

# Europe and CIS Child and Youth Preparatory Forum

## for the World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents

### 31<sup>st</sup> of October – 2<sup>nd</sup> of November in Düsseldorf

## Recommendations from children and young people:

### THEME 1: CSEC manifestations and emerging challenges

#### Cross-cutting:

- There is need for more education on prevention of CSEC via adequate media, i.e. school programme, tv, newspapers and internet. The education should address 2 topics:
  - o Facts: dangers of CSEC, how to escape/prevent/protect, information on aid organizations
  - o Perspectives on position of young men and women in society. Teach boys and girls to say no or stand up for themselves in case of danger and rely on intuition.
- There is need for more resources for youth organizations or groups of young people involved in prevention or victim support activities
- Work with parents in local communities, especially in villages, to create hotlines that advice on issue of rights of children.
- Investigate the problem of CSEC in minority groups and estimate the scale and develop rehabilitation programs and trainings for the victims.
- The media must respect the victims right to privacy and protection of identity.
- Teachers should be involved and encouraged to speak to their students about the phenomenon.

#### Child Marriage:

- Inform young girls and boys about the negative effects of early marriage (i.e. illegal marriage) Inform parents and young girls and boys that they have rights not to forced into early marriages
- There is need for better access to education for girls that are vulnerable to child marriage as a preventive measure.

#### Child prostitution:

- It is important to break the silence on child prostitution in Europe, and raise awareness about the fact that any child can be affected.
- Potential offenders should be informed on the differences between adult prostitution and child prostitution

- There is need to discuss the trends in masculinity and femininity in their relation to CSEC.

#### Child Trafficking:

- More attention should be given to domestic trafficking.

#### Child abuse imagery and sexual abuse through ICT:

- Involve the public in preventing harmful information being spread by internet, teletext, etc. (Harmful information could for example be contact details of potential victims, information for offenders and child abuse imagery).
- “Net Smart Rules” should be used in schools as a preventive measure.

#### Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism:

- There is need for awareness raising campaigns to change public opinion on sexual exploitation of children in tourism.

### **THEME 2: Legal Issues and Law enforcement**

- Ensure that legislation regards the best interest of the child, and specify in individual cases regarding CSEC what is meant by best interest based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Develop international and national standards and agreements within legal proceedings of CSEC cases which focus on protection of victims.
- Principle of not criminalizing victims on national and international agenda, and practise in law enforcement
- Child friendly procedures should be put into national legislation, and special national institution should be identified to control child rights in all countries.
- International and regional internet and 24 hour toll-free telephone hotlines should be established to enable more efficient reporting and prosecution of cases of CSEC.

### **THEME 3: Inter-sectoral policies and systems - Making Policies work well across sectors**

- Counteraction, prevention programs, rehabilitation mechanisms and child protection systems should be developed jointly by all stakeholders; Governments, NGOs, private sector and children and youth.
- States should invite all relevant actors, especially NGOs and youth, to contribute to the formulation and evaluation of State policy, by forming recommendations, and by developing and piloting prevention and rehabilitation models.
- In order to change public opinion, it is necessary to bring public attention to the problem of CSEC and develop social responsibility.
- All states should within 5 years develop a Child Protection Strategy relating to commercial sexual exploitation of children.

- There should be Code of Conducts for schools and kindergardens, to inform and train staff on the CRC and the issue of CSEC. (Child Safe Organisations training should be conducted).
- Establish sustainable structures for meaningful child and youth participation within all institutions dealing with vulnerable children and children affected by CSEC. (Especially collecting feedback from children on services provided).
- Children should get to know their rights from an early age, for example through games focusing on “saying no” and be aware of intimate limits. Parents should receive training as a part of such initiatives. Also it would be important to accompany these trainings by workshops with parents.

#### **THEME 4: Corporate social responsibility**

- Hotel staff acting as intermediaries should be prosecuted, i.e. hotel staff who “provide” children or support child prostitution in the hotel.
- There should be more involvement of the transport industry in the fight against CSEC, by raising awareness about CSEC at main areas such as at border crossings, train stations, buss stations and in airports.
- All Internet search engines should have updated filters for sexually abusive content.
- Internet Service Providers should work together to block sites which contain child pornography.
- The fashion industry, mass media, and the music and entertainment industry often transmit a very narrow range of beauty ideals which contributes to a low self esteem among many young people, which in turn contributes to vulnerability to being commercially sexually abused. Involved companies should take responsibility by using mass media to make campaigns which aim to strengthen the self-esteem through creating personal values concerning beauty.
- To prevent sexualisation of children in media, there is need for clear guidelines for media on the participation of children and adolescents in the media.
- There is need for better legislative instruments for governments to control and monitor companies that do not respect the CRC or are involved in any form of CSEC.
- There is need for further international promotion and branding of the Code of Conduct to raise awareness on how travelers can choose socially responsible travel companies.
- The Code of Conduct against sexual exploitation of children in tourism should be implemented by more actors (hotels, transport companies, tourist companies) and be monitored more closely. More resources and efforts to monitor and control the implementation of the Code of Conduct is needed.

## **THEME 5: Strategies for International and Regional Cooperation**

- Governments should meet at a regional level to discuss CSEC at least once a year and develop common strategies and measurable, timebound goals.
- More websites should be developed which offers resources on combating CSEC and where good practices can be exchanged between governments, the police, NGOs and youth.

### **Recommendations on Child and Youth Participation against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children**

- There is need to set up and strengthen sustainable structures for children and youth to contribute in a meaningful way to policymaking and evaluation of programs, and should be consulted on new legislation.
- Youth should be invited to debates and roundtables with the government, to offer their perspective on how to combat CSEC, which will make policy more efficient.
- More resources are needed to strengthen and expand the child and youth network against CSEC.
- Successful models of peer to peer programs should be replicated, such as peer to peer awareness raising, prevention and self-help peer groups.
- Youth should be included in CSR activities and can take an active role in monitoring private corporations.