THE RIGHT TO SEXUALITY EDUCATION

SEXUALITY EDUCATION AS A MEANS OF PREVENTING VIOLENCE

POLICY CONTEXT

Sexuality Education is a human rights-based approach which equips young people with the necessary knowledge and life-skills for building healthy and equal relationships, based on respect and free from stereotypical beliefs and violence.

The Ministry of Education and Culture supports Sexuality Education as a right of children and young people in its Policy Document on Sexuality Education.

Sexuality Education is included in the National Curriculum under the Health Education Program.

The National Strategy and Action Plan to Combat Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children and Child Pornography identifies Sexuality Education as the most important prevention tool against abuse.

ACCORDING TO THE YOUNG ADVISORS GROUP OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN’S RIGHTS, HEALTH EDUCATION AS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM IS NOT TAUGHT ADEQUATELY AND SYSTEMATICALLY

THE REALITY

In a study on Sexuality Education conducted by the Cyprus Family Planning Association in 2014, teens aged 13-16 years old stated that skill-building in regards to dealing with situations such as pressure to engage in sexual activity, is absent from their education and ask for more information concerning emotions and relationships.

WHEREAS:

ACCORDING TO AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS, 1 IN 5 CHILDREN IN CYPRUS WILL EXPERIENCE SEXUAL ABUSE OR SOLICITATION.

STATISTICS

In a study conducted by the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies in 2014, on teenage intimate interpersonal violence and abuse, teens aged 14-17 years old reported that:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ratio</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 in 2</td>
<td>Experienced online violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 in 3</td>
<td>Experienced emotional violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 in 5</td>
<td>Experienced sexual violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 in 10</td>
<td>Experienced physical violence</td>
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CALL FOR ACTION:

WE CALL THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE TO RESPOND TO ITS COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE SEXUALITY EDUCATION AT ALL EDUCATION LEVELS

This infographic is produced as part of the Europe Unite for Comprehensive Sexuality Education Rights project implemented by the youth-led organisations CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality and YouAct, with support from ShareNet International. The project aims to encourage policy change in five European countries: Cyprus, Georgia, Poland, Romania and the Netherlands. In Cyprus, the project is implemented in partnership with the Cyprus Family Planning Association.

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