

Press Release

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Maud de Boer-Buquicchio: Schools must be safe from violence and be a place where children and young people can grow and flourish

Strasbourg, 24.09.2008 - "I am deeply shocked and saddened by the shooting which took place at a college in Finland yesterday. In my own name and on behalf of the Council of Europe I should like to express my condolences to the families of the victims and to the people of Finland.

It is our collective responsibility to find the right responses to avoid such tragedies from occurring again. We need to step up our efforts to prevent violence at school, help the authorities to identify potential dangers and work on the social dimension of potential offenders. We also need to help children and young people to make the best of the information and communication technologies.

I finally call upon states to review their legislation on the acquisition and possession of firearms.

Schools are - and must remain - a place where children and young people feel safe and can grow and flourish."

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