

# 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 13-15 year 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 report that:

- 1 in 2** have experienced online violence
- 1 in 3** have experienced emotional violence
- 1 in 5** have experienced sexual violence
- 1 in 10** have experienced physical violence



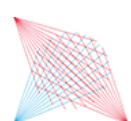
### CALL FOR ACTION:

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 Share-Net 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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