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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Each and every one of us has the duty to do all that we can to ensure that every child can receive the necessary help and grow up in safety. We, as members of parliament, have a particular responsibility, which is why I welcome the growing visibility of the role and importance of the parliamentary dimension of the ONE in FIVE Campaign.

Montenegro has a strong commitment to the protection of the rights of the child, as is clear from its accession to all the international conventions and agreements in this sphere.

The Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse has been applied in Montenegro since March 2011. A national team for the campaign was set up in March 2012, with the kind and wholehearted support of the Prime Minister, Mr Igor Lukšić. This team, of which I am national co-ordinator, includes representatives of the government, the parliament, the Union of Municipalities, the police, the Supreme Court, the office of the Supreme Court State Prosecutor and the Deputy Ombudsperson for children’s rights. Campaign partners today include Unicef, a number of NGOs, successful enterprises, national and foreign experts and some media. The number of friends, supporters and other players are growing by the day. We are all united by our common commitment to children and our effort to create safe conditions for them to enable them to be happy while they grow up.

I am sure that the activities and programmes taking place within the PACE network of parliamentarians working together for this common European initiative will be highly successful.

Agenda

The Network of Contact Parliamentarians will continue to meet in 2012:

- October 2012: 9th network meeting, on the occasion of the fourth PACE part-session (1-5 October 2012), Strasbourg.
- 20 November 2012: 10th network meeting, Moscow, Russian Federation (subject to Bureau authorisation).

Website

Interviews, handbooks, compendiums, newsletters, leaflets, etc. Find all information about the parliamentary dimension of the campaign at the following address:

www.assembly.coe.int/oneinfive

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Azerbaijan

Events organised by the Parliament of Azerbaijan

• “Say NO to violence”, a meeting attended by pupils aged between 10 and 16, their parents, teachers and psychologists, representatives of NGOs, the National Commission for Women, Children and Family Affairs, and parliamentarians to discuss the role of children in society and the prevention of violence. Handbooks on the prevention of violence against children were handed out to parents and children (5 April 2012, Baku).

• Conference on “Violence against children: causes and prevention” at the parliament in the presence of international experts, representatives of parliament (including Bahar Muradova, Vice-President, and Sevinj Fataliyeva, Vice-President of the Committee on Foreign and Interparliamentary Relations, who is the contact parliamentarian for Azerbaijan) and representatives of the government (30 April 2012, Baku).

• Training for children on how to protect themselves from all forms of violence, conducted by a German psychologist (1 May 2012, Baku).

• Training for police officers on the attitude to be taken in cases of violence to ensure that the child is not re-traumatised (2 May 2012, Baku).

Montenegro

Tools and events

• Round table “Recognising a child who has been subjected to sexual violence and the appropriate medical and psychological treatment” with the participation of the Ministry of Health (19 April 2012, Podgorica).

• Round table “Existing practical and legislative experience concerning the protection of children and minors subjected to sexual violence” held by the Supreme Court (26 April 2012, Cetinje).

• Lecture on “The abuse of children in tourist centres” aimed at discussing experiences with the representatives and employees of the education system, the police and tourist organisations (17 May 2012, Budva).

• Conference on “Sexual abuse of children in the context of preventing trafficking at borders and in tourist centres” sponsored by the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism and municipal associations. Valentina Radulović-Šćepanović, national co-ordinator for the ONE in FIVE Campaign in Montenegro, opened the conference. The Mayor of Rožaje gave his unqualified support to this project as his town lies on the border with Albania and Kosovo and has witnessed a substantial increase in human trafficking (23 May 2012, Rožaje).