

Violence Against Children in SLOVAKIA

Relevant extracts from an NGO alternative report presented to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

CRC Session 25, 18 September - 6 October 2000

Defence for Children International - Slovak Republic - English

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.25/slovakNGOreport1.doc

[...]

The objective of this Report was to stress the problems, which should be tackled step by step in near future.

[...]

Enact the prohibition of all kinds of physical punishment of children by their parents and design programmes of edification related to the positive alternative methods of upbringing in accordance to the Convention.

[...]

To transform the hostel types of foster homes and big facilities to a family type of foster homes of small capacity.

[...]

The vast majority of the handicapped children care is carried out in huge asylums. There, it is difficult to provide care of high quality in accordance with the Convention. The system of big institutions built before 1989, where the handicapped people were locked in "in order not to be seen", should be transferred to smaller facilities. If it is possible, the child should be allowed to live at home with the family and attend these facilities daily if required by the family.

[...]

Abused children

1. **A special professional attention should be paid to the victims of violence.**
2. **To define the term "violence" committed on children and their mothers** for the use of all the sections of the legal system.
3. **To define the obligations** of doctors, teachers, educationalists, psychologists, citizens and social workers, police and prosecution to assist in investigation and reduction of violence in family.
4. **To improve the performance of the social and legal protection of children** in all levels of decision-making once the family fails to fulfil its tasks.
5. In the area of prevention **to improve and intensify the field social work** with the failing family.
6. **Undertake the methods of finding out and methods of screening** of so called "hidden clientele" (for example victims of violence committed on children, criminalising groups, and subcultures) as well as methods of the institutional vindication. The co-operation with the client after the active care should be emphasised.
7. **To broaden the network of field social workers** and provide them with professional training aiming to improve their field work.
8. **To build functional networks aiming to help and protect the children.** The network should be based on the principal of co-operation between the state administration, non-governmental organisations and private care facilities (interministerial and interdisciplinary).
9. **To build a network of specialised facilities** (centres, asylums) focused on protecting the tortured children and their family.
10. **To provide the professionals focused on the issues dealing with beaten and tortured children with a training and education** to staff the relevant departments (Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family SR, Ministry of Education SR, Ministry of Interior SR, MS SR and others).

11. To enact the obligation to report any suspicion of child abuse to social department.

This obligation concerns only doctors, unlike citizens, teachers and police.

[...]

Children on the street

1. **The social prevention should be focused on hidden groups:** "children on the street" whose basal social and psychological needs are dominantly saturated out of family or the substituting institution. (This concerns children without housing, children on the run from the family or substituting institution, nonage and juvenile drug users, nonage and juvenile prostitutes, criminalising gangs of juvenile and children originating from specific area.)

2. **To intensify the investigation of these children** and create internal condition within the state and non-governmental organisations enabling to undertake field social work focused on sanitation not only the family environment, but also the community in which these children live.

[...]

To pay professional and psychological attention to the parents whose children are bullied – victims and whose children bully – aggressors.

[...]

To enforce integration of handicapped children by means of concrete activities. Apart from the special schooling system, the integrated school system should be simultaneously created, developed and supported.

To improve the system of informing the parent and teacher public **on the issues on integrating handicapped children by means of edifying activities carried out by** psychologists, teachers and special educationalists and thus **diminish negative attitude in the integration process.**

[...]