Thoughts on sexual violence prevention from the ‘Our Voices’ Youth Advisors

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‘Our Voices’

- Promote the involvement of young people in efforts to prevent sexual violence

- Series of participatory workshops with in Albania, Bulgaria and the UK

- 47 young people

- Aims of the consultations
Surprising... the similarities
What are the barriers and challenges to understanding sexual violence and seeking help and advice?
What needs to change?

Promote-empathy
Education-outside-school
More-awareness-about-services
Training-for-professionals
Tackle-social-problems

More-and-better-services
Information-and-support-for-parents
Change-attitudes

Talk-about-sex
Better-education-in-schools
Insights for the future... young people want to be involved
Why should they be involved?

- ‘We know how young people think’
- ‘We talk the same language’
- ‘We know how to explain things, adults dodge about it, we say it how it is’
- ‘We have personal experience to share, it makes it real’
Principles for involving young people

• To listen and respect
• To take time and be patient
• To involve young people in decision-making
• To encourage and promote confidence
• To make it meaningful
• To be non-judgemental
• To give clear information
• To not be patronising or forceful
• To be inclusive
• To be careful
Balancing the right to protection with the right to participation