



International Perspectives on Working With Those Who Have Sexually Abused

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1

The context of sexual abuse

- Sexual offending is a commonplace occurrence in modern society with research indicating that a significant cross section of the global population, but particularly women and girls (World Health Organisation, 2021; Dworkin, Krahe and Zinzow, 2021).
- Sexual abuse has individual, interpersonal, community and societal levels (McCartan and Kemshall, 2021).
- It impacts every level of the socio-ecological model and interplays across them. This means that it is as much about the actions and behaviours of individuals as it is about cultural beliefs and attitudes, and the ways that our communities frame and respond to the issue as well as how we consider it within all our relationships and interactions.
- Across Europe the number of perpetrators entering and being managed by the Criminal Justice System is continually increasing as a result of a "perfect storm" created by
 - increased social/traditional media reporting;
 - increased visibility of the offences;
 - increased trust in the criminal justice system to take victims seriously and respond appropriately;
 - the impact of high profile as well as historical cases; &
 - More putative government policies, practices and strategies.

2

Emerging issues/debates in the field of sexual abuse

- Prevention of sexual abuse
- The "service user" voice.
- Victim issues & needs.
- Community and social engagement.
- Alternatives to traditional criminal justice
- Desistance.
- Treatment vs management.
- Consider the "Key Performance Indicators"
- Training, selection and support of staff
- Life-course perspectives
- The "service user" voice.
- Treatment vs management.



3

- Arrest & Prosecution
- Risk assessment of individuals
- Incarceration/prison
- Treatment
- Community management
- Registration & disclosure/notification practices
- Data sharing within and between countries

**Inconsistent Risk
assessment,
Treatment &
Management
practices across
Europe**



4



**Recommendation CM/Rec(2021)6
of the Committee of Ministers to member States
regarding the assessment, management and
reintegration of persons accused or convicted of a
sexual offence**

(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20
October 2021)

https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectID=0900001680a4397a

5



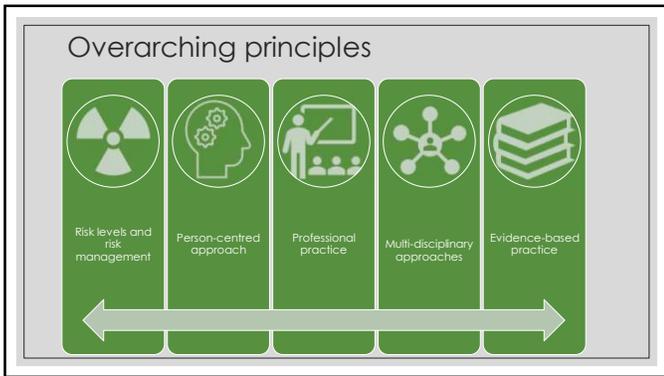
**Council of
Europe
Countries**

6

Participants & contributors

- The invited experts were
 - Kieran McCartan (UK)
 - Marianne Fulgjesved (Denmark)
 - Harvey Slade (UK)
- The Recommendation was drafted by the Council for Penological Co operation (PC-CP) between 2019 and 2020.
 - Iliina Tava
 - Martina BARIĆ (Croatia);
 - Nathalie BOISSOU (France);
 - Annie DEVOS, Chair of the PC-CP in 2020 - 2021 (Belgium);
 - Anna FERRARI (Italy); Robert FRIŠKOVEC (Slovenia);
 - Vivian GERAN (Ireland);
 - Attila JUHÁSZ, Vice Chair of the PC-CP 2018-2019 (Hungary);
 - Manfred KOST (Germany);
 - Nikolaos KOULOURLIS (Greece);
 - Dominik LEHNER, Chair of the PC-CP 2018-2019 (Switzerland);
 - Maria LINDSTRÖM (Sweden); Laura NEGREDO LÓPEZ (Spain);
 - Nadya RADKOVSKA, Vice-Chair of the PC-CP in 2020-2021 (Bulgaria).
- Other relevant organisations, including the
 - Kresimir Kamber from the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights
 - Hugh Chesterwynd from the Committee for the Prevention of Torture Secretariat (CPT).
 - European Union,
 - the United Nations,
 - Confederation of European Probation (CEP),
 - EuroPris,
 - European Forum for Restorative Justice
 - International Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders (IATSO),
 - National Organisation for the Treatment of Abuse (NOTA),
 - Les Centres Ressources pour les Intervenants auprès des Auteurs de Violences Sexuelles (CRIAVS),
 - NL-ATSA (Netherlands, chapter of Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers)
 - Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA).

7



8

Structure & main recommendations

- RISK ASSESSMENT
- MANAGEMENT, INTERVENTIONS AND TREATMENT IN PRISONS
- MANAGEMENT, INTERVENTIONS & TREATMENT UNDER PROBATION
- DATA COLLECTION, INFORMATION SHARING AND WORK IN PARTNERSHIP
- VICTIMS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT
- STAFF SELECTION AND TRAINING
- MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY
- RESEARCH, EVALUATION & DEVELOPMENT

9

Impact on UK



The recommendations from the Council of Europe emphasise the importance of developing good processes and practices in the assessment, treatment and management of people accused or convicted of a sexual offence, most of which the UK already adheres to. For example:

- the UK champions evidence-based practice, partnership working and robust data sharing conventions
- the UK are moving towards a more service user informed and trauma-informed service, with prisons moving towards a more rehabilitative culture and probation reconsidering, in the light of unification, the balance between accountability and support in risk management
- additionally, the use of public health approaches and person-first language is increasing across the UK in line with a resurgence in life course criminology and its links to harm reduction and desistance.

However, the UK needs to develop and do more work around the role of restorative justice when working with people accused or convicted of a sexual offence as well as continue to develop policy and practice linked to sexual abuse harm reduction processes

10



Considerations for research and practice

11

Questions?

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12
