
**Lanzarote Convention**

Hungary and Liechtenstein

Hungary and Liechtenstein ratified the Lanzarote Convention on 3 August 2015 and on 11 September 2015, respectively.

**Agenda**

The network of contact parliamentarians will continue its activities in 2015 and 2016.

**Next meeting:**

- 25th meeting of the network, on Thursday 1 October 2015, during the October part-session.

**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**

**Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe**

Jannick Devaux  
Project Manager  
Tel: + 33 (0)3 90 21 49 03

Alina Beliaeva  
Project Assistant  
Tel: + 33 (0)3 90 21 45 68

E-mail: paceoneinfive@coe.int / Fax: + 33 3 88 41 27 97