How can the Parliamentary Assembly support action taken by national parliaments?

- In close co-operation with its national delegations, the Assembly has created a network of contact parliamentarians appointed by national parliaments. To date, 44 contact parliamentarians have been nominated. The network’s aim is to gather together all the initiatives taken by various national parliaments and to facilitate the exchange of good practice between them.

- The Assembly organises meetings of the network at every part-session (four times a year in Strasbourg) and one external meeting per year.

- It has also published a “Handbook for parliamentarians” as a practical tool for communicating and implementing the Lanzarote Convention at national level. The printed version of the handbook has been available since January 2011. It can also be downloaded in English, French or Spanish on the website of the campaign. National parliaments are invited to translate the handbook into their own language and disseminate it in their country.

- The Assembly will also make toolkits available to national parliaments suggesting practical ways in which they can support the campaign, along with communication materials (logo, leaflets, posters, etc.);

- It will give its patronage to national and regional initiatives taken by national parliaments.

References

Recommendation 1934 (2010), adopted by the Assembly on 5 October 2010
Child abuse in institutions: ensuring full protection of the victims

Recommendation 1980 (2011), adopted by the Assembly on 5 October 2011
Combating “child abuse images” through committed, transversal and internationally co-ordinated action

Resolution 1834 (2011), adopted by the Assembly on 5 October 2011
Combating “child abuse images” through committed, transversal and internationally co-ordinated action

Resolution 1850 (2011), adopted by the Assembly on 25 November 2011
What Europe can do for children in the aftermath of natural disasters and crisis situations: the examples of Haiti and Afghanistan

Websites

www.assembly.coe.int/oneinfive
www.coe.int/oneinfive

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The Parliamentary Assembly is one of two statutory organs of the Council of Europe. It was the first European parliamentary body after 1945 and today is Europe’s biggest political forum. With its 318 Representatives (and the same number of Substitutes) from national parliaments, the Assembly represents the main political currents of the member states of “greater Europe”.

This leaflet has been printed thanks to the voluntary contribution of the Government of Germany to the parliamentary dimension of the Council of Europe ONE in FIVE Campaign to stop sexual violence against children.

Printed in December 2011
What do we mean by sexual violence?

Sexual violence against children can take many forms: sexual abuse within the family circle, an institution or anywhere else; sexual exploitation through “child pornography”; prostitution; solicitation via the Internet (grooming); sexual assault by peers.

The member states of the Council of Europe must combat this violation of human rights by adopting the right laws and taking the necessary action.

How can we stop sexual violence against children?

A parliamentary campaign:

“Parliaments united in combating sexual violence against children”

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe is developing the parliamentary dimension of the Council of Europe ONE in FIVE Campaign to stop sexual violence against children.

Main objectives:

• to promote the signature, ratification and implementation of the Lanzarote Convention;
• to encourage national parliaments to become actively involved in combating sexual violence through the implementation of the campaign in their states and through the adoption of specific laws;
• to draw the attention of politicians to the problems linked to sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children;
• to co-ordinate national and European parliamentary action to combat sexual violence against children and facilitate the exchange of national information and of best practices on the legislative and political actions taken in each member state.

Involved partners:

• the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, in close co-operation with the intergovernmental sector of the Council of Europe;
• the national parliaments of the 47 member states of the Council of Europe;
• the observer parliaments (Canada, Israel, Mexico);
• the parliaments with “Partner for democracy” status with the Parliamentary Assembly
• European and international organisations and parliamentary assemblies;
• NGOs and civil society.

What can national parliaments do for the campaign?

• organise parliamentary debates on the issue of sexual exploitation and sexual violence against children;
• adopt or strengthen laws to fight sexual violence against children, monitor the laws adopted and ensure they are known to the general public;
• ratify and implement the Lanzarote Convention;
• launch an awareness-raising and prevention campaign on the issue of sexual violence against children;
• ask governments to take relevant action;
• convey and spread the message of the campaign through the media;
• support the Council of Europe’s campaign in different ways (providing voluntary funding, translating communication materials);
• inform the secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly about all action taken at national level to combat sexual violence against children in order to facilitate the exchange of good practice.