Parliamentary Assembly
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Recommendation 2269 (2024)[1]

Child abuse in institutions in Europe

Parliamentary Assembly

1. Referring to its Resolution 2533 (2024) "Child abuse in institutions in Europe", the Parliamentary Assembly proposes to take advantage of good practice and wishes to open a Europe-wide debate on the full reparation for crimes committed against children in public, private and religious institutions in Europe.

2. The Assembly welcomes the launch by the Committee of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Committee) of the third monitoring round on the protection of children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust.

3. The Assembly invites the Committee of Ministers to encourage the Lanzarote Committee to:

3.1. take into account the example of good practice in Switzerland, which has recognised its share of the responsibility for violations of the rights of children placed in institutions and has presented public apologies to victims;

3.2. support the memorial efforts of member States, as well as co-operation and exchange of good practices, by encouraging the creation of such memorials which commemorate the victims of institutional mistreatment and highlight the fundamental values of the Council of Europe – human rights, democracy and the rule of law – in order to educate future generations on the best interests of the child and the protection of its well-being.

4. Finally, it encourages the Committee of Ministers to support the efforts of member States to recognise the suffering inflicted and deal with its consequences; issue an official and formal apology to past and present victims subjected to any form of physical, sexual or psychological violence, regardless of their age; compensate victims for the damage suffered with no time limit in relation to how long ago the offence occurred; and prosecute the perpetrators of such crimes without a statute of limitations.

1. *Assembly debate* on 26 January 2024 (7th sitting) (see Doc. 15889, report of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, rapporteur: Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez; and oral opinion of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, rapporteur: Mr Constantinos Efstathiou). *Text adopted by the Assembly* on 26 January 2024 (7th sitting).