

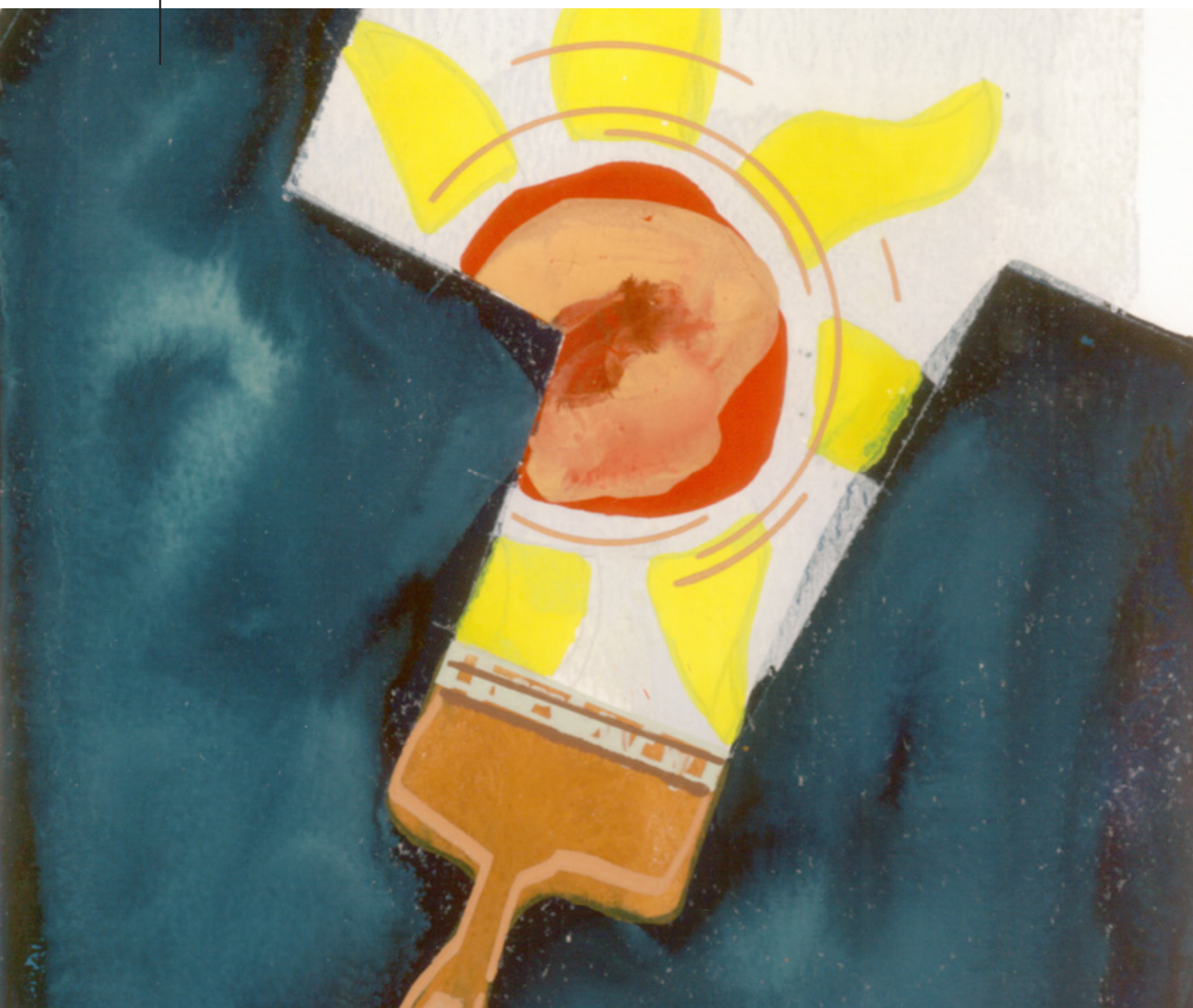


Ministry of Children  
and Families

Report

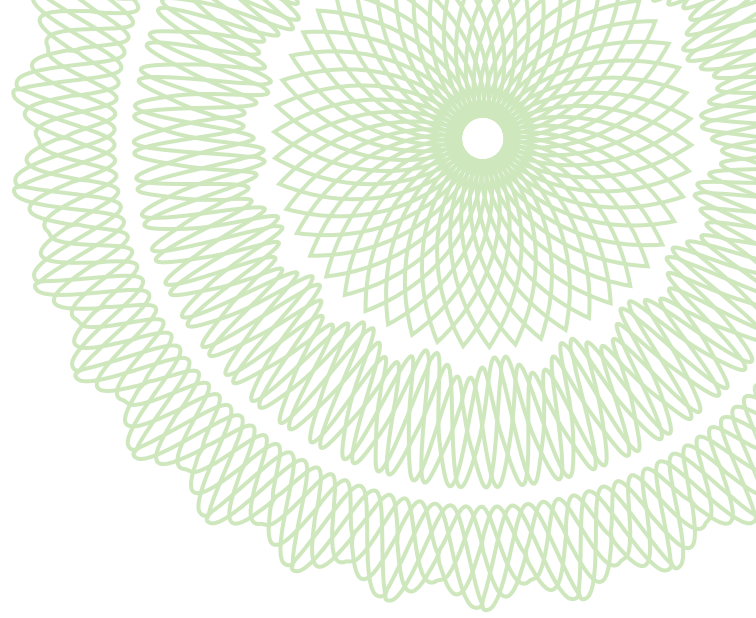
# Protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse

Norway's reply to the Lanzarote Committee's General  
Overview Questionnaire



# Contents

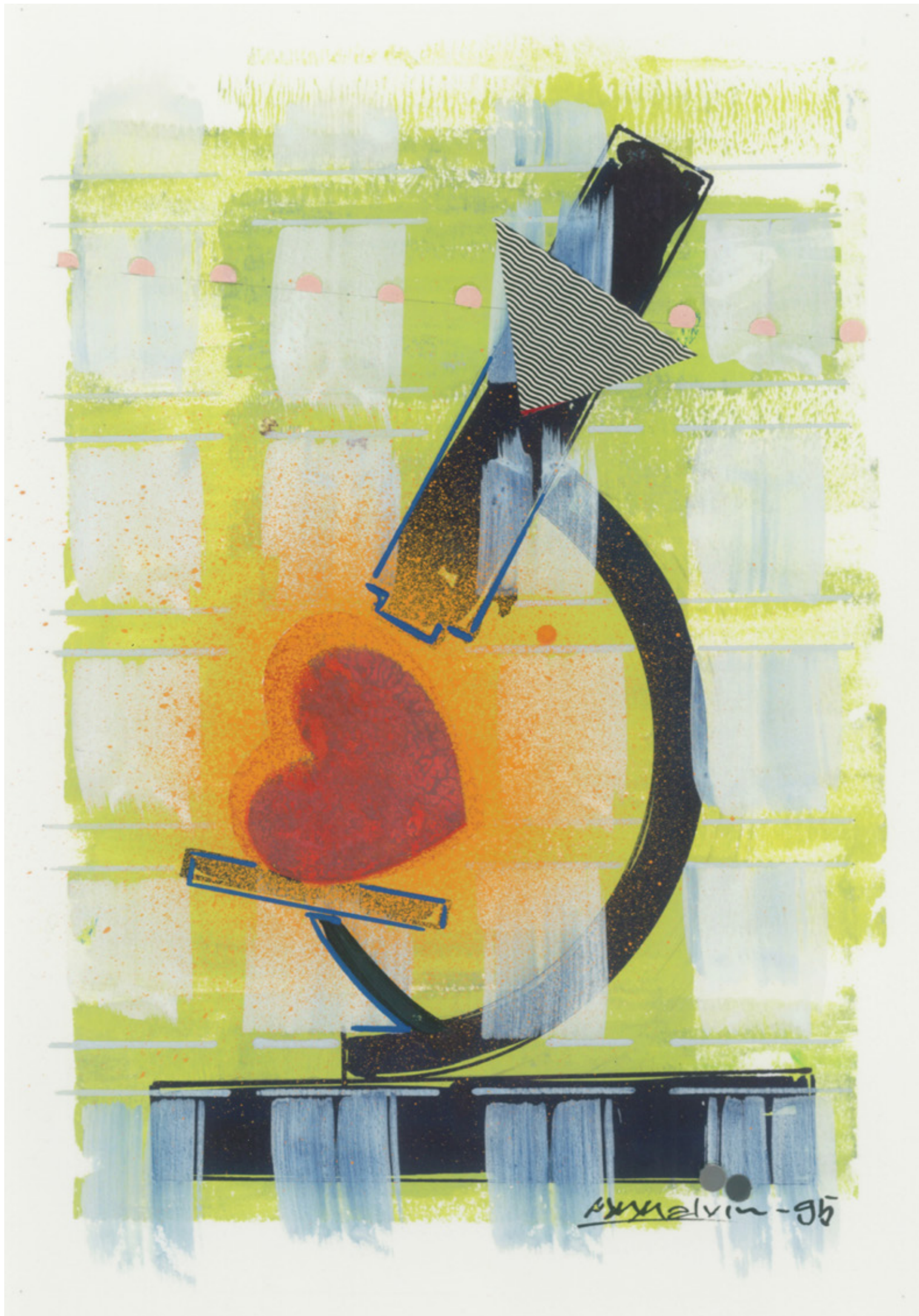
|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>GENERAL FRAMEWORK</b>  | <b>5</b>  |
| Question 1: Definition of “child”   | 5         |
| Question 2: Non-discrimination  | 6         |
| Question 3: Overview of the implementation  | 6         |
| Question 4: Child participation   | 11        |
| Question 5: Specialised bodies/mechanisms   | 12        |
| Question 6: National or local coordination, cooperation and partnerships                                  | 14        |
| Question 7: International cooperation   | 16        |
| <br>  |           |
| <b>PREVENTION OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND SEXUAL ABUSE</b>   | <b>19</b> |
| Question 8: Education, awareness raising and training   | 19        |
| Question 9: Recruitment and screening   | 23        |
| Question 10: Preventive intervention programmes or measures   | 24        |
| Question 11: Participation of the private sector, the media and civil society                             | 26        |
| Question 12: Effectiveness of preventive measures and programmes  | 28        |
| <br>  |           |
| <b>PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN VICTIMS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND SEXUAL ABUSE</b> | <b>32</b> |
| Question 13: Reporting suspicion of sexual exploitation or sexual abuse                                   | 32        |
| Question 14: Helplines  | 33        |
| Question 15: Assistance to victims  | 35        |
| <br>  |           |
| <b>PROSECUTION OF PERPETRATORS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN</b>                    | <b>39</b> |
| Question 16: Criminal law offences  | 39        |
| Question 17: Corporate liability  | 43        |
| Question 18: Sanctions and measures   | 44        |
| Question 19: Jurisdiction   | 45        |
| Question 20: Aggravating circumstances  | 46        |
| Question 21: Measures of protection for the child victim  | 47        |
| Question 22: Investigations and criminal measures to protect the child victim                             | 51        |
| Question 23: Child friendly interviewing and proceedings  | 54        |



In 2018, Norway ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (CETS 201). The Convention came into force in Norway on 1 October 2018.

This is Norway's initial report to the Lanzarote Committee. The report was coordinated by the Ministry of Children and Families. The Ministry of Justice and Public Security, the National Police Directorate, the Ministry of Education and Research, the Ministry of Health and Care Services, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Culture have contributed to the report. The Sami Parliament of Norway contributed input to the report.







# General framework

## Question 1: Definition of “child”

---

5

- a. Does the notion of “child” under your internal law correspond to that set out in Article 3, letter (a), i.e. “any person under the age of 18 years”?**

The Convention on the Rights of the Child defines a “child” as any person under the age of 18, if the child does not come of age earlier pursuant to the legislation that applies to the child. The age of majority in Norway is 18, which matches the Convention on the Rights of the Child's definition of who is considered a child. The Convention on the Rights of the Child applies as Norwegian law with priority over provisions in other legislation, see the Human Rights Act.

The legal age for sexual activities in Norway is 16, i.e. a child under 16 years of age cannot legally consent to having sexual relations with others. This is stipulated by sections 299-304 of the Penal Code, which make it an offence to engage in sexual activities with children under 16, irrespective of whether or not the sexual activities appear to be voluntary on the part of the child. Any sexual activity or aggravated sexual act with a child under 14 is characterised as *sexual assault of a child*, see section 299 of the Penal Code.

- b. What legislative or other measures have been taken to ensure that when the age of a victim is uncertain and there are reasons to believe that the victim is a child, the protection and assistance provided for children are accorded to him or her in accordance with Article 11, para. 2?**

When there is reason to believe that the victim is under 18, the person concerned will receive the assistance to which children are entitled, until such a time as it is determined that the victim is not a child.

- c. Please state whether the age for legal sexual activities is below 18 years of age and if so, please specify the age set out in internal law.**

The legal age for sexual activities in Norway is 16 years old. Please see the answers to questions 1a and 16d.