Parliaments united in combating sexual violence against children

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

When the Council of Europe ONE in FIVE Campaign to stop sexual violence against children was launched in November 2010, the Parliamentary Assembly immediately expressed its whole-hearted commitment to the campaign. Eighteen months later, I would now like to pay tribute to the Assembly’s remarkable work carried out thanks to the impetus of a dynamic network of contact parliamentarians, which currently has 45 members.

Parliamentary debates, awareness-raising and prevention campaigns for and with children, and support for the ratification of the Lanzarote Convention: all these initiatives have fostered the practical implementation of the campaign in various Council of Europe member States and in Mexico.

Ten years ago, as MP and Mayor of Dammarie-lès-Lys, I set up the Children’s Parliament in my municipality in order to actively promote children’s rights. After International Children’s Rights Day in 2011 this parliament invited some 100 schoolchildren to discuss the theme “No to sexual abuse!” with the help of their teachers.

As parliamentarians, we all have the responsibility and duty to work to protect children against sexual violence, at both the local level in our constituencies and at national level in our parliaments. This is why I urge all Assembly members to continue their strong commitment to the ONE in FIVE Campaign.

Editorial by Jean-Claude Mignon
President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

The network of contact parliamentarians will continue to meet at each PACE part-session in 2012:
- June 2012: 8th network meeting, during the 3rd PACE part-session.
- October 2012: 9th network meeting, during of the 4th PACE part-session.

It will also hold an external meeting (date and place to be determined).

Website

Interviews, handbooks, compendiums, newsletters, leaflets, etc. Find information about the parliamentary dimension of the campaign at the following address:
www.assembly.coe.int/oneinfive

Contacts

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**Network of contact parliamentarians**

**News: 7th network meeting, Strasbourg**

Debate on reporting suspected sexual violence against children

The 7th meeting of the network of contact parliamentarians will take place on 24 April 2012, during the 2nd part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

On 22 December 2011 a debate among schoolchildren under the name “We say NO to violence” was held in Baku (Azerbaijan) on the initiative of Ms Sevinj Fataliyeva, Member of Parliament of Azerbaijan, and contact parliamentarian for the Council of Europe ONE in FIVE Campaign.

Representatives of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Committee on Children, Women and Family Affairs, as well as NGOs, psychologists, teachers and parents of the Surakhani district, took part in the discussion.

The booklet “We say NO to violence” was distributed to the audience. It presents information about preventive measures and general rules of safety for young children, teenagers and parents.

Six children from different schools of the Surakhani district of Baku made speeches about the cases of violence in schools, families, relations between parents and children in families, the psychological condition of abused children, etc. All the participants then exchanged their points of view on these issues. At the end the winners of the essay competition entitled “The role of children in modern society” were awarded with certificates and prizes.

**Latest: 6th network meeting, Strasbourg**

Debate on the means to redress and eliminate sexual violence against children

On 24 January 2012, parliamentarians debated on the means to redress and eliminate sexual violence against children with Mr Hammarberg, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, and Mr Ruelle, Judge and Chairperson of the Committee of the Parties to the Lanzarote Convention.

The Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Ms de Boer-Buquicchio, gave an update on the ONE in FIVE Campaign, followed by a statement by Mr Frécon, President of the Chamber of Local Authorities, on the involvement of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in the campaign.

The meeting was once again a forum for the exchange of information between parliamentarians on:

- the Lanzarote Convention: Mr Marquet, contact parliamentarian for Monaco, indicated that his country will ratify the Lanzarote Convention. Ms Sosa Govea, contact parliamentarian for Mexico, informed the participants that the Mexican Senate had invited the government to sign the convention. Ms Backman, Chairperson of the Icelandic Delegation, said that the ratification of the convention was currently being considered by the parliament.

- the ONE in FIVE Campaign: Ms Fataliyeva, contact parliamentarian for Azerbaijan, and Ms Kyriakidou, contact parliamentarian for Cyprus, presented the latest activities organised in their respective countries to promote the campaign. The Chairperson, Ms Maury Pasquier, announced the preparation of the launch of a national campaign in Montenegro.

**National parliamentary initiatives**

**Azerbaijan**

**Debate with schoolchildren in Baku: “We say NO to violence”**

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**Cyprus**

**1st meeting of the National Committee for the ONE in FIVE Campaign**

On 9 January 2012, Ms Athina Kyriakidou, contact parliamentarian for Cyprus, attended the 1st meeting of the National Committee for the ONE in FIVE Campaign convened under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance. The House of Representatives then decided to co-finance the translation and publication of the campaign material into Greek and announced it would distribute this material to pupils visiting the House of Representatives in co-ordination with the Ministry of Education and Culture.

**Montenegro**

**Launch of the national campaign**

On 10 February 2012, Prime Minister Igor Lukić held a meeting in Podgorica to reflect upon the participation of Montenegro in the campaign. A national team in charge of preparing the campaign programme, under the co-ordination of Ms Valentina Radulovic-Scepanovic, contact parliamentarian for Montenegro, held its first meeting on 2 March 2012.
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PACE Newsletter No. 5 – April 2012

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