



United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children

Questionnaire to Governments

Advance Version

Introduction

This questionnaire is designed to obtain information from Governments for the United Nations Secretary-General's in-depth Study on the question of violence against children requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 57/190. Mr. Paulo Sergio Pinheiro has been appointed by the Secretary-General as the independent expert to direct the study, in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO), and he has developed a concept paper on the study (E/CN.4/2004/68, annex).

In preparing the report, the independent expert will draw on a variety of sources and available information and statistics in addition to the responses to this questionnaire. These will include reports submitted by States parties under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as other human rights treaties, and information generated by United Nations conferences and summits, and their reviews, including the special sessions of the General Assembly, in particular the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children. Official statistics available from the United Nations Statistics Division and other statistical information available in the United Nations system, including UNICEF, WHO and the International Labour Organization (ILO) will be used. United Nations field presences will also be asked to provide pertinent information. Information will also be gleaned from non-governmental organizations and from regional and field-level consultations and expert group meetings which will form an integral part of the study.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child has emphasized that the study "should lead to the development of strategies aimed at effectively preventing and combating all forms of violence against children, outlining steps to be taken at the international level and by States to provide effective prevention, protection, intervention, treatment, recovery and reintegration" (A/56/488, annex). The General Assembly called for the study to put forward recommendations for consideration by Member States for appropriate action, including effective remedies and preventive and rehabilitative measures.

1 Responding to the questionnaire

In providing responses to the questionnaire, Governments are requested to consider approaches which have been adopted at national level with respect to violence generally, and towards children in particular. They are also asked to take account of the fact that responses to all forms of violence against children might not be the task of one Government department only, and depending on your Government's structure may be within the competence of the federal, state, provincial or municipal authorities.

Governments may wish to identify a **focal point** responsible for coordinating responses to the questionnaire, and make this focal point known to the secretariat of the study.

If information called for by the questionnaire has been provided by the Government in another context, for example in reporting under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, reference to that document should be provided, and information contained in that document should not be repeated. Governments are also encouraged to provide copies of relevant laws, policies, reports etc.

The questionnaire is divided into seven parts, which deal with (I) the legal framework, (II) the institutional framework and resources to address violence against children, (III) the role of civil society in addressing violence against children, (IV) children as actors in addressing violence, (v) policies and programmes to address violence against children, (VI) data collection, analysis and research, and (VII) awareness, advocacy and training. Examples of issues and questions which are to be covered under each part of the questionnaire are provided for guidance. Governments are not required to cover each of these issues, but to select those which are most relevant to their national context. Additional issues, over and above those provided as guidance, can also be raised in responses.

Governments are encouraged to provide examples of good practices and innovative approaches to addressing all forms of violence against children, in order to assist in the dissemination and sharing of positive experiences. Governments are also asked to outline obstacles encountered in addressing the issue.

Definition of child

Governments should note that in providing information for this questionnaire, a child is defined as in article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as “[e]very human being below the age of eighteen years unless, under the law applicable to the child, the majority is attained earlier.” Accordingly, information on strategies to address violence against girls and boys under 18 should be provided throughout.

Submission of responses

Responses to this questionnaire should be sent in both hard copy and electronic format in one of the six official United Nations languages no later than 31 July 2004 to:

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QUESTIONNAIRE

I. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This part of the questionnaire aims to determine how your country's legal framework addresses violence against children, including prevention of violence, protection of children from violence, redress for victims of violence, penalties for perpetrators and reintegration and rehabilitation of victims.

International human rights instruments

1. Describe any developments with respect to violence against children which have resulted from Liechtenstein's acceptance of international human rights instruments, including, for example, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols, the Palermo Protocol or regional human rights instruments. Provide information on cases concerning violence against children in which Liechtenstein's courts or tribunals have referred to international or regional human rights standards.

- Liechtenstein ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on 22 December 1995 and the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict on 4 February 2005.
- The Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography was signed on 8 September 2000.
- Liechtenstein has also signed the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on 12 December 2000 and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children on 14 March 2001.
- The European Convention on the Compensation of Victims of Violent Crimes was signed on 7th April 2005.

With regard to the implementation of international law, Liechtenstein subscribes to the principle that treaty obligations should be entered into only when internal compliance is guaranteed. Therefore the necessary legal amendments are made before the ratification of a treaty.

Legal provisions on violence against children

2. Describe how forms of violence against children are addressed in Liechtenstein's constitution, legislation and subsidiary legislation, and, where appropriate, customary law.

The **general penal provisions** addressing criminal acts against corporal integrity and life apply to adults and children alike. However, there are a number of specific provisions addressing violence against children in particular (art. 92, 93, 198 Criminal Code).

Liechtenstein has responded to the threat to the well-being of children through **sexual abuse** by tightening sexual crimes legislation (art. 200ff Criminal Code; LGBl. 2001 no. 16). Several provisions address children in particular.

With regard to **domestic violence**, new legislation gives the National Police and the courts the possibility to expel perpetrators from the household and to prohibit the perpetrators to enter the household (LGBl. 2001 no. 25, 26, 27).

The **Code of Criminal Procedure** was revised in order to improve the protection of victims, in particular of minors, in criminal proceedings (LGBl. 2004 no. 236). In addition, work has started for a new **Victims' Assistance Act**.

3. Provide details of any specific legislative provisions on:

- **Protection of children from and prevention of all forms of physical, sexual and mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, and sexual abuse;**
- **Redress, including compensation, for child victims of violence;**
- **Penalties for perpetrators of violence against children;**
- **Reintegration and rehabilitation of child victims of violence.**
- A person who intentionally or negligently causes physical or psychological harm to a person under the age of 18 or who does not fulfil a duty of custody, thereby harming the physical or mental development of the minor commits a criminal offence. The penalty can consist of imprisonment of up to two years. If the offence results in grievous bodily harm or death the penalty can amount to five and ten years of imprisonment (art. 92 and 93 Criminal Code).
- A person who does not fulfil the necessary care, child-raising, or supervision of a minor under his/her responsibility, leading to a state of neglect (even when occurring negligently), commits a criminal offence. The penalty can be up to six months of imprisonment (art. 198 Criminal Code).
- In the case of **domestic violence** the National Police has the right to expel perpetrators from the household and to prohibit the perpetrator to enter into the house. Where minors are affected, the Office of Social Affairs has to be informed (LGBI. 2001, No.26).
- The new **Youth Workers' Protection Ordinance** (LGBI. 2005 No. 69), which entered into force on 1 May 2005, explicitly prohibits labour in which children and young people are subject to physical, psychological, moral or sexual abuse, namely prostitution, the production of pornography, and pornographic performances. Further it prohibits dangerous labour and employment in cabarets and bars.
- The penalty for **sexual abuse** of persons under the age of 14 is imprisonment from 1 to 10 years in the case of sexual intercourse or acts of similar kind. Other acts of sexual abuse are punished with imprisonment from 6 months to five years. If the sexual abuse results in grievous bodily harm the penalty is higher, up to 20 years of imprisonment in the case of sexual intercourse and up to 15 years in other cases (art. 205 and 206 Criminal Code).
- Sexual abuse of persons above the age of 14 but younger than 16, by exploiting a situation of lack of sexual self-determination, personal need or by offering payment, is punished with imprisonment of up to 3 years. The penalty is higher when the abuse resulted in grievous bodily harm (art. 208 Criminal Code).
- Immoral behaviour in front of minors that may endanger their moral, psychological or physical development is punished with imprisonment of up to one year (art. 207 Criminal Code).
- Sexual abuse of minors through abuse of a position of authority (e.g. family members, officials in the area of care and education, medical doctors or employees) is punished with up to 3 years of imprisonment (art. 212 Criminal Code). Furthermore the arrangement of sexual activities with third persons by abusing the position of authority is prohibited and punished with up to 3 years of imprisonment (art. 213 Criminal Code).

- Promotion of **prostitution and procuring** is prohibited. Penalties are higher when persons under 18 are concerned, being up to 3 years of imprisonment for prostitution and up to 5 years for procuring (art. 216 and 217 Criminal Code).
- Showing, offering and handing over of **pornographic material** to persons under the age of 16 is a criminal offence punished with imprisonment of up to six months or with a fine (art. 218a Criminal Code).
- The production and distribution of pornographic material showing sexual behaviour with minors is punished with up to 2 years of imprisonment. The possession and consumption of such material is punished with up to 1 year of imprisonment (art. 218a Criminal Code).
- Persons involved in child abuse and child pornography are also liable when the offence is committed abroad (art. 64 4a Criminal Code)
- The recently **revised Code of Criminal Procedure** improves the protection of victims in criminal proceedings and especially takes the interests of young victims and victims of sexual offences better into account. Key points are sensitive questioning, once-only testimony, and questioning by an expert (LGBI. 2004 no. 236).
- A **Victims' Assistance Act** is currently in preparation. The new law will provide that victims of crimes (persons whose physical, sexual, or psychological integrity has been directly affected by a crime, as well as their spouses, children, parents and other persons who are similarly related to them) receive assistance through counselling and compensation. Special rules for minors concern the exception to the confidentiality requirement for the Victims' Assistance Office. In the case of children the officials have the right to report to law enforcement authorities if there is a serious danger that the victim could be harmed again. Counselling and support to overcome the traumatic experience as well as financial compensation shall help to improve the social reintegration of the victim.

4. Indicate whether any specific legislative provisions address all forms of violence including physical, sexual and psychological violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment and sexual exploitation against children which take place in the family/ home; Schools and pre-school care and education (both formal and non-formal, state and private); Institutions including care, residential, health and mental health; The context of law and public order enforcement including in detention facilities or prisons; The workplace (informal and formal); Sports and sporting facilities.

The general rules in the Criminal Code apply to all forms of violence against adults and children, regardless of whether they occur within the home, schools, medical institutions, detention facilities, workplace or sporting facilities.

5. Indicate if corporal punishment of children, in any setting, including in the family, is explicitly prohibited in Liechtenstein's legal system. Provide details of any legal defences available to those who administer corporal punishment to children, including in the family. Provide information on penalties applicable to those who administer corporal punishment to children, including in the family.

The Liechtenstein Civil Code states that minors have to obey the orders of their parents. However, the use of violence and the infliction of corporal and mental harm in case of enforcement of orders are prohibited (art. 146a ABGB). Corporal punishment at school is also prohibited (art. 5 ABGB).

6. Provide information on whether the penal code permits corporal punishment and/or capital punishment as a sentence for crimes committed by under 18 year olds.

The Principality of Liechtenstein abolished the death penalty in 1987 without any reservation and is party to the Protocol No. 13 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, concerning the abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances.

The Liechtenstein penal code does not permit corporal and/or capital punishment irrespective of the age. Liechtenstein is party to the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment as well as to the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

7. Provide details on whether bullying/hazing and sexual harassment are explicitly addressed by legislation.

Sexual harassment is a criminal offence (art. 203 Criminal Code) that can be punished with a fine or with imprisonment of up to six months. Sexual harassment at the workplace is dealt with specifically in the Gender Equality Act (LGBI. 1999 no. 96, art. 4). Any harassment of sexual nature, that has an impact on the dignity of a woman or a man at the workplace, is regarded as discriminating. The victim can ask the court to stop the harassment (prevent further harassment). A possible compensation is also foreseen in the act.

8. Provide information on the way in which harmful or violent traditional practices, including but not limited to female genital mutilation, child marriage or honour crimes are addressed in your country.

There is no special legislation on female genital mutilation and other harmful / violent traditional practices.

The minimum age for marriage is 18 for women and men (art. 9 Marriage Act). In exceptional cases courts may allow children younger than 18 to marry when parental consent is given.

9. Provide information on the applicability of specific provisions to address all forms of violence against children to non-citizens and stateless children, including asylum seekers and displaced children. If specific provisions do not apply to such children, provide details of protection offered to them.

The provisions concerning violence against children apply to everyone on Liechtenstein territory regardless of citizenship or residence status.

10. Provide information on any difference in the definition of violence and the applicable legal framework according to:

- **The sex or sexual orientation of the victim and/or of the perpetrator;**
- **The age of the victim and /or of the perpetrator;**
- **The relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, including, but not limited to infanticide, sexual violence in marriage, incest and sexual abuse within the family, and physical chastisement.**

There is no difference in the definition of violence with regard to gender or sexual orientation. The minimum age required for valid consent to sexual activity is 14 years

(art. 208 Criminal Code). Sexual activity is prohibited between a minor under the age of 16 and a person above 18.

Incest or sexual abuse resulting from the abuse of a position of authority are criminal offences (art. 211 and 212 Criminal Code).

In case of **sexual violence in marriage** or **cohabitation** a charge is only brought before the courts when the victim agrees. Rape carried out with severe violence is the only exception to this. However, if the victim intends to continue living together with the perpetrator, the very same may make use of mitigation of sentence according to article 41 of the Criminal Code.

11. Provide information on any recent comprehensive review of the legal framework to address violence against children.

Cf. no. 3

Courts tasked with addressing violence against children

13. Identify those parts of the court structure in your country tasked with addressing violence against children. Indicate if your family or juvenile courts have specific responsibility for this issue.

General jurisdiction entails the administration of justice in civil and criminal cases. The court of first instance is the Court of Justice (Fürstliches Landgericht) in Vaduz. The court of second instance is the Court of Appeal (Fürstliches Obergericht) and the court of third instance the Supreme Court (Fürstlicher Oberster Gerichtshof). With regard to criminal offences being committed by juveniles the general provisions of criminal procedure and the Juvenile Court Act apply. The Juvenile Criminal Court is responsible for juvenile criminal cases at first instance; the appeal procedure is defined by the Criminal Procedure Act.

Minimum age for sexual activity

14. Provide information on any legislatively defined minimum age required for valid consent to sexual activity. Is this age different for girls and boys? Is this age different in respect of heterosexual and homosexual activities?

According to article 208 Criminal Code the minimum age required for valid consent to sexual activity is 14 years. There is no difference in gender and sexual orientation.

15. Provide information on the minimum age of marriage for women and men.

The minimum age for marriage is 18 for women and men (art. 9 Marriage Act). In exceptional cases courts may allow children younger than 18 to marry when parental consent is given.

Sexual exploitation of children

16. Provide information on legislation and other measures to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children, including through prostitution and other unlawful sexual activities. Provide details on means to ensure that child victims of such exploitation are not criminalized. Provide information on legislation or other measures to prohibit all forms of sale or trafficking in children, including by their parents.

Prostitution, procurement and trafficking constitute criminal offences in Liechtenstein pursuant to articles 210, 215, 216 and 217 Criminal Code. It is also prohibited to undertake such activities by abusing a position of authority (e.g. parents). In addition, there are special provisions applying for minors, prohibiting sexual abuse and child pornography (art. 205, 206, 208 and 218 Criminal Code).

Especially important is that in those cases where the victims are minors, the offences trafficking, slavery, sexual abuse and pornography are also punished according to Liechtenstein law when they are committed abroad.

Pornography and harmful information

17. Provide information on legislation and other measures to prohibit the production, possession and dissemination of child pornography. In particular, please provide information on any controls on pornography produced and/or disseminated via the internet.

Article 218a paragraph 3 and 4 Criminal Code prohibits the production, import and distribution of child pornography. The penalty can amount to imprisonment of 1 to 3 years.

The Liechtenstein National Police has put in place an IT unit within the criminal police which is responsible for the pursuit of offences in the internet such as prohibited pornography. However, it does not undertake a monitoring of the internet, but reacts and investigates merely as a consequence of a report to the police. For this reason the IT unit works closely together with foreign partners in the USA and Europe (Germany, Austria, Switzerland) in combating prohibited pornography. In the last couple of months two cases related to child pornography consumption and distribution were revealed in Liechtenstein in collaboration with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), an investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. In May 2005 the criminal police conducted a media orientation on child pornography together with the FBI and the ICE in order to sensitize the public for the gravity of such crimes and to show potential offenders, in view of the presence of the police in the internet and the international networks and cooperation in combating this crime, the risk of their behaviour of which they assume it remains anonymous.

18. Provide information on any legislation or guidelines to protect children from injurious information and material transmitted through the media, Internet, videos, electronic games, etc.

Article 218a of the Criminal Code prohibits the distribution of material with pornographic content in the media. Likewise pornographic material shall not be made accessible to children under the age of 16. Violation against this measure is punished with imprisonment of up to 6 months or with a fine. The Office of Social Affairs monitors videos, DVDs, etc. with regard to their content (violence, sex etc.) and defines an age limit for the consumption of the product.

Reporting obligations relating to violence against children

19. Provide information on legislation, regulations or administrative directives requiring reporting of all forms of violence against and abuse of children in all settings to appropriate bodies. If reporting legislation, regulations or administrative directives exist, please indicate whether all citizens are required to report, or whether the obligation falls on certain professional groups only. Provide details of any sanctions for non-reporting.

Authorities and professional groups are obliged to make a report to the Office of the Public Prosecutor or the National Police. According to the **Physician Act** (art. 20) physicians are obliged to report to the Office of medical services or directly to the medical services about their discovery of a possible maltreatment. The **Public Health Act** requires that people working in the health care branch are also obliged to report to the authorities.

Other citizens only have the right to report according to Liechtenstein law, but not the obligation to do so. However, according to article 32 Youth Act, every person is bound to inform immediately the Office of Social Affairs (Youth Division) or any other municipal authority in the case of endangerment of a child.

II. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND RESOURCES TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

The aim of this section is to establish if your country has an institution coordinating multi-sectoral activities concerning violence against children, which include prevention, protection, redress, reintegration and rehabilitation.

26. Are there any Governmental authorities, structures and mechanisms, including at federal, state/provincial, municipal and local level which are currently responsible for addressing violence against children?

The **Violence Protection Commission**, set up by the Government in 2003, addresses violence in the public sphere. With the creation of this Governmental commission it was envisaged to ensure a continuous and systematic reflection and reaction on violence in Liechtenstein. However, concerning the structural, family-related and sexual characteristics of violence, the Commission is only responsible when it questions the liberal-democratic basic order. The Commission consists of representatives of the National Police, schools, Office of Social Affairs, Office of the Public Prosecutor and youth organisations.

The **Office of Social Affairs (ASD)** is the main Governmental body providing and coordinating the psychosocial care of the Liechtenstein population. Its functions are defined in the Social Welfare Act and the Youth Act. The polyvalent institution is open to all people, including children and youth, with personal and economic problems. It provides individual assistance through counselling, care and treatment, financial support as well as other contributions in kind. The ASD provides information on social, financial and legal matters, in particular on psychological and educational questions. The Office's mandate is further to observe and analyse the development in the psychosocial sphere. It gives recommendations to the Government and develops prevention measures. In addition, the Office assumes official duties with regard to the wellbeing and protection of children and juveniles as well as for adults. The **Children and Youth Division** is one of four bodies of the Office of Social Affairs. It consists of the three areas "youth assistance" (case work), "youth care" (supportive measures) and "youth protection" (protection and prevention measures).

The **Expert group against sexual exploitation of children and youth** was set up by the Government in 1999 in order to support institutions and individuals dealing with cases of sexual abuse. Furthermore, the group can be approached by victims of sexual abuse. For the counselling the client can remain anonymous, if so wished. Members of the group are bound to observe confidentiality. The multi-professional team consists of psychologists, psychotherapists, physicians and jurists. Last year, the expert group together with a wide range of other professionals developed "guidelines for the cooperation of professionals in case of sexual abuse of children and young people in Liechtenstein." Furthermore the group regularly offers training for officials which might encounter sexual abuse (e.g. Office of the Public Prosecutor, Courts, National Police, Office of Social Affairs, helpdesks, therapists, physicians, ...). The expert group is also doing public relations work and prevention projects.

Probation Assistance is an institution offering care and counselling to delinquent youth and adults. It is also directed towards preventing violence against children and the rehabilitation of perpetrators. Convicted perpetrators may be obliged by the Courts to attend so called **anti-violence training** which is regularly organised by two staff members of the ASD.

In connection with domestic violence expelled perpetrators and their victims are invited by the **Therapeutic Service** of the ASD. Assistance and counselling is provided, also in connection with the Children and Youth Division and other institutions. The Therapeutic Service also offers regularly optional consultations for inmates in the State Prison in Vaduz.

27. Is there a lead Government authority tasked with responsibility for addressing violence against children?

The Office of Social Affairs is the main coordinating body in the Liechtenstein social system. The Office is in charge of coordinating the different providers of welfare and psychosocial services to children, adolescents and adults (cf. no. 26).

28. Are specific financial and/or human resources allocated by your country to address violence generally?

In addition to the organisations and programmes mentioned above, the following non-governmental organisations receive public funding:

The **Information and contact point for women (infra)** is an association that strives to improve the situation of women and helps women to help themselves.

The association "**Netzwerk**" (**network**) is a contact point for questions regarding violence and its prevention. The Office develops and coordinates projects.

29. Does your country allocate specific financial and/or human resources to activities to address violence against children?

The **Children and Youth Division** of the Office of Social Affairs is responsible for the provision of basic services for children and youth. The professionals working in the area of Youth Assistance help family systems in responding adequately to the needs of children and young people and they interfere where official measures for the protection and wellbeing of children and young people are necessary. In the Children and Youth Division five staff members are working in Youth Assistance, one in Youth Protection and two in Youth Care.

Various institutions dealing with violence against children have entered into an agreement with the State and receive public funding for their services. The Office of Social Affairs monitors these service level agreements and provides the financial resources. Institutions receiving public funding are for example:

- **Telephone help line** for children and youth
- **Association for Assisted Living:** offers i.a. socio-pedagogical support to families with children and/or youth. It assists families which are temporarily or permanently in a difficult situation so that the necessary care and support of the children/youth cannot be ensured. The socio-pedagogical family assistance works on the instructions of the Office of Social Affairs and can also take over the controlling function.
- **Association for abused women and their children (Frauenhaus):** provides shelter in emergency situations.

- **Expert group against the sexual exploitation of children and youth** (cf. no 26).

In the year 2004 all public expenditures (State and communities) for youth assistance, youth care and youth protection amounted to **CHF 4'7 million**.

31. Does your country provide any assistance to other countries' efforts to respond to the problem of violence against children?

Liechtenstein contributes regularly to programs of UNICEF and other funds in relation with torture. Furthermore, the support of projects against child trafficking ranks among the priorities of Liechtenstein.

34. Have there been any recent parliamentary initiatives to address violence against children?

NO

IV. CHILDREN AS ACTORS IN ADDRESSING VIOLENCE

This section is designed to extract information on children's activities to address violence.

38. Provide information on the involvement and consultation of children in designing activities, and in implementation and monitoring of programmes and policies to address violence against them. Provide details, including ages and other details of the children involved.

Especially in schools children are involved in projects and programs concerning violence. The goal is to talk about the issues conflict and violence, to avoid that they occur and to learn alternative ways of conflict resolution.

- Specifically trained children are on duty during the break or act as so called "peacemakers" and try to mediate in conflict situations.
- "Power days for girls and boys" intend to strengthen their self-confidence in order to better protect them from violent attacks.

Children and youth participated actively in the elaboration of a revised Youth Protection Act. In January 2001 the Office of Social Affairs received the mandate from the Government to work out a first draft of a revised Youth Act and to involve youth and adults in the preparations. In March and April 2001 approximately 40 adults and two youth representatives (from the youth parliament) discussed the subject in five working groups. At the same time more than 300 secondary school students and apprentices filled out a questionnaire. Furthermore a Forum for Youth was created where especially youth protection regulations were discussed. The Forum also established its own homepage where youth and interested adults could express themselves on youth protection issues.

V. POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

A comprehensive policy for dealing with violence against children is one that addresses multiple forms of violence against children, that works across the different settings in which violence occurs, and which includes components for prevention, protection, victim medical, psychological, legal and social assistance, victim rehabilitation and reintegration, and perpetrator interventions. Such policy is distinguished from specific programmes that address selected sub-types of violence against children or its effects in specific populations and settings.

42. Does your Government deliver, or provide direct support for delivery by other agencies, of specific programmes aimed at preventing and responding to violence against children?

	Physical	Sexual	Psychological	Neglect	HTPs	Other
Family/Home	x	x	x	x		
Schools	x	x	x	x		
Institutions	x	x	x	x		
Neighbourhood/Community						
Workplace						
Law enforcement	x	x	x	x		
Other						

The government supports different organisations and programs dealing with violence against children (cf. no. 26-29). Different organisations in the area of education or recreation offer special activities concerning violence:

At schools teachers discuss violence against children in compulsory trainings on the school law. Furthermore the discussion of prevention of violence and reactions to it forms an official educational goal and is part of the curriculum.

The **Association of Youth Organisations in Liechtenstein** receives specific support for their work against violence against children.

Youth and Sport, a Swiss organisation at which Liechtenstein is taking part, is responsible for the training of instructors in all kinds of sports. One of the interdisciplinary subjects is how to deal with sexual exploitation and other forms of violence. Information material covering this subject is distributed.

43. Does your Government monitor the impact of these policies and programmes directed towards violence against children?

The organisations and institutions having entered a service level agreement with the State and thus receive financial funding, are regularly controlled by the **Office of Social Affairs**. The Office of Social Affairs therefore makes the Governmental supervision of the binding high standards of services and offers.

44. Does your Government participate in any internationally coordinated activities concerning violence against children?

Liechtenstein is party to the **Convention on the Rights of The Child (CRC)** which includes i.a. the protection from violence. Since the ratification in 1996 the Children and Youth Division promotes the content and goals of the convention through information and special activities, in particular on the international day of the rights of the child (20 November).

Liechtenstein participates in the Steering Committee for Youth of the Council of Europe (CDEJ) whose priorities of the years 2003-2005 are fostering peace, combating violence and conflict resolution.

VII. AWARENESS, ADVOCACY AND TRAINING

This section is aimed at gathering information on any awareness-raising, advocacy and training activities relating to violence against children which may have been conducted by your Government.

54. Over the last five years has your Government conducted or commissioned any campaigns for raising awareness of and preventing violence against children?

In 2003 the interdisciplinary **Expert Group against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth** focused on prevention in kinder gardens. In addition to providing professional advice the group developed an exchange of information with the kinder garden instructors. Furthermore, they organized an event of two days on the topics "sexual abuse and the strategies of perpetrators", "the criminal procedure, between truth-finding and victim protection" and "sexual violence against children and youth – who are the victims?". Among the participants were numerous experts (Office of the Public Prosecutor, National Police, courts, public servants, counsellors and psychotherapists). The expert group further developed guidelines for professional cooperation in case of sexual abuse of children and young people. In order to better promote their anonymous and free counselling service a new flyer for affected people and experts was distributed.

A campaign called "**courage to education**" was launched by the Office of Social Affairs in 1999. It comprised several different events on education, including the aspect of violence.

55. How were the campaign messages and information disseminated (check all that apply)?

Print media	x
Radio	x
Television	
Theatre	
Schools	x
Others	x

56. Over the last five years, has your Government provided, commissioned or sponsored training programmes in the area of violence against children?

	Prevention	Protection	Redress	Rehabilitation	Penalties
Medical Professionals (including paediatricians, nurses, psychiatrists and dentists)	x	x			
Public health practitioners	x	x		x	
Social workers and Psychologists	x	x		x	
Teachers and other educators	x				
Court officials (including judges)	x	x			x
Police	x	x			x
Prison officers					
Juvenile offenders personnel Institution personnel Parents/guardians	x			x	
Other (please specify)					

Training in the area of Youth:

2000:

- "Managing violence" for members of the Youth Commission and youth workers
- Workshop for youth workers on the intervision method "Reflecting-Teams"
- Project „peace education" at the primary school in Triesen

2001:

- Training for bus drivers on "I am the captain"
- Workshop for youth workers on "fears of young people"

2002:

- Panel discussion on "Violence affects all of us"

2003:

-Panel discussion on "Prevention of violence"

Training in connection with sexual abuse (organised by Expert Group against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Young People):

2001:

- The possibilities for psychological and legal assistance during trial for sexually abused children and adolescents.

2003:

- The dynamics of sexual abuse and strategies of the perpetrators, criminal procedures between truth-finding and victim protection.

-Sexual violence against children and young people – who are the victims?

2004:

- How to overcome obstacles between suspicion and sentence and how to optimize the procedures

Experts involved: Office of Social Affairs, National Police, Office of the Public Prosecutor, Courts, Women's Shelter, therapists, counsellors, probation assistance, physicians, etc.

Vaduz, 4 October 2005

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