

OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN
OF REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA



OMBUDSMAN ZA DJECU
REPUBLIKE SRPSKE

Number: 1096/10

SPECIAL REPORT

-PROBLEMS AND RISKS OF JUVENILE MARRIAGES –

Banja Luka, 10.07.2010.

Bana Milosavljevića 8
78000 Banja Luka, Republic of Srpska, B&H
Phone: (+387 51) 222 420, 221 990, Fax: (+387 51) 213 332
E-mail: info@djeca.rs.ba, www.djeca.rs.ba

Bana Milosavljevića 8
78000 Banja Luka, Republika Srpska, BiH
Tel: (+387 51) 222 420, 221 990, Fax: (+387 51) 213 332
E-mail: info@djeca.rs.ba, www.djeca.rs.ba

I INTRODUCTION

Acting *ex officio* in accordance with the powers stipulated by the Law on Ombudsman for Children¹, the Ombudsman for Children of Republic of Srpska states the need for submitting of the Special Report which indicates the violation of fundamental rights and interests of children, especially their undisturbed psychophysical development, protection of health and education arising from the establishment of marital and extramarital unions at the time while they are still children.

The Convention is a legal document and it obliges States which have accepted it to act in accordance with its requirements and basic principles.

By accepting the Convention, State accepts to also respect the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents or if appropriate members of extended family or community or other persons legally responsible for the child, that in that manner which is consistent with the evolving capacities of the child provides, instructs and guides a child in the achievement of his rights recognized by this Convention².

II POWERS OF THE OMBUDSMAN

Responsibilities and powers of the Institution of Ombudsman for Children are stipulated by the Law which *inter alia* regulate-

In carrying out the activities within its jurisdiction the Ombudsman for Children acts within the Constitution, laws and other regulations and general acts, as well as international treaties and generally accepted rules of international law, guided by the principle of fairness and moral³.

Ombudsman for Children:

1. follows compliance of the laws and other regulations in Republic of Srpska which are related to the protection of the rights of the child with the provisions of the Constitution of Republic of Srpska, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international documents which are related to the protection of the rights and interests of the child,

3. monitors implementation of all regulations related to the protection of rights and interests of the child,

¹ Law on Ombudsman for Children /"Official Gazette of Republic of Srpska" No. 103/08/

² UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 5.

³ Law on Ombudsman for Children, Article 3.

4. monitors violations of rights and interests of the child,

6. recommends taking measures to protect the rights and interests of the child as well as for prevention of harmful actions that threaten the rights and interests of the child⁴.

The Ombudsman for Children is entitled to submit to the Government or the National Assembly the initiative to amend the laws and regulations and by-laws, if it considers that a violation of the rights of the child occurs due to the lack in regulations and to initiate passing of new laws, other regulations and general acts when it deems it important for the exercise of the rights of the child⁵.

III RELEVANT REGULATIONS

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

By accepting the Convention the State accepts the obligation to ensure the rights guaranteed by the Convention for every child and that in all activities concerning children the interests of the child be of primary concern regardless of whether they are implemented by public or private institutions of social welfare, courts, administrative authorities or legislative bodies.

Member States undertake to ensure to a child such protection and care necessary for his own welfare, taking into account the rights and duties of his parents, legal guardians or other individuals legally responsible for the child and undertaking, in that respect, all the necessary legislative and administrative measures.

Member States shall ensure that the institutions, services and institutes responsible for the care or protection of children shall comply with the standards established by the competent authorities, particularly in the area of safety and health, and in the number and suitability of the personnel, as well as competent supervision⁶.

⁴ Law on Ombudsman for Children, Article 5.

⁵ Law on Ombudsman for Children, Article 7.

⁶ UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 3.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of 1981.

- Calls upon States to take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to amend or abolish the existing laws, regulations, customs and practices which constitute discrimination against women⁷,
- Obliges States to take all appropriate measures in all areas, including legislation to ensure the full development and advancement of women and the use and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms⁸,
- Stipulates that concluding marriage of a child shall have no legal effect, and the states are obliged to take all the necessary measures, including legislation for determining minimum age for concluding marriage⁹.

Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages of 1962.

- Obliges on taking all necessary measures in order to abolish such customs, laws and practices providing, among other things, complete freedom in choosing a spouse, eliminating completely child marriages and the betrothal of young girls before puberty, establishing appropriate penalties where necessary and establishing civilian or other register in which all marriages shall be registered¹⁰,
- State Parties of this Convention shall take legislative measures for determining the minimum age for marriage¹¹.

Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Article II stipulates that Bosnia and Herzegovina and both its entities shall provide the highest level of internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, and that the rights and freedoms set forth in Article II of the Constitution and in international documents listed in Annex I shall be provided to all persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina without discrimination on any grounds.

⁷ Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Article 2.

⁸ Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Article 3.

⁹ Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Article 16.

¹⁰ Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages, Preamble

¹¹ Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages, Article 2.

Constitution of Republic of Srpska

The foundation of Republic of Srpska Constitutional order is respect for human dignity and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with international standards.

The Constitution stipulates that

family, mother and a child shall enjoy special protection,

that marriage and matrimonial and family relations are regulated by the Law, and

that parents have the right and duty to care for the upbringing and educating children¹².

Family Law¹³

The Family Law of Republic of Srpska stipulates that Republic of Srpska provides for special protection of the family, mother and a child in accordance with internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Law in Article 36. stipulates that:

1. Marriage cannot be concluded by a person below the age of 18 years.
2. For justifiable reasons, the court may, in an non-contentious proceedings allow the conclusion of marriage to a minor older than 16 years of age, if it determines that the person is physically and mentally capable of exercising the rights and obligations arising from marriage.

Proposal for a marriage license may be submitted by interested minor.

3. Before making a decision, the court shall obtain the opinion of the guardianship authority¹⁴.

The Law leaves the possibility that only exceptionally and in justifiable situations, the court may permit the marriage to a person older than 16 years, provided that it is physically and mentally capable of exercising the rights and duties arising from marriage, which requires that in every specific case it assesses what is a legitimate interest that would permit concluding marriage to children before acquiring the age of majority.

In this, the opinion of social welfare centre is always sought.

¹² Constitution of Republic of Srpska, Article 36.

¹³ Family Law of Republic of Srpska / "Official Gazette RS" No. 5402 /

¹⁴ Family Law, Article 36.

Criminal Law¹⁵

Criminal Law of Republic of Srpska in order to protect the child, because this are children, sets out the responsibility of

- an adult who is in a non-marital cohabitation with a minor but also
- the responsibility of parents who allow a minor non-marital cohabitation.

The Law defines this criminal act as living in non-marital cohabitation, whilst being understood that this living in cohabitation is voluntary and with an agreement. Therefore, the minor himself agrees with such cohabitation and for the same has given its consent.

If there is no consent from the minor, or if the minor has not given the consent to live in a non-marital cohabitation, some other criminal act against sexual integrity or against freedom and human and civil rights is in question.

For the existence of this criminal act, according to the Law, the reasons that have lead to this cohabitation are not of influence - poor family relationships, financial situation and similar, nor the agreement that such marriage will be concluded, nor the duration of such cohabitation.

Another form of this criminal act is present when a parent, adoptive parent or guardian allows to minor living in such cohabitation or incites him/her to that.

Starting from the obligation and responsibility of parents to care before all for the healthy upbringing of their children, the legislator has sanctioned their permit and permission and not only incitement on life in a non-marital cohabitation.

Under the term of permission according to the Law / comment on the Article 204 / should include -

all those actions which are contrary to the obligations of parents as the person responsible for the upbringing and proper development of a minor, such as for example enabling or creating conditions for keeping such cohabitation, not taking measures to prevent or to cease such cohabitation, no matter whether the failure to take such measures is due to the executor's deference, indifference, lack of sense of responsibility or his agreeing with the decision of a minor.

Under incitement, in terms of this criminal act / comment on the Article 204 / should include-

any action which encourages a minor to live in a non-marital cohabitation, such as persuasion, promising rewards, mentioning certain benefits and similar.

¹⁵ Criminal Code of Republic of Srpska, "Official Gazette RS" No. 49/03

The responsibility of parents, adoptive parents and guardians, by the law, exists if it is allowed to a minor to live in a non-marital cohabitation with another person, from which it can be interpreted that parents are as well responsible in the case where a minor is in a non-marital cohabitation with another minor.

The Criminal Law sanctions the adult person who lives with a minor between the ages of 14-16 years.

The law therefore does not sanction non-marital cohabitation of an adult and a minor aged 16-18 years, which is associated with the provisions of the Family Law which to these parties, under the conditions stipulated by the law allows conclusion of marriage.

At the same time sanctions, provided by the law, do not correspond to the gravity of the committed, given that Article 204 stipulates a fine or imprisonment not exceeding two years, and if the criminal act was committed out of greed, the offender shall be sentenced to imprisonment of three years.

Program of health policy and strategy for health in Republic of Srpska until 2010.¹⁶

The program stipulates the obligation of continuous improvement of health and improvement of conditions that affect health and that is basic and the most important and permanent objective of health policy.

The specific objectives, which inter alia relate to the improvement of health of young people, stipulate:

- That children and adolescents will be included in the Program of improvement of health in family, school and counseling offices,
- That conditions for adequate education will be created,
- That in the framework of the Program of improvement of health special place will have healthy relationships between the sexes and measures to avoid pregnancy in female minors.

¹⁶ Program of health policy and strategy for health in Republic of Srpska until 2010. "Official Gazette RS" No. 56/02

Strategy of Family Development in Republic of Srpska 2009-2014.¹⁷

Strategy of Family Development in Republic of Srpska to 2014. has defined, as one of the strategic objectives, the need of developing a network of institutions and services for support of families in upbringing and educating children.

Support to children and young people on issues and problems with which they face on their path of growing up is family counseling and youth counseling, in which family members could receive the necessary professional help and support-psychological, legal, educational and other on all matters with which the family now faces, and to which is hard to get answers.

IV ANALYSIS

The problem of marital and non-marital cohabitations with minors is a problem that is present today and the actual number of such children in these cohabitations is unknown, and what is also unknown is the lowest age limit of children living in these cohabitations.

Marriage by definition is union between woman and man regulated by the law.

Marriage is based on the free will of a man and woman to the marriage, the equality of the spouses, mutual respect and mutual assistance¹⁸.

The problem of underage marriages can be viewed from several angles, legal, economic, social, but regardless of what kind of problem we speak about one thing is certain-these unions leave the consequences on children and their psychophysical development.

The influence of tradition, low level of education, lack of information or any other factor that contributes to the conclusion of marriage in children or their living in a non-marital cohabitation cannot be excuse nor response to the treatment of adults and their attitude towards this issue.

These children after entering into marriage are faced with life's difficulties with which they are not able to cope, their life is rapidly changing and they are expected to take responsibility for their decisions. But these decisions are not only theirs, the legislator has, bearing in mind their maturity and ability to make such important life decisions, obliged other subjects to assess and decide whether what they really want is in their best interest and whether they are physically and mentally capable of exercising the rights and obligations arising from marriage.

¹⁷ National Assembly of Republic of Srpska adopted the Strategy of Family Development in Republic of Srpska for the period 2009-2014 / "Official Gazette of Republic of Srpska", No. 15/09/

¹⁸ Family Law, Article 4.

Unfortunately, today we have a situation where a parent, not only permits such union but also incites a child to it.

What is additional concern in these situations is inadequate reaction of the institutions where the cases are reported.

The state is obliged to ensure to a child such protection and care which is necessary for his welfare. That is the request of the Convention and all national regulations, but it is primarily the need of a child - protection and concern for his proper development.

Well-being of a child of 14 or 15 years cannot be marriage regardless that some are trying to justify that with the fact that it is good for her and that she married well, or the fact that the mother accepted it and she notified the school and the school has no obligation to take any further action.

That is, on one hand complete misunderstanding of the obligation to ensure to a child such protection necessary for his well-being and not to mention the impact on child's development and rights that are guaranteed to children, on the other hand is a lack of responsibility for child's development and his needs and, usually, shifting responsibility to someone else.

Experts warn that such unions can have unpredictable consequences not only for children who marry but for the society as a whole.

Their marriage is not just their problem, the society should have to confront with the reasons and motive of a girl of 13 or 14 years who decides to do so, but also to make accountable all those who do not see the problem in it.

The Institution has, in order to get the data about the justification of establishment of marital cohabitation of juveniles, which according to the Family Law is a condition for granting permission for their conclusion, requested the data of all primary courts in Republic of Srpska on the number of marriages with a minor in the period from 2006 to 2009, and the opinion of the social welfare center that is in each case required.

According to the data obtained, from 2006 to 11.1.2009. in Republic of Srpska, 268 marriages were concluded with a minor.

Those are only the reported and registered cases for which the court had given the permission, those are therefore the concluded marriages with a minor.

If someone thinks that it is not a big number, the position of the Institution is that any number is great because they are just children who are unable to achieve the goals of marriage, these are children who still need their parents' care in time when they become parents themselves.

The additional question is how long those marriages last, but they certainly leave consequences regardless of how long do they last.

According to the data obtained in 2006. and 2007. there were many more marriages than in 2008. and 2009. while there is no municipality in which that number is increasing.

Table 1

Primary court	2006.	2007.	2008.	2009.	Total
Teslić	9	8	2	3	22
Novi Grad	2	3	2		7
Banja Luka	5	4	2		11
Doboj	5	12	11	5	33
Modriča	9	7	10	4	20
Bijeljina	10	19	9	8	46
Prijedor					8
Trebinje	2	3	5	2	12
Gradiška					12
Zvornik	6	3	1	3	13
Vlasenica					2
Prnjavor					17
Srebrenica					7
Mrkonjić Grad					10
Sokolac	2	2	3	4	11
Kotor Varoš					14
Derventa	4	2		3	9

Foča	4	4	1		9
Višegrad	1	1	2	1	5
TOTAL:					268

Statistical data on the number of deliveries by a minor continues to warn. Table 2

	YEAR OF DELIVERY			
Mother's year of birth	2006	2007	2008	2009
1988	80			
1989	38	108		
1990	13	60	126	
1991	3	17	44	104
1992	2	6	17	47
1993			4	17
1994				8
1995				1
	136	191	191	177

By analysis of the obtained data, the Ombudsman for Children has tried to obtain answers to the following questions:

1. What are justifiable reasons for conclusion of marriage in minors?

According to the obtained data, the most common situations that are ascertained in the process

and which justify the grant of permission for the marriage of minors are already established common-law marriages, pregnancy, cohabitation abroad.

Typical examples of these situations are:

a) Already established common-law marriages

1. A.X. is 16 years and 13 days old,
living in a common-law marriage, for one month, at his parents' house,
he is 23 years old, has finished elementary school and works construction jobs,

2. A.X. is 16 years and 20 days old,
living in a common-law marriage at his parents' house for 7 months,
has finished elementary school and not working,

b) Pregnancy

1. B.X. is 16 years and 15 days old,
has finished elementary school,
has left the 1st grade of high school due to the establishment of common-law marriage
8 months pregnant,

2. B.X. is 16 years and 5 months old,
has finished elementary school,
has left high school,
3 months pregnant and 6 months living together,

c) Cohabitation abroad-his parents living abroad

C.X. is 17 years and 10 months old,
has left the 4th grade of high school,
future husband lives and works abroad,
neither pregnancy or financial situation or any other reason is not stated that would justify the marriage only two months before the age of majority and leaving the final year of high school.

What is worrisome is the fact that already established common-law marriages are reason for seeking permission for conclusion of marriage. Such cohabitations lead to pregnancy, often before the age of 16 years, and then is waited for her 16th birthday in order to fulfill the condition laid down by the law to submit an application to court. Prevention of non-marital cohabitations or disabling them and compliance with the applicable legal provisions regulating this area would have helped to reduce the number of concluded marriages with minors.

2. How long the procedure takes?

The procedure is conducted very quickly. There is no dispute on the submitted application for granting permission for marriage, because the minors, parents, social welfare center-all agree that marriage should be concluded, which court ascertains by its decision.

Very often, the application is submitted at the very moment when the minor turns 16 years of age. There are also situations where all waive the right to appeal in order to accelerate the procedure.

3. Does the social welfare center by giving the opinion in the procedure determines the best interest of the child?

According to the Family Law before making a decision on a submitted request for permission for conclusion of the marriage, the court always obtains the opinion of the guardianship authority. The guardianship authority under the same law shall take all necessary measures to protect personal and property rights and interests of the child.

Social welfare center in its opinion generally ascertains intention of a minor to conclude the marriage, declaration of parents in this circumstance and the medical opinion. Based on the same it proposes to court to approve the conclusion of marriage.

Social welfare center by giving an opinion for the conclusion of marriage of minors often states that the expert team of the center agrees with the submitted proposal. Center at the same time does not specify the composition of the expert team, to see what are the profiles of experts who participated in the procedure before the centre in giving opinions.

In some centers the opinion is given by a lawyer, and in some centers, by a director of the institution.

There are situations that the center has a standard form, which states:

On the request of a minor _____ from _____ seeking review for the conclusion of marriage with _____ from _____ the guardianship authority has issued the following conclusion
there are NO obstacles to allow a minor _____ from _____ conclusion of marriage with _____ from _____.

In reaching this conclusion the following was borne in mind

- minor _____ wishes to conclude marriage with the consent of the parents,
- socio-economic state of future spouses is good
- overall psychological maturity of a minor is in accordance with its calendar age.

The opinion of the centre mainly comes down to the conclusions that a minor wishes so, it is his free will, a minor is not under pressure, that parents agree with that, while lacking expert assessment of the center on the interests of the child, whether that is the best interest for the child, whether his request is justified, whether she is able to meet the demands and similar.

Assessment of the center that psychological maturity of a minor is in accordance with its calendar age can hardly be accepted as a justification for giving a positive opinion of the center.

Assessment that all the socio-economic conditions have been created for a successful marriage is not derived from the findings, and from the same cannot be seen which conditions are created to justify the marriage of a minor, particularly a successful marriage.

4. Whether in any one case, a liability procedure has been initiated?

There is no information on whether against any one parent a liability procedure has been initiated in accordance with the applicable law, although such procedures were initiated against persons living in a common-law marriage with a minor.

5. How old is an adult person who concludes a marriage with a minor?

Girls most commonly conclude marriage and they are usually 16 years and only a few days or couple of months old.

They conclude marriage most commonly with persons who are 2,3 up to 5 years older than they are, but there are some situations in which that difference in age is 10 years.

6. What is the attitude of parents in the procedure?

All parents agree with the conclusion of marriage.

They usually point out that their daughter is capable for marriage, that it was her wish and that they accept, and express their readiness to help them.

7. Whether the minor is going to school or has left it?

By giving consent to marriage, in the procedure is most often ascertained

1. that a minor has left the school, most commonly high school
2. that she has completed only elementary school, she was not even enrolled in high school
3. school in general does not state and only in several cases states that schooling will be continued in the marriage.

The round table held in Banja Luka 10.05.2010.

In order to get to the opinions of experts primarily of health workers and of other institutions who in their work face with this issue, the Ombudsman for Children has organized an expert discussion which was attended by representatives of the Clinical Center of Banja Luka- gynecologist, psychologist, psychiatrist and social worker, representatives of the Social Welfare Centre Banja Luka, Gradiška, Prnjavor, Laktaši, Mrkonjić Grad, Čelinac, Srbac, Prijedor and Kotor Varoš, representatives of the Public Health Insurance Fund, the president of the Council for Children of Republic of Srpska, representatives of the Public Fund for Child Protection, representatives of the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly, OSCE, Children's Home Rada Vranješević, Ministry of Education and Culture of RS, Ministry of Health and Social Protection of RS, Technical School Banja Luka, Gender Center.

Introductory topics in the discussion were:

- Psychological aspects of children who enter into marriage and cohabitation,
Doc. Dr. Nada Letić
- Early pregnancy, consequences on health and psycho- physical development,
Dr. Sc. Med. Mira Spremo
- Juvenile pregnancies, Primarius Dr. Vladimir Perendija

- Minor mothers - experiences in practice of protection, Jovanka Vukovic MA
- Problems and risks of marital and non-marital cohabitations of minors, Nada Grahovac LL.M

Participants have welcomed the initiative of the Ombudsman for Children to talk about this issue, stressing that the problem requires a multidisciplinary approach and that on the problem and especially on the consequences must be spoken openly in order to seek better solutions to protect children in this regard.

This topic has opened a number of questions, therefore it was suggested that talks should be continued in order that each of the presented problem be looked at from the perspective of experts in different fields and all with the goal of seeking solutions for the protection of children and their health.

Attitudes of the experts among other confirm the following:

- Children get married at the time when their development is still not finished therefore it is necessary to direct activities in the educational direction at an early age of children,
- All the subjects of protection must recognize the importance of this problem, both family and school and health care sector, the media since the birth of children at a time while they are still children can be extremely traumatic and with very serious consequences on the health of a female minor,
- Silence of the family and school on topics of interest for children and which are an integral part of their growing up leads that children on issues and problems of relations in relationships often receive information from their peers, a variety of magazines or the Internet,
- Activities must be focused on preventive programs and measures, as lack of knowledge on prevention leads to consequences not only for the child but for the society as a whole,
- Strategy for development of family has defined the establishment of a network of institutions to support the family and those are primarily family counseling offices and counseling offices for youth which should be the address where the children and their parents would receive necessary expert support with the primary aim of preventive action, but also when the consequences have already occurred,
- Preventive action should ensure the targets established by the Program of health policy and strategy for health in Republic of Srpska, which inter alia obliges on the improvement of youth health and healthy relationship between the sexes,
- Lack of information or misinformation, lack of support in family and school brings children into very difficult situations that leave long-lasting effects on their health,

- The system of child protection in practice, by implementation of the Law on Child Protection, is faced with situations when it is very difficult to identify who is the user of the right, who is the holder of the right and who has an obligation to ensure the same. Such situations are also present when a child who receives child support becomes a parent.
- Monitoring of teenage pregnancies and strategic resolution of this problem is difficult because of the fact that the real number of teenage pregnancies is unknown because actual number of intentional abortions in minors is unknown,
- Lack of support to the mother who by giving birth to a child while she herself is still a child is abandoned and is left without support and protection and family and the community where she lives,
- Lack of cohesion and cooperation of all subjects of protection primarily in preventive action,

Bearing in mind that:

Early marriages of children, and early marriages are considered all before they become of legal age, lead to violation of fundamental rights of children, primarily the right to unimpeded mental and physical development, their right to health care and the right to education.

By giving birth to children while they themselves are still children, they are initially faced with those life situations for which they are not prepared, and very often children from these marriages are growing up in conditions that do not ensure their proper growth and development.

It is therefore essential to:

- teach children about their health which should be a part of the educational system and from the earliest age of the child, adapted to their age and their needs,
- expand existing educational programs and peer education on sexual and reproductive health, a good example is the work of students of Medical faculty who carry out education in schools,
- make sure that in all situations where there are findings that a child is living in a common-law marriage, all necessary measures to protect the child are taken and the competent social welfare center is immediately informed on that and school has a special obligation and responsibility in that,
- social welfare center is required to take all necessary measures in accordance with the law, when there are reports that a child lives in a common-law marriage.

As a guardianship authority that protects the interests of the child, social welfare center in the process of giving the opinion, must in every specific case determine what the best interest is for that child.

This requires that the center, bearing in mind the child's view and the attitude of parents, establishes its opinion on expert assessment of its expert team which must be explained. The opinion of the center cannot possibly be only the known ascertainment about what is the position of the minor and parents. In addition to the opinion of the parties, the opinion of the center must also clearly state what are the findings and assessment of the expert team who should sign the opinion.

- ensure that the findings and opinion of medical institution that the minor is mentally and physically capable of exercising the rights and obligations arising from marriage is provided by health care institution responsible for the findings of this kind,
- for temporary care of minor pregnant women and mother with a child in situations where family relationships are disturbed to that extent that she is not accepted in the community where she lives, it is necessary, in an appropriate institution, to create conditions for the temporary accommodation of these minors,
- ensure the establishment of a network of institutions and services for family support in accordance with the Strategy for the development of family,
- provide supervision over the implementation of the Law on conditions and procedure for termination of pregnancy, given that the number of teenage pregnancies is not known precisely because of lack of number of deliberate termination of pregnancy in minors, and provide adequate records of teenage pregnancies.

Ombudsman for Children

Nada Grahovac LL.M