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Based on the Article 9. of the Law on Ombudsman for Children of Republic of Srpska/ Official Gazette of RS number 103/08, and in order to undertake additional measures for protection of children from any form of violence in education system, Ombudsman for Children gives following

RECOMMENDATION

Protocol of activities in cases of peer bullying amongst children and youngsters in educational system of Republic of Srpska, was signed on November 19th, 2008.

Protocol has been signed by Minister of Education and culture, Minister of Health and Social Protection and Minister of Internal Affairs.

Protocol defines rules and procedures of competent institutions when violence in educational system occurs. Protocol, besides stated, has the function of education of children, parents and teachers on peer bullying as well as function of preventing not only peer bullying but also violence in general including juvenile delinquency.

Protocol establishes procedures on enabling reactions of all participants in order to prevent, identify, report, investigate, cure and similar, in all cases of peer bullying in educational system, and all this has for a goal to provide necessary support primarily to a child and then to those who take care of a child.

Protocol obliges, amongst everything else, each participant to provide special database in its department on all registered cases.

Ombudsman for Children has analyzed application of Protocol of activities in cases of peer bullying in educational system of Republic of Srpska.

Main goal of this analysis was acquiring data from all schools on presence of violence in schools, its forms and reactions of competent bodies in accordance with procedures established by Protocol, so based on this data additional activities in protection of children and their rights could be planned.

Questionnaire with 18 questions was distributed in 204 primary schools and 91 to secondary schools in Republic of Srpska and it is for period from December 1st, 2008 to December 1st, 2009.

Analysis of delivered answers indicates following:

- Questionnaire was answered by 160 schools, 105 primary and 55 secondary schools,
- Protocol was introduced to children, parents and teachers in 76 % primary and 82% secondary schools, and from the acquired answers it is obvious that some schools did not even get the Protocol, but still they have responded to delivered request,
- For activities regarding application of Protocol, school appointed person -70% of primary and 89% of secondary schools,
- Database on cases of peer bullying have 63% of primary and 89% of secondary schools,
- Cases of peer bullying violence had 51% of primary and 64% of secondary schools,
- 334 cases of violence was registered in primary and 166 cases in secondary schools,
- 94% of cases was solved within primary schools and 91% of cases in secondary schools,
- Cooperation schools have with institutions in percentage is following:

Center for Social Work46% primary and 49% secondary schools
Police42% primary and 58% secondary schools
Health department17% primary and 22% secondary schools

- 51% of primary and 62% of secondary schools is satisfied with cooperation with above mentioned institutions,
- 321 cases in primary and 158 cases in secondary schools are closed within schools,
- Perpetrators of violence are mostly students of VIII grade in primary schools -25% and students of II grade in secondary schools -29%,
- Victims of violence are mostly students of VIII grade in primary schools -25% and students of II grade in secondary schools -29%
- Girls are perpetrators of violence in primary schools 7% are in secondary schools this number is 23%,
- Forms of peer bullying

Physicalprimary schools 87%, secondary schools 83%
Psychologicalprimary schools 46%, secondary schools 74%
Sexualprimary schools 0, secondary schools 1 case

- Some children are multiple victims of violence, 48% in primary schools, 29% in secondary schools
- Some children are multiple perpetrators of violence, 63% in primary schools, 37% in secondary schools.

These are the first data in Republic of Srpska that speak of application of Protocol year after it has been put in effect. It is very important that their analysis becomes the base for new measures and

additional activities of all institutions in creating environment in which children can grow up without violence.

Taking into account that prevention of violence is lasting job that demands continuous work and serious approach of all institutions and active participation of children and parents,

We propose,

- that Protocol is delivered to all schools with obligation of its publishing /announcement board, school assembly hall, and similar/ and its full implementation,
- to actualize, on the joint meeting of directors of primary and secondary schools with the presence of a person that is appointed to Protocol application, the issue of violence in schools with the goal to exchange experiences and good practice as well as to accord application of Protocol and to make a model database on peer bullying,
- to stimulate schools that did not have in a whole year not even one case of peer bullying to establish and publish networks of “my school without violence” , as well as to stimulate schools that have quality approach to solving this issue,
- to organize additional programs in schools that have recorded individual students as multiple perpetrators of violence or where some students have been victims of violence more than once, for those children and if necessary to provide professional help for finding adequate solutions to these issues,
- to upgrade cooperation of schools and parents in educating and prevention and in exertion with children in cases of reported violence, also, to introduce Protocol to parents on parental meetings, state the reasons for its adoption and to actualize need for mutual activities of parents, students and school in cases of violence in school,
- to instigate initiative for appointing team for coordination in all local communities for dealing with this problem in order to have better connection of all institutions in monitoring and recording cases of violence, and also to have those institutions active in joint preventive and educative work (joint assessment of current themes and problems and similar).

We expect that is in accordance with the Article 9. of the Law on Ombudsman for Children, the Institution is informed about undertaken measures.

With respect,

Ombudsman for Children

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