

Summary/overview of the

Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

Adopted by the Interagency Working Group in Luxembourg, 28 January 2016

Terminology Guidelines

The three circles indicate how a certain term can be used:

○ The empty circle indicates that a term can be used without any particular concern in the context of the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse: its meaning appears to be generally understood without confusion and/or the term is not harmful to the child. Terms with an empty circle will be accompanied by the text: *“This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.”*

∅ The striped circle indicates some disagreement as to whether the term should be used or not, or as to how it should be used (e.g. with what meaning), and suggests specific care be taken when using it and how, in the context of the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Terms with a striped circle will be accompanied by the text: *“Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.”*

⊗ The crossed circle indicates terms that should be limited or avoided completely in the context of the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Terms with a crossed circle will be accompanied by the text: *“The use of this term should be avoided.”*

Overview of terms and recommendations

The detailed guidelines in English, French and Spanish see
<http://luxembourgguidelines.org/#luxembourgguidelines>

TERM	SYMBOL	RECOMMENDATION
Child	○	<i>This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.</i>
Age of majority	∅	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Age of sexual consent	∅	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Minor	∅	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>

TERM	SYMBOL	RECOMMENDATION
Juvenile	Ø	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Adolescent	Ø	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Teenager	Ø	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Young person/young people/youth	Ø	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Child in the online environment	Ø	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Sexual violence against children	0	<i>This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.</i>
Child sexual assault	0	<i>This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.</i>
Child sexual abuse	0	<i>This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.</i>
Incest	0	<i>This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.</i>
Rape of a child	0	<i>This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.</i>
Child sexual molestation	0	<i>This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.</i>
Sexual touching of children	0	<i>This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.</i>
Sexual harassment of a child	0	<i>This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.</i>

TERM	SYMBOL	RECOMMENDATION
Online child sexual abuse	Ø	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Child sexual exploitation	0	<i>This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.</i>
Commercial sexual exploitation of children	Ø	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Online child sexual exploitation	0	<i>This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.</i>
Exploitation of children in/for prostitution	0	<i>This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.</i>
Children in (a situation of) prostitution	Ø	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Child prostitute	⊗	<i>The use of this term should be avoided.</i>
Child sex worker	⊗	<i>The use of this term should be avoided.</i>
Children/adolescents/young people selling sex	⊗	<i>The use of this term should be avoided.</i>
Voluntary/self-engaged prostitution	⊗	<i>The use of this term should be avoided.</i>
Transactional sex	⊗	<i>The use of this term should be avoided.</i>
Use of children for pornographic performances	Ø	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Child pornography	Ø	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Child sexual abuse material/child sexual exploitation material	Ø	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Computer/digitally generated child sexual abuse material	Ø	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Sexualised images of children/child erotica	Ø	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Self-generated sexual content/material	Ø	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>

TERM	SYMBOL	RECOMMENDATION
Sexting	0	<i>This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.</i>
(Exposure to) harmful content	∅	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Corruption of children for sexual purposes	0	<i>This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.</i>
Live online child sexual abuse	0	<i>This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.</i>
Live streaming of child sexual abuse	0	<i>This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.</i>
Child sexual abuse to order	0	<i>This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.</i>
Webcam child sex tourism/webcam child sex abuse	⊗	<i>The use of the term should be avoided.</i>
Solicitation of children for sexual purposes	0	<i>This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.</i>
Grooming (online/offline) for sexual purposes	0	<i>This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.</i>
Online (sexual) enticement of children	0	<i>This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.</i>
Sexual extortion of children	∅	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Sexual exploitation of children in the context of travel and tourism	0	<i>This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.</i>

TERM	SYMBOL	RECOMMENDATION
Child sex tourism	⊗	<i>The use of this term should be avoided.</i>
Sale of children	∅	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used</i>
Trafficking of children	∅	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used</i>
Child / early marriage	∅	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Forced marriage	∅	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Teenage marriage	∅	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Temporary marriage	∅	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used</i>
Harmful practices	∅	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Contemporary forms of slavery/child slavery	∅	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Worst forms of child labour	0	<i>This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.</i>
Child victim of sexual exploitation and/or abuse	0	<i>This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.</i>
Victim identification	0	<i>This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.</i>
Survivor	∅	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Children subjected to sexual exploitation/sexual abuse	∅	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Victimisation	∅	<i>This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.</i>
Self-victimisation	⊗	<i>The use of this term should be avoided.</i>
Re-victimisation	∅	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>

TERM	SYMBOL	RECOMMENDATION
Secondary victimisation	∅	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Perpetrators of sexual crimes against children	0	<i>This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.</i>
Sex offender	0	<i>This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.</i>
Child sex offender	0	<i>This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.</i>
Preferential offender	∅	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Situational offender	∅	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Transnational child sex offenders	∅	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Travelling child sex offenders	∅	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Child sex tourist	⊗	<i>The use of this term should be avoided.</i>
Juvenile sex offender	0	<i>This term appears to have a generally agreed meaning and/or can be used without stigmatising and/or otherwise harming the child.</i>
Facilitator/intermediary	∅	<i>Special attention should be paid to how this term is used.</i>
Customer/client/ John/	⊗	<i>The use of this term should be avoided.</i>