The history of mankind is marred by violence. Violence has been used for centuries as the means of subjugating or even eliminating certain groups of people. Unfortunately, the evolution of civilisation in the world has not led to a decrease in such violence.

When a child comes into our world, he or she is already a person with all human rights, even if his or her main immediate care is his or her own physical comfort. Yet it is only when the child grows up that he or she acquires a complex arrangement of values, likes and dislikes, aims, intentions and behaviour patterns as well as a unique vision of the world. The conditions of a child’s development and socialisation depend on us – adults – in particular the family.

When children frequently observe violence – and even more so if they are themselves the victims of violence – their socialisation is impeded: they may find it difficult to form strong relationships with other people, and suffer from low self-esteem, diminished self-confidence and ill health.

The legal literacy of the population, especially children’s knowledge of their rights, plays a great role in breaking the cycle of violence. It is necessary to raise awareness of children’s human right to be free of violence right down to the grassroots level.

This is why our activity in Azerbaijan has centred on delivering this message through a well-defined co-ordination of the activities of different authorities’ activities: Parliament, the State Committee on Family, Women and Child problems, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, the Ministry of Education and the NGO group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Only by all striving together for this goal can we achieve success in our activity and eliminate all forms of violence against children.
News: 9th network meeting, Strasbourg

Debate: “Fighting against sexual violence: empowering children”

On 3 October 2012, on the occasion of the fourth part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the 9th meeting of the network of contact parliamentarians to stop sexual violence against children will take place.

The debate on “Fighting against sexual violence: empowering children” will be introduced by Gorana Hitrec, President of the Coordination of Associations for Children (Croatia) and Dusica Popadić, Director of the Incest Trauma Center-Belgrade (Serbia).

Latest: 8th network meeting, Strasbourg

Debate: “Young sex offenders and children with sexual behaviour problems”

On 27 June 2012, at the 8th meeting of the network of contact parliamentarians to stop sexual violence against children, the debate centred on young sex offenders and children with sexual behaviour problems, thus covering young people both before and after they reach the age of criminal responsibility.

Two experienced psychologists, Ólafur Örn Bragason, from Salarheill psychological services (Iceland), and Dr Peter Mosser, from the Kibs contact, information and counseling centre for male victims of sexual violence in Munich (Germany), started the debate. Their presentations gave participants insight into the psychology of young sexual offenders, many of whom were victims themselves before becoming offenders. The experts also drew attention to the role of the family in treatment.

This meeting also afforded an opportunity to applaud the work done by the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, and to thank her, prior to her impending retirement, for her significant contribution to children’s causes throughout her term of office.
Austria

On 22 June 2012, Stefan Schennach, contact parliamentarian for Austria, gave a presentation on the ONE in FIVE Campaign to the Association of Austrian Cities (Österreichischer Städtebund). The raising of awareness of the campaign's cause and the strengthening of measures to combat sexual abuse against children were the subjects discussed by representatives of cities, who pledged to promote the campaign objectives at the local level and to support the development of facilities for children and young people in distress.

France

With the encouragement of Jean-Claude Mignon, President of the PACE and deputy and mayor of Dammarie-lès-Lys, that municipality's Children's Parliament, which has met annually for the last nine years, decided to adopt as its theme for 2012 "No to sexual abuse!". This project, which involved teachers, enabled children and parents alike to be informed about this issue and made more aware of it, with the help of various information materials and activities developed by the municipality (teaching pack, cartoons, UNICEF activities in the classroom, etc). As a result of this project, two cases of child abuse were detected.

Greece

Michail Katrinis, contact parliamentarian for Greece, was behind the event "Protect children from all forms of abuse", held in Heraklion (Crete), on 5 September 2012. This was the second event of its kind in Crete, and representatives of local and regional authorities, psychiatrists and psychologists took part, reflecting the importance of the subject and the local population's growing need for preventive action.
Agenda

The network of contact parliamentarians will continue to meet in 2012:

- **3 October 2012**: 9th network meeting, on the occasion of the fourth PACE part-session in Strasbourg. The debate’s topic will be “Fighting against sexual violence: empowering children”.

- **20 November 2012**: 10th network meeting on “Sexual abuse of children in the circle of trust”, Moscow, Russian Federation.

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

Contacts

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Jannick Devaux  
Project Manager  
Tel: +33 (0)3 90 21 49 03  
E-mail: paceoneinfive@coe.int / Fax: +33 (0)3 88 41 27 97

Maren Lambrecht-Feigl  
Secretary to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development  
Tel: +33 (0)3 90 21 47 78 / Fax: +33 (0)3 88 41 27 97