



STOP CHILD ABUSE REPORT

ONLINE FOCUS GROUP REPORT



STOP

STOP Child Abuse Through Effective Training and Augmented Reality

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STOP CHILD ABUSE – FOCUS GROUP

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STOP

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A. General Information about the Focus Group

This focus group was conducted on Thursday the 16th of April 2020 by two members of the Universidad de Valladolid – one facilitator and one for note-taking- and a member of the Asociación Deses-3 – performing the role of moderator in the discussion - through CISCO application, with the participation of 11 professionals from different backgrounds.

Three (3) of those professionals were psychologists/psychopedagogists working with both adults and young people; three (3) were representatives of different scouting groups dealing with youngsters; two (2) of them were educators working with children and young people in private institutions and for leisure time associations; two (2) were professionals working with youth through recreational and sport activities and the last one (1) is a youth worker in the field of Erasmus+ project. All of them share an experience working with children between 13-18 years old, which is the target group of our project.

An annex is provided about the identity and professionals' background at the bottom of the focus group answers.

Before the start of the focus group, participants were informed about the scope and the aims of the project and the reason of conducting the focus group. Additionally, they provided their consent verbally for recording the discussion, for taking screenshots and for posting those photos on the project social media as dissemination material. The focus group duration was 1 hour and 30 minutes in total.



B. Questions

AREA 1 - CONTENT:

1. What forms of sexual abuse do you hear about and/or are you aware of?

- It is simply a terminological question: the type of abuse modalities that are commonly known make speaking of sexual abuse and sexual violence as not the same. Sexual violence is a broader term, it is the one that is being used in the International NGO Plan, since the definition of sexual abuse that appears in the Penal Code (the one that is more similar to sexual abuse) and reality are not the same. For example, prostitution, underage people, children, teenagers, young or coerced employees that participate in the creation of child pornography content, or victims of human trafficking. All this is not part of the sexual abuse concept. Apart from this, it has to be concreted other type of modalities such as self-induction to prostitution: there are children, young people, women and men who are voluntarily prostituting. They are not within a criminal network, that is, an organized crime is not coercing them, but they simply have a certain value system in which they understand sexuality in a certain way - they don't mind having sex in exchange for money to go out for the weekend, or to buy an iPhone -. This is not related to social classes; it is not a problem of belonging to a low social class since we are finding cases of boys and girls that belong to both middle and upper social classes. For this reason, all this makes the sexual abuse concept broader. For broadening the debate regarding casuistry in line with a broad definition of sexual victimization, impact of ICTs, failure to recognize the sexual identity of a minor (LGTBI), exposure to harmful content (sex education through pornographic content) have to be taken into account as possible causes. (Tomás)
- Sexual victimization as a generic term that includes any form of sexual abuse. Violence has other connotations in the judicial sphere: we would be talking about sexual aggression, apart from other aggravating factors in relation to sexual abuse or sexual



aggression. Whether there is violence or not, it would all be sexual victimization (2 answers, Raquel and Marga).

- Differentiation between intra-family abuse (in the family setting) and extra-family abuse (outside the family setting such as in monitors, scouts, peer groups, etc.). (Marga)
- Both mental and physical abuse are important to differentiate, since from both can emerge a series of issues to be treated distinctly. (Jonás)
- It exists a matter of consent while trying to define what is sexual abuse: having a bad time in exchange for something is preferable for young people which scale of values is different, but it wouldn't be consent, rather a vitiated or interfered decision that would qualify that there is a financial, psychological, and group membership gratification, depending on the case. (Raquel)
- A distinction in the issue of consent: according to the law, it is important to distinguish the age. In terms of consent, for example, if a child is 9 or 10, it is not the same as if a teenage is abused at 17 since consent is allowed by law at the age of 16, that is, if a child has consented sexual activity at the age of 14 or 15, it is very debatable, but under that age there are more serious issues. It is also very important to differentiate when there is a case of a person with a disability. (Marga)

2. What is your experience with sexually abused children/youth?

- Many cases in the family environment, even if two real "diagnosed" cases. Especially cases in children under 13. (Marga)
- More than 22 years in the care of child and adolescent sexual victimization: a great variability of cases of any modality among intra-family, extra-family, among equals, prostitution, forced marriage. Attendance of more than 800 cases, supervised almost 100, in the team there are around 3,500 documented. (Raquel)
- From the point of view of a free time instructor, which seems to be in fashion lately and well has the blight on it because the line is very thin when you are working with teenagers and the age range of the instructor, which sometimes take six years at most, the line is

thin. We would have to distinguish a lot, because we always focus on the adult, but we have detected that in recent years the level of harassment from the adolescent to the adult also exists. There is that thin line that one harassment leads to another and it is the adult who must discern reality or not: there are people of 22 years old whose scale of values or education is not completely formed. (Jonás)

3. Which were the most cases you have faced so far?

- The cases that in a sport practice context are more usual to experience is, for example, the behaviour of a child who lifts his shirt inside the youngest ones, or a child that, as a joke, pulls down the pants of one of his classmates. (Saul and Rocío)
- Cases in the family environment: young children who have been abused with touching and the children do not know how to process that because they do not have a conscience. A case was the one of a 15-year-old boy who was with his father and he was abused for a year by his paternal uncle with whom he got on very well. The abuse was detected from a strange symptomatology in the child (he came very sad, very serious, every time he went with his father) and it was asked him why, if he had a good time with his father. However, he did not know how to say anything, he never spoke. However, one day he came in with an anxiety attack, and it was possible to talk to him in a more intimate context. He finally said that his uncle was touching him during a year. The procedure followed in this case was to inform the custodian, to inform to the prosecutor's office, and to the duty court in order take his father's custody. Well, the uncle of this child had a restraining order and a jail sentence. (Marga)
- The case of a child with Down's Syndrome: he was sexually abused by the father, but the child was not believed by the different psychosocial teams and the different forensics he went through. (Marga)
- The case of a boy that abuse a girl and that instructors did not realize until that girl told her parents about the situation. It was her parents who realized that there was a problem as such, since for the child was a totally normal situation. This kind of thing usually happens when the instructors are not present: for example, when they're in bed at night.

The boy was undressing, rubbing his intimate parts in front of the rest of the people in the room, it was an Easter camp. After the child's fathers called the instructors, the latter started to investigate a little more. The instructors began to work, especially with the children, to give them training so that they could identify this kind of thing as a not appropriate. (Jonás)

- A forced marriage. The girl is a gypsy and her parents give her to another family member as a dowry. The girl had been abused by a boy with whom she had a sexual relationship and forced her to have sex. (Raquel)
- A group of boys, a sport instructor and a coach who, in exchange for money and other gifts through online internet games, got these boys to practice fellatios, to take pictures of their intimate parts, masturbations, and they acquired this content because children sent it through WhatsApp. (Raquel)
- A psychological and physical abuse by different boys towards a girl with a mental disability and they had been abusing her for a year. They defended in front of a judge that it was consensual. Evidently, due to her disability, it was not. They deceived her through unfulfilled promises, and they were convicted. (Jonás)
- A girl of gypsy ethnicity was having interest in studying, she wanted to be helped to finish high school, but her parents wanted her to get married and they did not like the "ideas" about studying and thought that the people of the association she was attending were influencing her. They forced her to leave the association so that she could focus a little on being with that boy they wanted her to marry. Apart from that, her parents complained that they did not see her so willing anymore. In this case what was done was to refer the case to social workers in case they wanted to intervene. What brought to detect the abuse case was the she stopped coming to the association where she assumed the obligation to organize some activities. One day her father came to say that she was not going to come back to the activities and members of the association started asking neighbors and asking people to see if they knew what was going on. (Isabel)
- Another case inside the previous mentioned association was that of a girl of 18 years, foreigner. External people who do not belong to the association took advantage in one of the activities (touching and rubbing). The girl at that time did not tell us anything, but

a she told it to a friend because she could not maintain it secretly anymore. What she was offered was a contact with the violet point of the city since they are specialized people who could take care of the situation and she was offered all the assistance in those association's mates apart from the translation. (Isabel)

- A girl from the camp, was one of the middle-aged teenagers fell in love - became infatuated with one of the monitors. She added him to Instagram, and she sent him private messages. The monitor did not answer her because he obviously knows where the limits are, and it seems that the thing happened. There came a point that the girl committed suicide later and the last message she sent was to that monitor. (Ana Rodríguez)
- A similar case: she was a girl who was intoxicated, who was sexually promiscuous, and she was the perfect victim. Probably she is not given credibility because of the way in which she has been telling things over time, defending herself even from the action taken by the educational centre. This adolescent is given a questionnaire applying the protocol of mistreatment that was demanded from the educational field. In fact, the questions were very biased, and she perceived from the beginning that nobody was believing her, and this altered the testimony and was not credible. In the light of this, one thing is that it is not credible in the forensic and judicial sphere; and another thing is that the victim cannot be attended to. In this particular case, there were all kinds of indicators, messages related to sexual insinuations, dressing in a conspicuous way to seduce, seeking spaces and time together for privacy, altering behaviour... The casuistry is individual and would have to be analysed case by case; equally, a priori it could be a false allegation, it could really be that he is the object of sexual victimization and that she has fallen in love with her teacher. Anyways, the adult always has the responsibility to notify any initiative of a sexual nature in a minor. In the case of that teacher, at no time did he or the girl's parents make the school aware of this type of attitude, if indeed there could have been one which is totally inadequate, even if it was the girl who had fallen in love with him, and who had effectively propitiated these moments of privacy. In the professional field it is necessary to separate the professional sphere from the personal sphere, while protecting the minors at the same time. In this case there was a lot of age symmetry. The

teacher did not make known any of these risk situations for the girl, because he was exposed. The seduction by minors are not risky situations for adults. (Raquel)

4. Do you think that educators, teachers and other youth workers are sufficiently informed about sexual violence against children?

- The leisure and free time field, there is less age difference with some participants, it doesn't justify the lack of professionalism. The leisure and free time area it is very difficult to be aware of the changes in a child having abused in a different context because you have to imagine a situation where you take in touch with a child for fortnight, especially in summer camps. You don't know what their reality is before, you simply know what the family wants you to take care of a child to you and that's it. This aspect makes very difficult to detect and prevent sexual abuse. (Ana Rodríguez)
- As far as schools are concerned, there are case where the educational institutions that detect even principle of bullying, have ignored the signs because that would give the school a bad reputation. So, there are protocols, but those start with an observation and a conversation to the child in question. (Ana Rodríguez)
- As for the leisure time instructors, everyone passes from years of training to distinguish things very well, but until that moment in which a real experience has happened, no one has an idea on how to act in front of that case. The experience always belongs to the field. This is because the case was directly passed to professionals who helped to handle the situation until instructors has been able to manage it. (2 answers, Ana and Jorge)
- A student association member in an international context have received two trainings and is in the process of receiving the third one. The first was very basic, about what consent is: to identify when there is consent and when there is not. Then, trying to implement from the protocol in make compulsory to teach it to people who is new in the association, and it is what is called an "Active bystander" (a person who can act if they see some type of harassment or abuse, who can act in different ways). And the last training is what is called "Violet person" (someone who, in the case of working on something, can provide a space that is as safe as possible, taking into account that there

is no space that is 100% safe. This person will take and provide victims a safe space to take next decisions. (Isabel)

- In the field of teaching recreational leisure and free time and sports, no training is relation to this issue. Trainers are acting under logic, even if still is difficult to detect any kid's problem, especially in extracurricular initiatives. It is also relevant that in sport activity it is very common a kind of touching behaviour, but always it is thought in good faith. (Saul)

5. Do you think children are sufficiently informed about the different types of sexual abuse and how to protect themselves?

- Normally when abuse occurs between acquaintances, sexual abuse does not occur between strangers. What children and young people experience is sense of shame, guilty, fear, blame for having controversial feeling for someone they trust because is family. (4 answers, Marga, Raquel, Ana and Ana Rodríguez)
- There is the lack of sex education. In schools the subject is not treated, and it is a very broad subject. Depending on the school, it is taught in one way or another. (Ana Rodríguez)
- There are no more taboos like sex was considered years ago. Adolescents have easy access to pornography, that distorts the child and young formation upon sexuality. (3 answers, Tomás, Raquel, Ana Rodríguez)
- In scouting, some meetings are dedicated to talks on prevention for young people of all ages, just in case that something happens to them in the future. For example, about pornography, and expert came and after 2 hours talk succeeded in getting the interest of a guy who later spoke privately with the expert.
- On this last point, if there is information among young people it is simple to have peers as active agents: they are the best prevention and also detection agents. (Tomás)



AREA 2 - DO:

6. Do you have an internal procedure to face situation of sexual abuse? Do you face any challenge or obstacle into the reporting procedures?

- The experience as a professional is that all these types of issues are either not worked on at all or are worked on when a case has occurred. (Tomás)
- When it comes to referrals, there are problems: sometimes people do not want to report it, even if with all the instructions gave to overwhelm the situation. they do not want to go to the hospital. This is the biggest problem we have because we usually give them the directions. In the case of foreigners, because it is a European association, people from other countries have all time a person to accompany them as an interpreter because they are particularly vulnerable since they do not know Spanish, or they don't know the laws of the country. So, these are the first steps: getting the foreign students acknowledged about emergency telephones, the nearest police station, taxis and in the protocol for when the victim is attending an event is to take the victim away from the advisor until everything has been clarified or until the person has wanted more measures. (Isabel)
- In leisure and free time, just like when you work with children in schools or anywhere, at the time you work you are already asked for a Negative Certificate of Sexual Crimes, at least in Spain. (Ana Rodríguez)
- On the latter matter, the negative certificate for sex crimes has a very relative validity. It is not sufficient and must be complemented by an adequate selection process for personnel, codes of conduct and protocols for action. (Tomás)
- A professional action protocol can be considered the same as any other citizen: in case of knowledge of any case of abuse, it has to be communicated. It is an obligation we all have. When the child informs of it, the procedure is to notify the parent who have the child in custody while immediately notify the Public Prosecutor's Office for Minors and to report the case to the police. The child has to be listened and then evaluate since that



witness could be manipulated, especially in the case of separated parents. (Raquel and Marga)

7. What do you think should be done to reduce the risk of sexual abuse against children and young people?

- On the subject of formation, there are at least four different purposes: 1. knowing how to look (it has to do with the sensitivity, professional, adult person that this respect to this type of casuistry: that he knows that this is a reality, reality statistically distributed, that is to say, it is everywhere, that you are going to find it working with children for 15 days or continuously throughout the year because there is no room in which the child is going to make the spontaneous revelation, he is going to do it at a given time because he needs to find a series of characteristics that he has familiarity or special confidence with. 2. To prevent these kinds of things from happening (affective sexual education, codes of conduct, talking about how one interacts both at home and outside). 3. Detection: to know how to discriminate possible indicators that can open the door to a revelation. 4. Responding: knowing what to do, how to receive a disclosure, how to handle a notification, whose responsibility it is.
- Listen is, without any doubt, a decision that the adult who intervenes in the case, may have done, without hurried judgments, so and it also has to betake into account that not everything said is always like that. In other words, both sides must be listened to. (2 answers, Marga and Ana)
- Also, communication and the creation of a safe place to prevent it could be a solution: whether the child is feeling is safe, it can be done a step further in knowing the educational and familiar context he is coming from. (2 answers, Raquel and Jonás).

8. Have you ever experienced a case of sexual abuse in your youth center?

Answered in Question 2.

9. If yes, which measure did you put in practice?

10. If not, which measures would you put in practice?

Answered in question 6.

11. Which are the difficulties that you have when you may have a doubt of sexual abuse? Which obstacles do you face?

- In recent years, in the field of the international mobility projects, it has been noticed that cultural differences are very noticeable: some European culture perceive differently what is flirting with a 16 years old adolescent is like. (2 answers, Jonás and Isabel)
- It is often difficult to detect and to be aware of what happens before sexual victimization. So, in the analysis of it, it can help the context and possible signs (verbal, non-verbal, attitudinal) that may be linked to risk situations. (Tomás)
- Many families are not interested training on the prevention and detection of sexual abuse: abusers, batterers, do not have a mental disorder. They are not usually people who have pathologies, they are usually people who have social relationships and a normal life. (Marga)
- The detection of a real sexual harassment when at the base of that it also exists a love relationship, especially between teenagers where one of the pair is just some years older than the other, and priorities of the stronger one can evolve into forced consent. (Jorge)

12. What do you think should be done to reduce the risk of sexual abuse against children and young people?

- The most effective prevention of sexual victimization is through affective-sexual education (both in the professional environment, volunteering and in the family), so that they discriminate what is a good/bad kiss, a good/bad secret, wanting good/bad. (Tomás)
- In order to detect a situation of sexual victimization, to be detected within the family, even if it is outside the family, communication must be greatly encouraged; it is true that with teenagers, communication is complicated because they go first to the peer group. Perhaps some type of application could be made. An application where emotions could be identified and parents could participate with teenagers, some type of game where related emotions could be identified in order to provide clues, I do not know, but it has to go through communication. (Raquel)

- In order to detect a case of sexual victimization, the professional who works with adolescents must be trained, he must know how to distinguish between consensual and non-consensual sexual behaviour and in relation to a testimony. When a minor asks for help and is saying that he has really been abused by someone and gives details or information about it, he is asking to be heard. Probably the most appropriate thing to do is to attend to him at that moment and help him to express his emotions. Interrogating is different, you have to listen and attend, but you always have to refer to a specialized team to effectively collect your story. Specialized teams only detect when a child victim tells us there' another child involved. Experts in sexual victimization usually train professionals who work directly with children and their families to detect. Detection normally takes place through the story and/or through, with more or less significant or specific indicators (physical and sexual) according to what age, the main thing is to pay attention to the changes: increase or start of toxic substance consumption, alteration of sexual behaviour, or eating pattern, anxiety. In younger children, inappropriate sexual behaviour is much more noticeable. In adolescents, it is mainly sexual promiscuity, or sexual inhibition on the other hand. In fact, it is curious how in adolescents, who have been victims of some type of sexual victimization, sexual promiscuity is confused with the attitude of the victim as the cause that provokes it, when in fact sexual promiscuity is usually a consequence of having been a victim of this type of abuse. It means that they do not value themselves, that they only attract attention through sexual relations. Other cases are, for example, adolescent victims with intellectual or developmental disabilities, sexual relations between equals is the only way to be accepted in the group. In fact, although you approach these possible situations with people who have disabilities from a preventive perspective. This is complicated because they may not understand or integrate what they have to remain isolated when, through sex, their sexuality "form part" of a group. (Raquel)



AREA 3 - DIGITAL:

13. Do you use any apps, games, or other such content for educational purposes? What do you use most? Do you know any others?

- It is a tool for the training of professionals in the tourism sector in the prevention of child sexual exploitation: <http://www.ecpat-serious-game.eu/> (Tomás)
- <http://www.europapress.es/euskadi/noticia-euskadi-pone-marcha-herramienta-informatica-detectar-violencia-ninas-ninos-adolescentes-20191202172218.html> (Raquel)
- No games are known. Most all of the professionals use role playing and simulation game dynamics to treat the sexuality, sex and gender options. (2 answers, Jonás and Ana)

14. Do you think a game or app on the topic of sexual abuse prevention would be useful for young people, parents and youth workers? For whom would it be most useful?

- Training should not reach families through an application, but it can be a good channel to detect inappropriate behavior. For example, a test in which a situation is described, and 4 possible solutions are put forward and through an algorithm that the conclusion after the test is: you have a problem or your children have a problem, call here "professional telephone". (Jorge)

15. Have you heard about Augmented reality? Do you think that Augmented reality game as a tool would be useful for prevention of sexual abuse against children and youth?

2/3 Scouts representatives know what Augmented reality is (example Instagram filters), while all the participants think is a good idea to implement such technology for prevention of child abuse.

16. Do you know any similar game or content with Augmented Reality? Would you use it in your work?

Answered in question 15.



17. What kind of information, data or messages should such a game contain? What would be most useful for you? What would be most useful for parents? For young people?

- Augmented reality can help children identify risk situations. Perhaps the application of augmented reality could be oriented to affective-sexual education and within this approach introduce prevention/detection of sexual victimization. (Tomás)
- It could also include situations against sexual consent in the application, with a possible adaptation for intellectual disabled children and young people. (Raquel)





ANNEX: Experience and background of the focus group participants

Marga: Psychopedagogue with a Diploma in Social Education. She works in a family meeting point with families in crisis and minors for 20 years.

Ana: Graduated in Primary Education and Early Childhood Education. She has been a Scout in a Scout group in Valladolid for 16 years and for 5 or 6 years she has been a monitor. She is currently working in Ireland in a nursery school.

Ana Rodríguez: she studied Primary Education. She has been a teacher for 4 years in a school. Right now, she is in the field of non-formal education with courses for monitors and others. She has been a monitor of leisure and free time since 2009 and a volunteer in various associations.

Isabel: she is an Educator, with a Master to be able to work as an English teacher in high schools. She has been working with Youth since she was 16 years old, by volunteering in some associations; she works in a playground and she also is a volunteer in an association with a European setting in which people in the age range included in the project participate.

Jorge: he studied Digital Marketing. He is a Scout and currently an educator also of a Scout group from Valladolid for children between 8 or 9 years, and young adults from 18 to 20 years old.

Jorge Pita: he is a member and monitor in the Scouts with the city council of Medina. Also, he is working in certain activities in Valladolid with new technology camps for all age ranges.

Raquel Raposo: Psychologist with a Master in Sexology. She has been working for 22 years in a specific Program for minors victims of sexual violence: she belongs to the evaluation team.



She works on the evaluation of the suspicion of sexual victimization and she also works with families, on both evaluation and therapy.

Tomás: Spanish coordinator between 2011 and 2018 of the campaign of the Council of Europe "One in five" for the prevention of sexual violence against minors. Also, he is actively involved in the activities of the International ECPAT Network, which is a global entity that works in the fight against prostitution, pornography and trafficking of minors for the purpose of sexual abuse. Moreover, he works on The Code that focuses on preventing any sexual exploitation in the field of tourism, and everything else concerning sex tourism.

Saul: Graduated in Sports Physical Activity Sciences.

Rocío: student for the Degree in Nursery and Primary Education.

They both have training in the youth field as monitors, they have worked in the leisure programs of the Valladolid city council and for other city councils and they are representing the entity of promotion and sports recreation of KinBall Valladolid, from where they actively work with group of young people and adolescents

Jonás: president of Asociación Deses-3. He had been a monitor and coordinator of camps and Scouts for many years. He had also worked for preventive measures for minors of the Zambrana Children's Center.