Sensoa Flag system
Exercise

+ Situations with children/young persons
+ Evaluate

× Completely OK
× Not completely OK
× Not OK
× Absolutely not not OK
Acceptable or not?

+ 3 boys (13 y) have shown their penis to some children on the playground. They think it was very funny but the children are disturbed.

+ Evaluate
  × Completely OK
  × Not completely OK
  × Not OK
  × Absolutely not OK
Acceptable or not?

+ Two girls (13) are sitting on the bed in the bedroom. They are caressing one another between and over their thighs and are enjoying it

+ Evaluate
  × Completely OK
  × Not completely OK
  × Not OK
  × Absolutely not OK
Acceptable or not?

+ A 17 y old boy deliberately puts a naked picture of a girl on internet, with the intention to harm her

+ Evaluate
  × Completely OK
  × Not completely OK
  × Not OK
  × Absolutely not OK
Acceptable or not?

+ A naked boy (10) pressures a girl (10) to put his penis in her mouth.

+ Evaluate
  × Completely OK
  × Not completely OK
  × Not OK
  × Absolutely not OK
What’s the problem?

+ Confrontation with sexual behaviour => emotions; nobody stays indifferent
+ Discussion on values
  × Different opinions on sexuality
  × Discussion is often emotional and personal

+ Sensoa Flag system
Flag system is designed

+ To evaluate sexual behaviour
  × In a more objective way
  × Based on criteria and arguments
+ To stimulate communication
  × With use of common terminology
  × To normalize behaviour (when appropriate)
+ To react appropriately
  × Instruments and methods
  × Examples
Flag system

+ Green flag: acceptable and positive sexual behavior
+ Yellow flag: occasional light Sexual Abusive Behaviour (SAB)
+ Red flag: troubling SAB
+ Black flag: severe SAB

+ Judge the behaviour!
+ Green and yellow flag normal part of development
How to judge? 6 criteria

1. Mutual consent
2. Voluntary engagement
3. Equality
4. Appropriate for age or development (normative list)
5. Appropriate for context
6. Self-respect
How to use?

+ All criteria OK = green flag
+ One or more criteria not OK → other flag
+ Extent to which limits are crossed → colour flag
  × Hands on/off
  × Anxiety, amount of pressure
  × Intention/estimation of effects
+ Colour changes when behaviour is repeated
Steering wheel
Don’t judge too quickly

+ Stay as close as possible to the facts!
+ Ask open questions, not suggestive ones
+ Don’t react out of emotions, projections, values etc.
+ Use the 6 criteria
+ Look for indications for Comprehensive Sexuality Education: what does this behaviour tell us about underlying needs for information, competencies etc? What do they have to LEARN?
Acceptable or not?

+ 3 boys (13 y) have shown their penis to some children on the playground. They think it was very funny but the children are disturbed.

+ Yellow flag
Which flag?

Two girls (13) are sitting on the bed in the bedroom. They are caressing one another between and over their thighs and are enjoying it.

Green flag
Acceptable or not?

+ A 17 y old boy deliberately puts a naked picture of a girl on internet, with the intention to harm her

+ Black flag
Which flag?

+ A naked boy (10) pressures a girl (10) to put his penis in her mouth.

+ Red flag
How to react?

+ Always start with telling what you hear, see..
+ Always explain why you react
+ Then:
  × **Green**: accept, explain or ignore
  × **Yellow**: limit, explain, provide alternatives
  × **Red**: forbid, explain, control (mediation; conciliation)
  × **Black**: forbid, explain and prevent in the future (take measures; consequences)
+ **Don’t let your emotions guide you**
## Pedagogical reactions (short term)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Green</th>
<th>Yellow</th>
<th>Red</th>
<th>Black</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Do not stop/ignore</strong></td>
<td>Stop the behaviour or distract</td>
<td>Stop the behaviour</td>
<td>Stop the behaviour</td>
<td>Stop the behaviour</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Name/question the behaviour</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Discuss the feelings</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Affirm. Explain why</strong></td>
<td>Affirm positive behaviour. Explain why</td>
<td>Affirm positive behaviour. Explain why</td>
<td>Affirm positive behaviour. Explain why</td>
<td>Affirm positive behaviour. Explain why</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Isolate that part that is not OK and explain why</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Make agreements</strong></td>
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<td>Agreements and supervision, follow up care and recovery</td>
<td>Agreements and consequences</td>
<td>Make a report and refer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Make a report</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Make a report</td>
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</tbody>
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Questions?
Want to know more?

+ The Flag System
+ www.flagsystem.org
Thanks for your attention!

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