

**Initial Alternative Report on Implementation of Optional Protocol to
the Convention on the Right of the Child on the Sale of Children,
Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography in Republic of Serbia**

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PREPARATION OF THE REPORT

The state did not involve CSOs into the process of preparation of initial reports on implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography pertaining to the period between 2003 and 2007 (hereinafter the Report). Although the cooperation with the responsible authorized ministries (until 2006 – Ministry of Foreign Affairs, since 2006 – Ministry of Human and Minority Rights) and the regular information exchange, continuing through the process of drafting of the Core document for Serbia, have been developed in the period of the review of the Report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the process of preparation of the Report on protocols still did not involve CSOs. The report itself demonstrates the same weaknesses as the Initial Report on the Convention – it includes detailed (sometimes even too detailed) description of the legal system, but does not address practical issues and realization of the rights, nor does it include the data that would offer an insight into the actual effectiveness of the described normative framework. Furthermore, the report has not been available to the general public after their completion nor have there been public announcement, printing or dissemination of the reports.

Implementation of the Optional Protocol in Accordance with the General Principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in Particular Articles 1, 11, 21, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36 of the Convention

Definition of Child

The legislation of the Republic of Serbia lacks the law that includes general definition of the term “child”, implicitly defining this term by the definition of the full working ability. In accordance with the Constitution and the provisions of the Family Law, it is defined that a person becomes of age upon his/her 18th birthday, therefore any human being younger than 18 may be considered a “child”. When of age, a person acquires full working ability (art. 11, FL). The full working ability may be acquired earlier through marriage or parenthood. In the first case, the decision on

acquiring full working ability is taken by the court when all legally proscribed conditions are met (art. 11, paras. 2&3, FL).

Criminal Code defines minor person as “a person that has not turned 18 yet”. Apart from the term “minor” (art. 112, para. 10), used as universal, generic term, Criminal Code also defines the term “child” (a person that has not turned 14 yet, art. 112, para. 8), as well as the term “juvenile” (a person that has turned 14, but not yet 18, art. 112, para. 9).

Same definitions were included into the Law on Juvenile Offenders and Criminal Justice Protection of the Minors (arts. 2 and 3).

Non-Discrimination

Besides Constitution and particular laws that regulate discrimination in their respective fields of authority, Serbia has 2 laws that specifically deal with discrimination issues: Law on Protection from Discrimination¹ and Law on Prohibition of Discrimination of Persons with Disability². Law on Protection from Discrimination envisages the election of the special Commissioner for the protection of equality (arts. 28-40 of Law on Protection from Discrimination) by the National Assembly. The Commissioner’s duties include the submission of citations to the magistrate court pertaining to the breaching of rights dealt with by the said law, and to bring action, in his own name and for the benefit of the injured party, pertaining to the breaching of rights dealt with by the said law. Legal provisions pertaining to the office of Commissioner shall become valid on 01.01.2010, while the Commissioner has to be appointed at the mostt in the course of 60 days thereafter. Law on Protection from Discrimination adopts the following definition: terms „discrimination“ and „discriminatory action“ refer to any „unjustified partiality towards and unequal treatment, or neglect (exclusion, restriction or favouring) of persons or groups, as well as their family members, or people close to them, concealed or overt, which is based on race, skin colour, ancestors, citizenship, nationality, ethnic origin, language, religious and political beliefs, sex, gender, sexual orientation, material status, birth, genetic features, health condition, disability, marital and family status, history of being sentenced, age, appearance, membership in political parties, unions and other organizations, or supposed personal traits (art. 2, para. 1, LPD).

¹ The Official Journal of the Republic of Serbia, no. 22/09

² The Official Journal of the Republic of Serbia, no. 33/2006

In spite of necessary legislation having been adopted in the last few years, discrimination remains one of Serbia's major problems. Particularly exposed are Roma children and children with disability. The group that has been especially jeopardized lately are those returned to Serbia under readmission agreements. These are often children who do not speak Serbian because they grew up in countries that sent them back, while being returned to the parts of country from which they do not originate, frequently without their parent's company. This situation makes them exceptionally vulnerable and puts them at risk of being subject to breaching rights protected by the Protocol.

Child's Best Interest

Although the fundamental protection of the child's best interest do exist and is stipulated by Family Law³ in article 6, a number of strategic documents, Strategy for Combating Human Trafficking among them, do not implement this principle consistently. Namely, almost all the provisions in the Strategy were defined in respect to persons of age, while special measures for children were not designed, thereby making dubious the notion that the child's best interest is taken into account at all times. The principle is still just a proclamation - the contents of the principle are not defined – there is no list of criteria (facts and circumstances) which could help determine what the best interest of the child in specific cases is.

Right to Life, Survival and Development

Right to life is protected by the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, as well as by great number of criminal justice provisions which define the nature of certain criminal offences such as: homicide (art, 113, CC), capital murder (art, 114, CC), murder of an infant at birth (art, 116, CC), suicide incitement and assistance (art, 119, CC), grave bodily harm (art, 119, CC), etc. The fact that the person may be underage is qualified circumstance in some of the mentioned offences, while legislator envisages more severe punishment of the offenders in such cases (for example in offences, such as: capital murder, suicide incitement and assistance and grave bodily harm).

³ The Official Journal of the Republic of Serbia, no. 18/2005

However, when we discuss right to life, survival and development, a special emphasis needs to be put on the fact that there is a lack of suitable measures of reintegration for child victims of some forms of exploitation included in the Protocol.

Right of the child to Participate (Convention on the Rights of the Child, art. 12)

Participation of children in the proceedings when their rights are being decided upon has been defined by article 65 of the Family Law. However, sufficient understanding and adequate realization are still lacking, due to the absence of the explicit and efficient legal remedies for the protection of this right.

Illicit transfer and non-return of children abroad (Convention on the Rights of the Child, art. 11)

Serbia ratified the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction on June 20th, 1991. Central executive body for implementation of the Convention is Ministry of Justice. However, the agency that should manage these issues does not operate efficiently. The data concerning the number of processed cases is unavailable.

Right of the child to be protected from economic and labour exploitation (Convention on the Rights of the Child, art. 32)

Protection of children from exploitation has been designed in accordance with article 32 of the Serbian Constitution, while specific measures have been developed within the Labour Law. However, the implementation of these measures and its extent remain unknown due to the lack of the appropriate monitoring mechanisms. The thing that is certain and the most upsetting, though, is the fact that the black labour market is still highly developed. When a child that works is not formally and officially employed, then the child does not get any protection. There are two additional groups of children recognized as being economically exploited, with no adequate mechanisms of protection and support: children who live or work on the street and children working in agricultural households. Survey concerning the street children

conveyed in 2006 indicates the existence of the street children in the bigger towns in Serbia, their number constantly being around 400, half of them in Belgrade⁴.

Right of the child to be protected from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (Convention on the Rights of the Child, art. 33)

During the last few years, the increased availability of illicit drugs to school children has been noted, with a special emphasis on the distribution of drugs in the schoolyards. One of the measures taken by the Republic of Serbia in order to suppress this phenomenon and prevent school violence was the introduction of the „school policemen“. Furthermore, the Law on Basis of Education and Schooling System adopted on August 31st, 2009, includes an explicit prohibition and envisages punishment for students who “incited and assisted students, gave them and uses alcohol, tobacco, narcotic drugs or psychoactive substances” (art. 113), as well as prohibition and responsibility of the school staff for “inciting students to use a narcotic or psychoactive substance, as well as facilitating their use, procuring them or failing to report their procurement or use” (art. 141.)

Criminal Code envisages the punishment for illicit production and distribution of drugs (art. 246, CC), unauthorized possession of drugs (art. 246a, CC) and facilitating the use of drugs (art. 247, CC).

Right of the child to be protected from sexual exploitation and abuse (Convention on the Rights of the Child, art. 34)

Sexual exploitation of children has been regulated through penalization of several criminal offences. Thus the exploitation of children in pornography has been penalized as criminal offence of displaying pornographic material and exploitation of children in pornography in article 185 of the Criminal Code, and since September 2009, as criminal offence of showing, obtaining and possessing pornographic material and exploiting a minor for pornography. Criminal Code also includes the criminal offence of pandering and facilitating sexual intercourse (art. 183, CC). By virtue of Amendments to the Criminal Code from 2009, two new criminal offences were instituted: making minor person witness sexual intercourse (art. 185, CC) and abusing

⁴ Street Children survey, which resulted in publication of the book “Children Speak”, was organized in 2006 by the Child Rights Centre in cooperation with Youth Integration Centre and supported by Save the Children UK.

computer network or any other means of communication for the purpose of committing criminal offences against sexual freedom of a minor person (art. 185b, CC).

Prevention of sexual exploitation and protection of children from it are parts of a wider system of protection of children from abuse and neglect, defined by the General Child Abuse and Neglect Protocol. More detailed outline of this system has been given in the section “General Implementation Measures”.

Abduction, sale and trafficking of children and protection of children against all other forms of exploitation (Convention on the Rights of the Child, arts. 35 and 36)

A great number of activities has been undertaken recently in order to protect children from trafficking. The system of protection that includes great number of participants has been defined with the support of *Organisation for security and cooperation in Europe*.

More detailed overview of the criminal justice system and strategic documents in this field, as well as the available data, shall be presented at the appropriate points in this report.

DATA CONCERNING SALE OF CHILDREN AND EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN PORNOGRAPHY AND PROSTITUTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

The exact data about the scope, specific manifestations and characteristics of child victims of sale and exploitation in pornography and prostitution in the Republic of Serbia cannot be provided here, bearing in mind that the unified system of recording and monitoring such occurrences does not exist. Each of the authorized ministries has their own system of keeping records and monitoring which is unsynchronized with the others. In the said reports the important source of data are surveys conducted by scientific institutions and civil society organizations. However, the majority of these surveys combine the indirect knowledge of the general public and experts concerning these phenomena. The data are more indicative of the opinions and sensitization of the public than of the manifestations, characteristics and scope of these occurrences. The data related to the identified child victims are

unreliable as well, because the majority of reports include general results related to both women and children.

CSO Data on Sale of Children and Exploitation of Children in Pornography and Prostitution

Civil society organizations active in the field of protection of children from and prevention of sale and exploitation in pornography and prostitution are a significant source of data.

In the period from January 2004 until June 30th 2009, CSO ASTRA, through their SOS phone service, identified 237 victims of human trafficking. 110 of them were children (11 male and 99 female). Identified underage victims were sexually exploited in the majority of cases (59). Apart from that, they were sold to be married (15), to be involved in forced bagging (19), labour exploitation (2). The cases of multiple exploitation were not rare either, such as: exploitation through forced marriage or bagging accompanied by sexual exploitation, simultaneous labour and sexual exploitation (3). In the period to which this data is related, there were two cases of sale of children for adoption. In some cases (10), it was impossible to discern the form of exploitation that the children would have faced, because the trafficking chain had been broken before the exploitation phase began.

The work of Youth Integration Centre, from August 2007 to June 2009, involved the total of 390 minors living and/or working on the street. out of which 16 minors (9 female and 7 male) were at risk of becoming victims of human trafficking. According to the information obtained from users and related to the forced prostitution, the situation is as follows: 16 minors have been the victims of forced prostitution (13 female and 3 male), out of that number 5 underage girls forced by unfamiliar person/persons, 1 male forced by a relative, 1 female forced by a trusted older male and 9 minors (3 male and 6 female) forced by peer group. When forced labour is concerned (forced begging, working at traffic-lights, etc.) the situation is as follows: 17 minors (9 male and 8 female) have been thus exploited by peer groups, while approx. 80% of the Drop-in Centre for Children living and working in street users have been exploited in this way by their families (parents or relatives). All the children are citizens of Serbia.

Through the reintegration program of the CSO “Atina” between January 1st 2004 and June 30th 2009, various types of assistance were provided to 99 users. Out of

the total number of users, 46 were children, 41 female and 5 male, which made 46.46% of the total number of users for the given period. Out of the total number of minors, 41 had Serbian citizenship, while the remaining 5 female users were foreign citizens.

Between January 2004 and June 2009, the Shelter for the Human Trafficking Victims coordinated by the Belgrade's Guidance Centre for the Domestic Violence had 57 placements of minors (21% of the total number of the Shelter users), these being 53 female and 4 male victims. These numbers do not include children up to 9 years old that resided in the Shelter with their mothers who had been identified as human trafficking victims.

Surveys on Sale of Children and Exploitation of Children in Pornography and Prostitution in the Republic of Serbia

When sale of children and their exploitation in pornography and prostitution in Serbia are concerned, the significant sources of data are surveys conducted by academic institutions, international organizations (Save the Children UK, OEBS) and number of national CSOs (ASTRA, Victimology Society of Serbia, Child Rights Centre).

Motivated by the numerous indications of the internet related child abuse, CSO ASTRA, with the assistance of OEBS mission, conducted a survey in Serbia in 2006 named "Human (Children) Trafficking – A View Through the Internet Window". The survey, among other things, analyzed the phenomena of *recruitment of victims over Internet*⁵ and it turned out that young people were acquainted with the problem as they recognized the possibility of recruitment over Internet as a realistic and realizable one. Within this survey, ASTRA designed a fifteen-year-old girl's profile, which in 15 days of systematic Internet chatting (50 hours) received 457 invitations to chat, 86% of which being invitations made by male persons. The "girl" was contacted by people of different age (in cases where it was possible to discover their age), ranging from minors to men older than 50. Further on, the data show that the sexual harassment occurred in 27% (125) of conversations. In addition to the increasing rate of sexual harassment, the "girl" encountered certain problems in 20 cases – she was explicitly offered money for sex (4), people tried to realize their

⁵ The survey was conducted among 1205 pupils of vocational and grammar schools, aged 14-18, from 6 Serbian towns (Šabac, Novi Sad, Novi Pazar, Vranje, Užice, Belgrade).

sexual fantasies involving underage girls (14), or “offered to help her to have a better life” (2), which was estimated to have been a possible lure for human trafficking.

Victimology society of Serbia in cooperation with Serbian OEBS mission conducted a survey on human trafficking in Serbia in 2004 and published the results. The subject of the survey was to gather data on human trafficking in Serbia, in order to obtain information concerning the scope, structure and characteristics of trafficking of women, children and men, factors that lead to human trafficking occurrence, the level of awareness of the professionals, as well as the ways in which state authorities and domestic and international NGOs react in cases of human trafficking and deal with them. According to the analysis of the immediate knowledge of the participants, it transpired that Serbia, when it comes to trans-national sale of children, was country of victims’ origin in 30 cases, and country of transit or temporary destination for foreign children in 43 cases. Participants knew for 21 cases of internal trafficking. When forms of sale of children were concerned, most often it was trafficking for sexual exploitation (65), followed by trafficking for begging (17), and trafficking for marriage (12), which was particularly prominent within Roma community.

GENERAL MEASURES OF IMPLEMENTATION

Ratified international agreements are directly applied in the Republic of Serbia. However, disregarding the fact that the Republic of Serbia belongs to a monistic legal system, the international legislation in practice is directly applied in negligible number of cases, which dictate that the national authorities have to coordinate national legislation with the international norms and standards. The introduction of new solutions is slow and not necessarily accompanied by the full coordination of the competent ministries and the People’s Assembly as a legislative body, nor by the consistent development of the adequate implementation mechanisms.

The most important results achieved in the field of legislation by the end of the September 2009, when the drafting of this document was finalized, were:

- The Constitution adopted in 2006 explicitly addresses the rights of the child for the first time in the Constitutional history of the Republic of Serbia. According to the Constitution, human life is inviolable (there is no capital punishment in Serbia), physical and mental integrity is confirmed, and no one may be enslaved or held in a slave-like position. Any form of human

trafficking is prohibited. Sexual or economical exploitation of person in unfavourable position is regarded as forced labour. Children enjoy human rights befitting their age and maturity. Children are protected from physical, mental, economical or any other form of exploitation or abuse. Children younger than 15 cannot be employed, nor may children younger than 18 be employed on jobs with adverse effects to their health and/or moral.

A number of important laws were adopted:

- Law on Basis of Education and Schooling System prohibits infliction of physical violence and personal insults to children, and assures the right of the child (pupil) to be protected from discrimination and violence (2009);
- Family Law institutes the obligation of the state to undertake all required measures to protect a child from neglect, physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and from any form of exploitation, as well as obligations of all children health and educational institutions, social care institutions, judicial and other legal bodies and citizen associations to inform public prosecutor or guardianship body of the necessity of and reasons for protection. Family Law also institutes the right of a child to independent representation in cases where there is a conflict of interests between the child and his/her legal representative. Family Law introduces judges specialized in family proceedings and envisages the compulsory education of judges in the field of child's rights (2005);
- Health Care Law guarantees the right of every patient to realize his/her right to health care with respect to the highest possible standards of human rights and values. Thus the child patient, for the first time, has certified rights to physical and intellectual integrity, as well as rights to safety and acknowledging of his/her moral, cultural, religious and philosophical beliefs (2005);
- Labour Law includes special provisions which proscribe that labour relation may be established with a person at least 15 years old; that the person younger than 18 may be given employment only with the consent of parent, adoptive parent, or guardian and that only if the employment does not compromise his/her health, moral or education, or the work is not prohibited by the law (2005);

- Law on Juvenile Offenders and Criminal Justice Protection of the Minors in order to specially protect the underage injured parties, or underage injured parties called as witnesses in criminal proceedings, explicitly envisages the introduction of specialization for or all the parties in the criminal procedure (presiding judge, public prosecutor, investigating judge, police official and attorney of the injured party) in cases when persons of age are tried for 27 itemized criminal offences, or in all cases where specialized public prosecutor estimates it to be necessary. Furthermore, the Law includes new rules pertaining to presentation of evidence, with substantial modification of procedure, primarily aimed at protecting an underage injured party (adopted in 2005, effective since January 1st, 2006).
- Criminal Code (with Law on Amendments to Criminal Code from 2009) defines a wide range of criminal offences that may be made “to harm children or minors”, in order to provide their protection within the criminal justice system (adopted in 2005, effective since January 1st, 2006);
- The Criminal Procedure Code (2005, with Law on Amendments to Criminal Procedure Code from 2009) clearly proscribes the rules of reporting criminal action that requires action ex officio;
- Police Law introduces a specialization of police officers who operate in cases of criminal offences against minor persons (2005);
- Asylum Law (2007, in application since April 1st, 2008) defines *unaccompanied minor* as a foreigner, not yet 18, who upon entering Serbian territory does not have or has after entering Serbian territory lost his/her parent’s or carer’s company. Provisions of this law stipulate that, prior to applying for asylum, an unaccompanied minor needs to be assigned a guardian who shall be present at his/her hearing. Asylum seeking person or person to whom asylum has been granted has a right to free primary and secondary education and right to social welfare, in accordance with special legislation. Furthermore, asylum seeking person or person to whom asylum has been granted in the Republic of Serbia has equal right to health care, in accordance with the law which regulates the health care of the foreigners;

- Law on travel Documents stipulates that a child needs to possess a passport of one's own, while the application form for its issuance has to be signed by both parents (2008);
- Registry Law stipulates that the birth of a child has to be reported 15 days later at the most. If the child is stillborn, this fact has to be reported 24 hours after the birth. On the other hand, relevant provisions of the Law on Registering into the Register of Deaths stipulates that a death has to be reported three days after one's death, while the certificate of the health institution in which the person died or a confirmation note of the medical doctor who pronounced the death, in case that the person died outside institution, has to be submitted. Furthermore, this Law stipulates the procedure of entering into birth register of children born in the means of transport, children of unknown parents and children without parental care (2009);
- New Law on Foreigners in its article 28 stipulates conditions for the issuance of a temporary residence permit for foreigners that are victims of a criminal offence of human trafficking and provision to such foreigner of appropriate accommodation, nourishment and basic life conditions (in application since April 1st, 2009);
- Law on International Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters stipulates exemption from the rule of non-extradition of the domestic citizens in cases where this rule is in conflict with some unilateral or bilateral agreement – Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia has launched an initiative for the conclusion of the agreements on extradition of the suspects in the organized crime cases, with the ex-Yugoslav republics, which should facilitate the extradition of the domestic citizens and persons with dual citizenship (2009);
- Law on Amendments to Public Information Law from 2009 in article 92b, paragraph 4, envisages high financial fines if the contents of the media outlet, which may jeopardize underage person's development, was not clearly and explicitly indicated, or if an underage person was made identifiable in the published information that may jeopardize his/her right or interest (pertaining to art. 41 paras. 2 and 3 of Public Information Law).

Protection System

We may say that the obligations assumed by the ratification of the Protocol⁶ and related to the protection of children are being realized on two, mutually connected tracks. The first one is fighting against human trafficking⁷. In this area children are still being treated as a subgroup without paying special attention to their specific characteristics and protection. During 2009, the working group for the preparation of a Model strategy for protection of children from trafficking, and exploitation in prostitution and pornography has been established in order to identify special characteristics of children and to develop the system of their protection. Work of this group is coordinated by the Child Rights Centre and supported by Save the Children UK within the "Programme for Combating Sale of Children in South-Eastern Europe". Apart from prevention and protection of children against human trafficking, this model includes the issues of prevention and protection of children against exploitation in prostitution and pornography.

Ordinarily, Strategy for Combating Human Trafficking in Serbia treats sale of children as a subcategory of human trafficking, so that the measures and activities envisaged by the Strategy and pertaining to adults are applied to minor victims of the trafficking (children). Furthermore, even though the national mechanism for combating human trafficking has been established and includes all the relevant parties that largely promote the existing cooperation in fighting trafficking and helping victims, the system that is organized in such a manner is not sufficiently sensitive to certain requirements and forms of trafficking that particularly affect children⁸.

The second track of action has been defined by the National Action Plan for Children⁹ as a part of one of the priorities (that is, aims): Protection of children from abuse and neglect. Apart from their other activities in this field, with coordination of Children's Rights Council and the support of UNICEF, all five of the relevant

⁶ Implementation of the Protocol is not under the authority of a single ministry. System of child protection against sale, exploitation in prostitution and pornography and all other forms of abuse, neglect and violence is under the authority of five different ministries. These are: Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, while monitoring and reporting are under the authority of Ministry of Human and Minority Rights. All these ministries in coordination are involved into implementation of the Protocol.

⁷ Strategy for Combating Human Trafficking in Serbia, official Journal, no. 111/2006 published on December 12th, 2006.

⁸ The existing system for provision of help and support to the human trafficking victims in Serbia was created to primarily address the needs of women that are involved in international trafficking chain with an aim of commercial sexual exploitation.

⁹ National Action Plan for Children has been adopted by the Serbian Government in 2004.

ministries are continuously taking actions related to child protection. Within thus defined system, the emphasis is on the establishment of the necessary cooperation mechanisms and procedures that every system has to implement in order to achieve effective protection of children against all forms of abuse and neglect. To that end, the General Child Abuse and Neglect Protocol (2005) has been adopted, followed by special protocols for social welfare institutions (2006), education and schooling system (2007), police (2007), health care system (2009) and justice system (2009).

Recommendations

The Committee should recommend that State party:

- adopts comprehensive strategy for the prevention of sale of children and exploitation of children in pornography and prostitution;
- raises awareness among citizens and especially among children concerning the problem of sale and exploitation of children in pornography and prostitution through educational system and public media;
- further develops national system of protection of children from sale and exploitation in pornography and prostitution;
- sets up the system of gathering information and data related to sale and exploitation of children in pornography and prostitution;
- introduces more topics related to sale and exploitation of children in pornography and prostitution in the curricula of primary and secondary schools;
- sets up available and long-term programmes of prevention for children who are particularly at risk (children with developmental problems, children with disability, children without parental care, children from minority groups, children who are illegal immigrants, children in readmission procedure, children living and working on the street, children with no regulated legal status);
- defines procedures for identification of child victims and introduce proactive approach to finding potential victims;
- increases number of shelters and alternative solutions for the placement of child victims;

- introduces and finances specialized protection and reintegration programmes for child victims;
- introduces procedures for the long-term monitoring of recuperation and re-socialization of child victims;
- introduces support and reinforce programmes for the families of child victims.

PREVENTION

The major part of the prevention is informing children on the rights included in the Protocol, ways of their violation and their protection. In order to determine the extent to which children are informed, as well as to discover their attitudes towards certain topics relevant to the Protocol implementation, the Child Rights Centre has included children into the reporting process, as it was already mentioned in the introduction to this document. The Coalition of children has, through their survey, gathered data that shall be presented in the following pages.

It was important to see to what extent are the children familiar with the basic terms and concepts related to the Protocol and in what way they understand them. All the children that participated in the focus groups have heard for the term human trafficking, yet their interpretations of its meaning were quite dissimilar (only the children users of the services of «**VelikiMali**» organization were not acquainted with this term). In all the groups, the first association to human trafficking was selling of human organs (*"internal organs sale", "they steal people and sell their organs or they use them as slaves"*) towards which the children expressed special concern. But the children recognized that begging and prostitution were connected to trafficking (*"people come in cars with black windows and they take children from the street and they treat them like animals, then they sell them to people who have bad intentions, too"*). Some of the answers suggested that the children recognized sale of children as an illicit adoption method (*"maybe they sell them to someone who doesn't have children"*).

Term "exploitation" usually was not sufficiently familiar to children. When mentioned exploitation, the children most often had in mind selling, that is human trafficking itself (*"I think that it's moving of something to some other place, moving of slaves, for example" "exploitation? Well, the words says it for itself, it is human trafficking"*). There have been different answers, mainly related to selling of human

organs, using children for begging and different sorts of slavery (*"it is usually when little Roma are begging", "they literally don't feed them, it is called volunteering"*).

In all focus groups, the prevalent answer to question about the source from which they have heard about the dangers of children exploitation was the media. Then they would mention parents and peers, while school held the last place in that list and this institution has been estimated to have been insufficiently active in providing information on these issues (*"we don't talk such serious stuff in school, not with the teachers, nor generally. When would we between classes talk about, let's say, exploitation?"*). It is interesting that children also mentioned civil society organizations as a sources of information related to the Protocol (they used as an example the workshops organized in order to acquaint children with these problems). Internet also proved to be an important source of information (*"I heard that there's an internet page where there's a list of all those dodgy ads and phone numbers", "I go to Google and check if that company or agency is a well known one"*).

Paedophilia is the term with which most of the children that we talked to were very well acquainted, except for a few children from the Shelter. However, after the short explanation, even the children from the Shelter understood its meaning (*"It's when adults sexually molest smaller children", "there has been on the news lately about that priest who made paedophilia with some kids", "once on the bus, a man sat beside me and started to talk about some games that I may play if I come to him and he asked me my phone number"*).

The children were acquainted with the term of pornography. The differences in definition occurred only in whether children understood it to be only videos and films, or did they include photographs too. (*"it is recording of some sexual acts", "forcing to some unwanted sexual acts, and than someone's recording you", "someone puts camera in a toilet, than he puts the video on the Internet", "pornography is when someone doesn't want to be photographed", "when someone's privacy is shown, than it is published"*).

As for the availability of these products at the newsstands' it turned out that the children did not pay attention to newsstands' and whether the pornographic material was available there. However, many examples were mentioned of the children's active involvement in the creation of pornographic videos. In every focus group, children were retelling stories about their peers recording each other by their mobile phones, voluntarily or being forced to do so, and then distributing these

recordings usually on the Internet or by means of blue tooth transfer, while there were those who circulated their erotic videos and nude photographs themselves (*“these two girls molested the third girl and recorded it, but they were stupid enough to put the video on the Youtube, so they were caught”, “they take pictures of themselves when with their girlfriends, than they send them over the blue tooth when they are at school”, “it’s all cool to me when they record each other, but why do they have to share it around”*).

When media such as television and internet were concerned, it was important to see in what way children (and the adults around them, according to children) react to notices related to the recommended age minimum for watching of certain programmes.

The answer that followed was unison – age limitations were obeyed by “no one at all”: children would not pay attention to them, while adults would not check whether the children were watching the programmes labelled as unsuitable for their age. Children would much more often consult some other sources of information when estimating if a film was suitable for them or not. (*“they exaggerated for some film so many times, while there was nothing, say, dangerous or perverse in it, just some black people cursing”, “oh, my parents watched something like that with me a hundred times”, “I search something on that film in the newspapers or on the internet if I feel like watching it”, “That quiz show the Moment of Truth is what scares me, half of it just criminal and insanity, but I haven’t noticed age limit label on that one”*).

Another topic in the focus groups was the way in which children react in some potentially risky situations, and for that reason it was important to find out how much children knew about risks in general and of the ways in which someone could become exposed to danger of becoming an exploitation victim.

Children most often mentioned being kidnapped by strangers as a way to become victim (*“a car pulls over and they ask you directions to some street, then they ask you to come with them and show them where that is”*). The other ways were not instantly recognizable to them, but after a while, false job adverts were cited, as well as the blackmail by the familiar person (*“it happens to young and foolish people, naïve, and to those in some financial trouble, or their family did something so they kidnap their child to settle the debt”, “I read that it is the most critical with the job adverts when it says that language knowledge is not required and the job is abroad”, “it can happen to you on the internet, when someone says he is younger than he*

actually is, and he takes you to be his slave”). Term “recruitment” (with an aim to commit criminal offences, or become involved in prostitution or some other sort of exploitation) was unfamiliar to children, or they deemed it to be synonymous to exploitation. However, after the explanation of the term, it turned out that the children were familiar with the concept (*“they give them money for some petty actions, than they ask for something bigger and than they blackmail them”, “he tells them pretty stories, but in reality nothing ever happens”*).

Within the same topic there has been a discussion on how children behaved in internet communication and whether they employed some precaution measures in order to protect themselves and their identity from potential abuse. Internet related questions were related to their experiences, that is, whether they encountered people that endanger them in some way (pestered, threatened, suggested meetings, etc).

All the pupils in the focus groups that used internet said that they never gave their personal data (address, phone number, etc) over the internet. In addition, all of the children expressed a great deal of caution and resistance to the idea of meeting a stranger they have previously communicated with over the internet. Even if they would agree to such a meeting, they would like it to take place at some public and crowded area and in the presence of some other familiar person. (*“I would think him some sort of paedophile if he says that he likes the same music as I do and that he likes the same stuff as I do, I don’t believe in such coincidences”, “you can tell everything according to the profile picture, you can tell by his picture if a person’s for real or not”, “if you have many mutual friends with someone it doesn’t need to mean a thing, because he can send a request to everyone and not actually know any of them”*).

Among inconveniences they encountered, children cited attempts of some older users of the internet to get closer to them, cases in which children themselves soon broke off contact (as soon as they sensed something suspicious). It was much harder for them to protect themselves against their peers and their pestering and harassment over the internet

When asked who they would turn to in case they felt at risk, that is, if they were in danger from exploitation, almost all the children that participated in focus groups primarily mentioned their parents and the police, while few of them mentioned other adult persons too (family members, residential home instructor). The school was listed as the least reliable source when asking for help in such cases (*“first parents,*

than the police, an if someone would catch me in the street than the police right away”, “in school when we turn to someone, than they take actions, sort of, and actually nothing happens”, “when we told this to our class teacher, she said that this is nothing, best forget it”). What is disconcerting is that virtually none of the children said that they would report a person which harasses them *over the internet* to the authorities. The most frequent explanation was that it would serve no purpose, that the adults would probably be disinterested and wouldn't take them seriously (*“they would only remove someone like that from the friends list”, “they would write to Facebook for his profile to be blocked”, “why should I care for others, let everyone care for themselves”, “if he pesters a lot, then I might report him to someone, though I don’t know to whom really, but if he doesn’t pester a lot, I’d just erase him from my friends list”).*

The results of the survey showed that children who participated in the focus groups had basic, though not sufficient information on exploitation and its manifest forms. However, they did not have confidence in the state to protect them and they were not acquainted with the protection mechanisms. The major problem was that their main sources of information were their peers and the media which showed that the state had not done enough to make necessary information available to children in a proper way, and on the other hand indicated that the prevention programmes should be organized as peer education, for children feel that they can talk about the addressed an issue in question more openly with their peers than with the adults.

Recommendation:

The Committee should recommend that State party introduce more prevention programs using peer education as a method.

PROHIBITION AND RELATED ISSUES

The criminal justice protection system

Within the norms of material and procedural law, the criminal justice system of the Republic of Serbia contains provisions relevant to the Protocol implementation. The basic *ratio legis* of special criminal justice protection of minors is primarily founded upon: 1) social need for more efficient reaction against endangering and/or harming the youngest members of population, namely on the fact that 2) due to their sensitive age and

psychological and physical development these persons are in many situations much more endangered than those of age.

The example of the above-mentioned is provided by the legal descriptions of three criminal offences: human trafficking, trafficking in children for adoption and holding in slavery and transportation of enslaved persons, which are taken from the now separate chapter XXXIV of the Criminal Code entitled 'Criminal Offences against Humanity and Other Rights Guaranteed by International Law'. The said criminal offences represent the implementation of assumed international obligations in the criminal legislation of the Republic of Serbia and they have been in this way united and classified under a separate chapter of the Code.

Human Trafficking (Article 389, Criminal Code, hereinafter CC)

Trafficking in minors is nowadays considered to be a special form of criminal behaviour, distinct from other forms of human trafficking by a series of particularities. In the April of 2003, the criminal legislation of the Republic of Serbia (which then contained incriminations such as abduction: Article 64 of CC of the Republic of Serbia, forcible removal of organs or parts of the body: Article 54a of CC of the Republic of Serbia, detaining or abducting a minor: Article 116 of CC of the Republic of Serbia, unauthorized crossing of the state border: Article 249 of the Basic Criminal Law) was supplemented by a newly defined criminal offence: human trafficking (Article 111b of CC of the Republic of Serbia). The legislator did not choose to define the separate criminal offence of 'trafficking in minors'.

According to the Criminal Code adopted in 2005, the criminal offence of human trafficking is defined as recruiting, transporting, transferring, selling, buying, acting as intermediary in the sale, hiding or holding another person in one of the following ways: 1) by force or threat, 2) by deception or maintaining deceptive notions, 3) by abuse of authority, trust, dependency relationship, difficult circumstances of another, 4) by retaining identity papers or 5) by giving or accepting money or other benefits. Human trafficking is treated as a criminal offence if the said actions are performed with intent to exploit another person's labour; to impose forced labour, commission of offences, prostitution or any other form of sexual exploitation, mendicancy or pornography upon the person that is subject to trafficking; to hold such a person in slavery or any similar state; and in order to remove their organs or body parts or use them in armed conflicts (Article 388, Paragraph 1 of CC).

If the passive subject is underage, the offence is qualified as aggravated and the penalty is more severe. The penalty for such a form of human trafficking is envisaged by

the legislator as imprisonment of a minimum of five years (Article 388, Paragraph 3, CC) in accordance with special amendments to the criminal legislation of the year 2009.

The model described in Article 388, Paragraph 2 of the Code represents the full implementation of international agreements on these issues ratified by the Republic of Serbia, since specific circumstances, namely the type of victims, incriminate what otherwise would not be the criminal offence of human trafficking. Defining the stated type of the criminal offence of human trafficking, the legislator envisages that perpetrator shall be punished even if force, threat or other forms of commission were not employed, in case the offence has been committed against a minor. The latest amendments to the Criminal Code dating from the August of 2009 explicitly state that, among other things, the consent of a minor to being exploited or held in slavery or any similar state defined in Article 1, Paragraph 388 of the Code, does not negate the criminal offence described in Paragraph 2 of the same Article (Article 288, Paragraph 10, CC).

The latest amendments have achieved clear distinction between the nature of this criminal offence and others by means of characteristics similar to, but also different from certain other forms of human exploitation. Along with the mentioned facts, the Criminal Code also recognizes special incriminations: unauthorized crossing of the state border and people smuggling (Article 350 of CC) and for its two special qualified types, the latter having been instituted by the latest amendments to criminal legislation dating from the August of 2009, as well as for the criminal offence of human trafficking, it does not envisage the possibility of penalty alleviation below the prescribed minimum (Article 11 of the Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Criminal Code).

Trafficking in minors for adoption (Article 389 of the Criminal Justice Law, hereinafter CJL)

Trafficking in minors for adoption is a characteristic form of trafficking in minors where usually newborns and infants become a part of another family with remuneration and the assistance of intermediaries, or by means of direct exchange.

International adoption is allowed according to Article 103 of the Family Law but only under special, cumulatively set, conditions. Therefore, a foreign citizen can adopt a child under the condition that 1) no adoptive parents can be found among the domestic citizens and that 2) the minister in charge of family protection gives his consent to the adoption (Article 103, Paragraph 1 of the Family Law, hereinafter FL). It shall be considered that adoptive parents cannot be found among the domestic citizens if more than

a year has passed since the data on the adoptee were recorded into the Adoption Registry (Article 103, Paragraph 2, FL). However, the Law provides for an exception from the envisaged rule, in that the minister in charge can grant adoption to a foreign citizen even before a year has passed in case there are exceptionally justified reasons (Article 103, Paragraph 3, FL). In this manner the exceptional nature of international adoption implementation was emphasized and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy exerts control of all instances and gives its final consent. Gaining any kind of profit by means of affairs pertaining to international adoption is not allowed. This prohibition is not specifically defined by the Family Law but gaining profit in the stated sense is contrary to the legislative principles and conditions of adoption in general, therefore to international adoption as well.

The basic form of the criminal offence of *trafficking in children for adoption* can be committed in more than one way. In the first case the commission refers to retaining a person (from another person that has legal rights and responsibilities to take care of them) that has not completed sixteen years of age with intent to adopt such a person contrary to the valid regulations. This can be performed by force, threat, deception or any other form of fraudulent action. The act of committing the basic offence of trafficking in minors for adoption also includes buying, selling, giving over, transporting, providing accommodation for and hiding persons who have not yet completed sixteen years of age for the purpose of adoption. The penalty envisaged for the basic form of the offence is imprisonment of one to five years.

The legislator also defines two qualifying forms of the criminal offence, bearing in mind that it originally belongs to the organized crime sphere. This is to say that if any person or a group deals with trafficking in children for adoption, the offence is treated as aggravated (Article 389, Paragraph 2, CC). Likewise, where an organized criminal group commits the offence, it is treated as a qualified offence.

Holding in slavery and transportation of enslaved persons (Article 390 of CC) is another criminal offence penalized in order to protect persons from being exploited. This offence is **aggravated** when its basic, namely alleviated form is committed against a minor (Article 390, Paragraph 3, CC). The fact that the victim is underage represents a qualified circumstance in this criminal offence as well, and the circumstance provides foundations for the offence to be deemed as qualified and for sanctions envisaged to be more severe.

Other criminal offences

Apart from the mentioned criminal offences, Chapter XVIII of the Criminal Code also defines the following criminal offences: pandering and procuring (Article 183 of CC), mediation in prostitution (Article 184 of CC) namely showing, obtaining and possessing pornographic material and exploiting a minor for pornography (Article 185 of CC). The latest amendments to the Criminal Code dating from the year 2009 define two new criminal offences: forcing a minor to witness sexual acts (Article 185a of CC) and the abuse of computer network or any other means of communication for the purpose of committing criminal offences against sexual freedom of a minor (Article 185b of CC). The amendments also envisage aggravated penalty for the offences defined in Articles 183 – 185 of the Code. Article 25 of the Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Criminal Code also amends and supplements the following definitions: computer data and computer network (Article 112, Paragraph 17-18 CC) and introduces new definitions: computer and computer system (Article 112, Paragraph 33-34 CC) for the purpose of harmonizing the Code with the Convention on Cybercrime. By the legal description of computer network or any other means of communication abuse for the purpose of committing criminal offences against sexual freedom (Article 185b of CC) the state has, among other things, become obliged to undertake legal measures against those who "using computer network or any other means of communication, arrange a meeting with an underage person and show up at the place agreed for the meeting", and to sanction the child pornography production. According to the legal description of the stated criminal offence, its basic form is recognized when the passive subject – the victim – is a minor, while the qualified form of the offence is envisaged in the situations when the criminal offence has been committed to a child.

Recommendation:

The Committee should recommend that State party creates conditions for efficient enforcement of new laws.

THE PROTECTION OF VICTIMS' RIGHTS

The criminal procedure for the purpose of special protection of the underage persons who have suffered a damage explicitly stipulates the engagement of specialized prosecutors and judges. The acquisition of special knowledge and the professional development of judges and prosecutors working in the field of child rights and criminal

justice protection of minors are taken care of by the Judicial Training Centre, in cooperation with the relevant ministries in charge of judicial system, social policy, home affairs and with Bar Association of the Republic of Serbia. The Judicial Centre issues certain certificates on the completed tests and professional training.

It is expected that, starting from January 1st 2010, four appellate courts will start operating in the Republic of Serbia (i.e. the appointed public prosecutors for the appellate courts) and will have jurisdiction over appeals, while the first instance jurisdiction will remain within the scope of basic (34 in total) and high courts (26 in total), or rather basic and high public prosecutor's offices pursuant to the Law on Seats and Territorial Jurisdiction of Courts and Public Prosecutor's Offices which will come into force starting from January 1st, 2009. At the moment, the second instance jurisdiction belongs to the specialized judges working in district courts or in the Supreme Court of Serbia.

When adult perpetrators stand trial for one of 27 itemized criminal offences such as: pandering and procuring (Article 183 of CC), mediation in prostitution (Article 184 of CC), showing, obtaining and possessing pornographic material and child abuse for pornography (Article 185 of CC), human trafficking (Article 388 of CC), trafficking in minors for adoption (Article 389 of CC), holding in slavery and transportation of enslaved persons (Article 390 of CC) and any other cases estimated to be indicative by a specialized public prosecutor (the prosecutor that has gained special knowledge in the field of child rights and criminal justice protection of minors – there are 109 municipal and 30 district public prosecutor's offices in the Republic of Serbia) where a minor is the damaged party, special legal provisions on the victim's protection are applied. The first instance procedure in such cases falls within the jurisdiction of the panel of municipal (138 in total) and district courts (30 in total) which are presided by judges that have gained special knowledge in the field of child rights and criminal justice protection of minors. The investigation is also conducted by a specialized investigating magistrate and the minor as the damaged party is obliged to have a specialized lawyer acting as an authorized attorney ever since the first hearing.

Articles 19, 20 and 22 of the Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Criminal Code make amends to Articles 79 and 80 of the Criminal Code and introduce a new safety measure of prohibiting approach to and communication with a damaged party. The court can apply this measure to prohibit the criminal offence perpetrator from approaching the damaged party within certain distance, getting near the place of residence or work of the damaged party and further disturbance of or communication with the damaged party, in

case it is justified to consider that further commission of such actions on the part of the perpetrator would be hazardous to the damaged party.

We consider that the stated provisions and the newly adopted amendments and supplements to the Criminal Procedure Code, which also date from August 2009 and refer to the provision of special protective measures for witnesses (Article 109a to 109dj of the Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Criminal Procedure Code); as well as the amendments and supplements to the Law on Juvenile Offenders and Criminal Justice Protection of the Minors, relating to the scope of their criminal procedure protection when they appear in court as the damaged party, create room for a more adequate protection of minors as victims of the stated criminal offences.

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION

Activities pertaining to the protection from human trafficking have now for ten years been supported by the OSCE mission in Serbia. Due to their support, the first national protection mechanisms have been formed. Support is also provided by Save the Children UK organization which has contributed to raising a special issue of child protection in this area. Significant contribution has also been provided by UNICEF as the juvenile justice system has been developed by means of its programmes.

When it comes to the protection from other forms of exploitation, the presence of international assistance is seen in a large number of donations for the programmes, though the amount of cooperation do not equal that offered when dealing with issues of human trafficking. The system of child protection from abuse and neglect is mainly contained within the national frame.

OTHER RELEVANT LEGAL PROVISIONS

During the years 2002 and 2003 Serbia was deluged by the news about the efforts of parents to locate children declared dead after birth in various medical institutions over the previous thirty years or more. The parents were suspicious of the circumstances of their children's death, which they reported and which were recognized as a pattern that led them to make conclusions that they were dealing with trafficking in minors for adoption: the parents had never identified the bodies of their newborns nor organized a funeral, and the documents on children's deaths were often incomplete, illogical or disorderly. So far, none

of these cases has been solved (the most common reason for this being the statute of limitation) and the outcomes of investigations conducted have given no clear answers, which gave rise to strong public pressure on the state authorities and resulted in several law changes.

Article 219 of the new Law on Health Protection (hereinafter LHP) explicitly states that time and cause of death have to be determined for every deceased person, while the autopsy procedure is envisaged as a special measure of determining cause of death (Article 222 of LHP). Autopsy shall be mandatory in nine itemized cases. One of the cases when autopsy is necessary is the case of "a newborn baby that died in a medical institution immediately after birth or during a medical treatment" (Article 222, Paragraph 2, Subsection 3, LHP). Recording the death is regulated by the Law on Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths. Relevant provisions (especially Articles 62 to 65) stipulate that death has to be reported within three days from the moment of death and that a confirmation has to be submitted by the medical institution in which a person died or by the doctor who pronounced death in case death occurred outside a medical institution (incidentally, the Law on Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths stipulates that the birth of a child has to be reported within 15 days from the date of birth and in case the child was stillborn it has to be reported within 24 hours from the birth). In case there has been on-the-spot investigation of death, this has to be reported within 15 days. The deceased can be buried even before the death is reported to the registrar, with the permission of an authorized body (municipality or city) if "for justified reasons" it was not possible to report death.

In terms of the protection of child victims' rights we would especially like to emphasize the principle of procedure secrecy relating to familial as well as criminal issues. Pursuant to Article 206 of the Family Law no public is allowed presence at hearings concerning the deprivation and exercise of parental rights, child rights' protection and the protection from family violence. The court can approve of the presence of certain officials or professional and/or public workers at the hearing from which the public is excluded, in case this is of interest to the service or professional and/or public activity of the present persons. At the request of a party, two persons at most determined by the party can be present at the hearing. The court is also obliged to warn the persons present at a hearing from which the public is excluded that they are bound to keep as secret everything they find out during the hearing. The court has to point to the consequences of revealing the secret.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code the main hearing has to

be public (Article 291, Paragraph 1 of the Criminal Procedure Code, hereinafter CPC) but if necessary for the purpose of protecting a child's interest (from the beginning to the end of the main hearing) the panel can, ex officio or upon a party's proposition (but always after the party's hearing), exclude the public during the main hearing or a part of it (Article 292 of CPC). When a minor stands trial, the public is always excluded, though the panel can grant presence at the main hearing to persons dealing with the protection and education of minors or juvenile delinquency reduction (Article 75, Paragraph 1 and 1 of the Law on Juvenile Offenders and Criminal Justice Protection of the Minors). The latest amendments to the Criminal Code from 2009 also introduce a new criminal act: making unauthorized public comments on judicial procedure (Article 336a of CC) in terms of punishing whoever gives public statements in mass media with the aim of harming the presumption of innocence or court's independence, while the procedure in a court of law is still in progress and no legally valid decision still has not been reached.

Anex A

MEMBERS OF THE COALITION

The Child Rights Centre, Belgrade

The Child Rights Centre is a non-political, non-profit and non-governmental organization. Its aim is the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This means that the CRC's activities are focused on introducing such laws, policies and practice that enable the improvement of children's well being, protection of their rights and their full participation in society.

The Belgrade Centre for Human Rights was established in February 1995 by a group of human rights experts and activists as a non-profit, non-governmental organization. The main purpose of the Centre is to study human rights and humanitarian law, to disseminate knowledge about them and to educate individuals engaged in these thematic areas. The Centre hopes thereby to promote the development of democracy and rule of law in Serbia, other successor states of the former Yugoslavia and societies in transition from authoritarian to democratic rule.

Association against AIDS – JAZAS was established 1991, having around 2000 members. It is essential to understand that during the past years of a very difficult period for the country, the voice of JAZAS was one of the few distinctive in favor of vulnerable and stigmatized groups and persons like HIV – positive people. We considered a very valuable experience for NGO. Now a days JAZAS turned to an especially vulnerable and highly stigmatized group of citizens – sex workers.

ASTRA (Anti-trafficking action) is a non-governmental organization dedicated to eradication of all forms of trafficking in human beings, especially in women and children, through a comprehensive approach to solving this problem, with the aim of eliminating this specific form of violence, by affirming a society free of exploitation, violence, discrimination, economic and social inequalities.

Initiative for inclusion VelikiMali from the town of Pancevo, Serbia, is an NGO working since 1999 (founded on April 1st 1999) on promotion and protection of rights of children in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child. Areas which our work is focused on are:

- Protection of the right of children with disabilities to optimal development
- Protection of the right of children to have a life within the family, and
- Protection and promotion of the right of children with disabilities to have quality education.

The Centre for Youth Integration (CYI) was founded in late 2004. CYI gathers young people who want to take part in social changes, those who believe that change on a global level cannot happen without changes on local level. We work with the belief that young people of Serbia are immeasurable resource for achieving that change, and with their active participation, every party included benefits. We believe that we all carry part of responsibilities for what is happening in the streets of Belgrade, and within youth homes with children and youth.

Familia was founded in 1998, and works with and for children deprived of parental care, developing alternative care programs and standards for these programs. Familia provides support to biological, adoptive or foster families, and develops programs and models of support in child best interest.

Atina was founded in 2004. The aim of this organization is to assist Serbian society transition towards society that fully recognizes rights of women.