



Thoughts on sexual violence prevention from the 'Our Voices' Youth Advisors

Claire Cody
March 2015

‘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**

The word "WOW!" is rendered in a bold, 3D, sans-serif font. The letters are white with a thick red outline and are set against a white background. The text is slightly tilted and casts a soft shadow on the surface below it.

Surprising... the similarities

What are the barriers and challenges to understanding sexual violence and seeking help and advice?

A word cloud illustrating various barriers and challenges. The words are arranged in a roughly triangular shape, with 'Getting-in-trouble' at the top right and 'Stigma' at the bottom left. The words are in various colors including green, brown, and blue.

Getting-in-trouble
Shame
Not-being-believed
Embarrassed
Judged
Blamed
Fear
Don't-trust
Lack-of-education
Don't-know-what-is-serious-enough-to-report
Not-knowing-where-to-go-for-help
Nobody-talks-about-it
Think-it's-your-fault
Stigma
Labelled

What needs to change?

Promote-empathy Education-outside-school
More-awareness-about-services
More-and-better-services Training-for-professionals
Information-and-support-for-parents Tackle-social-problems
Change-attitudes

Talk-about-sex

Better-education-in-schools



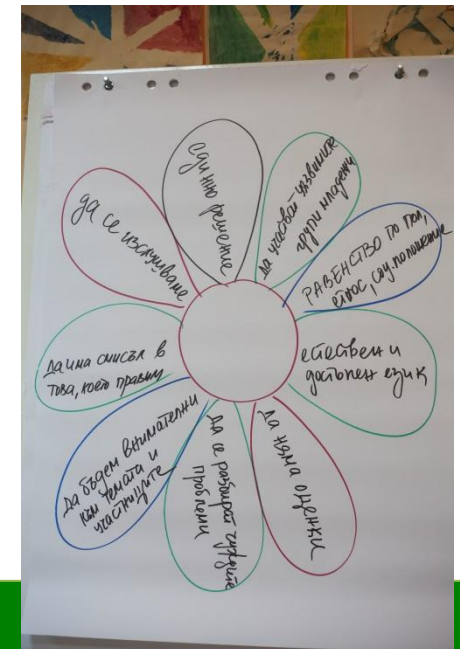
Insights for the future... young people want to be involved

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

