

# UPR Pre-Session - Costa Rica

Sexual Exploitation of Children in Costa Rica

Speaker: Milena Grillo Rivera

Geneva, April 3, 2019

FUNDACIÓN •  
paniamor



- **Fundación Paniamor-** A civil society organization working to combat all forms of violence against children in Costa Rica, including sexual exploitation (SEC)
- **ECPAT International (EI)** - A global network of CSO working for the eradication of all forms of sexual exploitation of children (SEC).

*UPR Pre-Session on Costa Rica. Geneva, April 3, 2019*



# Plan of the Statement

- **Status and developments on SEC in Costa Rica**
- **Update on the last UPR Review**
- **Advances, Challenges and Recommendations**
  - **Legal framework**
  - **Coordination, implementation/evaluation**
  - **Prevention**
  - **Protection of the rights of child victims**

# Update on the last UPR Review

- **67** recommendations on children's rights
- **11** specifically targeting SEC
- **12** addressing child trafficking.

*UPR Pre-Session on Costa Rica. Geneva, April 3, 2019*

# Sexual Exploitation of Children in Costa Rica

## Advances, Challenges, Recommendations

***UPR Pre-Session on Costa Rica. Geneva, April 3, 2019***

# Legal framework - Advances and Challenges

- *SEC through trafficking*- Law N° 9545 (2018) which aligns the Penal Code with the OPC
  - *SEC in travel and tourism*- Penal Code now punishes with prison whoever promotes or runs programmes, campaigns or advertisements presenting Costa Rica as a tourist destination for CSE or adult prostitution
  - *On line SEC*- Penal Code defines Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) in line with the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children (OPSC)
  - *Child early and forced marriage*- Law No 9406 (2018) -introduced by PANIAMOR- prohibiting marriage under the age of 18 and penalizing adults in co-living situations with children ages 13 to 18.
- **No additional funding has been allocated to foster implementation and evaluate effectiveness of the new legislation.**

# Coordination, implementation and evaluation – Advances and Challenges

**GoCR** has established two coordination bodies, at different times - *The National Commission against CSE (CONACOES, 1996) and the National Coalition against the Smuggling of Migrants and the Trafficking of Persons (CONNAT, 2013)*

**The CONACOES has not been in operation since 2018.**

# Coordination, Implementation and Evaluation - Recommendations

- Activate and strengthen the role and action of the National Commission against SEC (CONACOES)
- Conduct a comprehensive end of cycle evaluation of the Sixth National Action Plan against SEC and adopt a follow-up plan featuring concrete policy measures, mechanisms and objectives, as well as a dedicated budget.
- Adopt the National Policy and the National Action Plan against Human Trafficking (CONATT); and follow up on the effective implementation of both instruments.
- Ensure the timely allocation and disbursement of adequate funding and human resources to projects that fight human trafficking and provide assistance to child victims to secure for their full implementation.



# Prevention – Advances and Challenges

- 436 companies had subscribed to the CR Code of Conduct –
- E--Mentors Certification Program” integrated as a child-online safety capacity building and family awareness component under the national program for digital inclusion
- Good practices reported in capacity building amongst community associations operating in high-risk territories,
- GoCR consistently collaborate with international partners to bar registered foreign sex offenders from entering Costa Rica.

# Prevention- Recommendations

- Allocate enough funding to raise public awareness about all SEC manifestations with a particular focus on promoting the need to report such offences; and put in place mechanisms to evaluate the effectiveness of awareness-raising and prevention operations;
- Invest in child empowering prevention programmes to address the root causes and multiple vulnerabilities that place children, families and communities at risk; and promote educational programmes to transform the cultural patterns that contribute to SEC;
- Put in place international travel restrictions for national child sex offenders.

# Protection of the rights of SEC victims – Challenges and Recommendation

- GoCR does not operate nor plans to build dedicated shelters for child victims of SEC.

**Put in place measures to ensure SEC child victims can fully exercise their right to care and attention in properly funded shelters, staffed by well-trained personnel, and able to offer integrated services (psychological, legal, medical, etc.)**

**Create the necessary legal and administrative mechanisms for SEC victims to seek obtain compensation.**

# WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



Milena Grillo Rivera  
milena@paniamor.org

*UPR Pre-Session on Costa Rica. Geneva, April 3, 2019*