

SUPPORT OF ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION & ABUSE

So, what can we do as youth workers to shield and support children?

- **We need to learn to listen.** Active and empathetic listening is a skill that most adults have not mastered when it comes to meeting minors. We are excellent at giving instructions but poor at listening attentively to the child's experience, putting ourselves in the child's shoes and assessing their needs through their eyes.
- Arming a child with **information** about their rights and what constitutes abusive-neglectful and caring behaviour, we enable them to understand when something is wrong. And then reference persons are essential. If we don't talk to children in the 'good days', we won't talk to them in the time of crisis. After all, even our manner, our expressions and our mood when children talk to us play a very important role in whether they will continue to talk to us. Blaming and blaming lead children to experience feelings of guilt for situations that adults created and maintain.
- Turn **to the support of services.** Helplines for adults and minors, counselling and therapeutic services as well as the possibility to report incidents anonymously to authoritative and immediately responsive platforms play a crucial role in this level of protection of children.

If you think you are experiencing OSEA or witnessing someone you know being victim of it, there is a list of contacts that you can call and get support. Scan the QR code and select the country

