

**PROTOCOL ON THE PROCEDURE  
in case of violence, abuse or neglect of children**

Banja Luka, November 20. 2012.

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## **I INTRODUCTION**

By accepting the obligations from Article 19. of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which obliges member states to take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures for protection of a child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injuries or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in care of parents, legal guardians or some other person who has care of a child;

Starting from the fact that prevention of child abuse is of general public interest and best way to protect each child,

Bearing in mind that any form of violence is humiliating for children,

Bearing in mind the consequences that every form of violence against children has on growth, development and growing up of a child;

In order to promote and strengthen mutual cooperation in protection of a child from all forms of violence, abuse or neglect,

The Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Republic of Srpska,

The Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports of Republic of Srpska,

The Ministry of Education and Culture of Republic of Srpska and

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Republic of Srpska

in Banja Luka, on November 20. 2012.

ARE SIGNING

## **PROTOCOL ON THE PROCEDURE**

### **in case of violence, abuse or neglect of children**

For protection of children from all forms of violence, abuse or neglect, it is necessary to establish a system that will act preventively in terms of preventing violence, abuse or neglect, and at the same time allow that in all cases of violence rapid and coordinated process is initiated that stops violence, protects a child from further violence and provides appropriate intervention for recovery and further safe development of a child.

The main purpose of this Protocol is improvement of social care for a child and his protection and provision of needed support in all situations where a child is exposed to some form of violence or abuse, in a manner to ensure adequate and timely reaction of competent institutions and services.

The Protocol contains definitions of various forms of violence against children, determines basic principles on which it is based, defines basic and special goals in treatment, defines obligations of competent institutions and services to act in all cases of violence against children, and defines forms, manner and content of cooperation between competent institutions and services which, according to their mandate, undertake measures and activities in protection of children from violence.

Acting in accordance with provisions of the Protocol, in all activities, competent institutions and services shall:

- 1.** Treat children victims with extreme caution, in manner that respects their dignity.
- 2.** Treat children victims according to the best interests of a child, especially cautiously and carefully protect all rights and interests of a child, especially taking into account child's age and level of psycho - physical development, his health and emotional condition, consult with experts and consider their recommendations on manner of treatment of children victims of violence.
- 3.** Notify parents or guardians of a child on progress and / or outcome of the procedure which is conducted.
- 4.** Notify parents or guardians of a child on further treatment.
- 5.** Establish unique record on imposed and applied measures and submit data to competent ministry.

In addition to stated activities, competent institutions and services will continuously:

- 1.** Work on raising awareness about the problem of violence against children,

- 2.** Sensitize professionals and general public to the problem of violence against children,
- 3.** Develop and strengthen multidisciplinary approach in solving the problem of violence against children and support children victims of violence,
- 4.** Educate children, parents and all who work with children about the problem of violence and encourage them to report every form of violence,
- 5.** Ensure adequate treatment and reaction of competent institutions.

Adequate treatment of competent institutions and services related to the problem of violence against children requires continuous cooperation of all competent, because stated cooperation is requirement for comprehensive and quality protection of children from all forms of violence, abuse and neglect. Letting burden of responsibility and work to only one participant, for example only to school or only to police will not give the expected results, nor will contribute to reduction of violence against children.

## II VIOLENCE, ABUSE OR NEGLECT

In the Protocol the term **VIOLENCE** includes different types and forms of violent behavior that can hurt a child.

**Violence is defined as any form of behavior towards a child which aims to harm or cause pain, whether physical or psychological, neglect and / or negligent treatment of a child, maltreatment and / or any form of child exploitation, including sexual exploitation<sup>1</sup>.**

Violence against children may have different forms. There are no precise boundaries between different forms of violence against children, unfortunately, they are mutually intertwined and conditioned.

Children can be exposed to various forms of violence, which may be direct or indirect, in family (primary, foster ...), educational institution, institution of social protection and any other environment where children reside on any grounds (sports clubs, playgrounds, etc.).

Violence against children occurs in various forms:

**Physical** violence refers to behavior in which physical force is used and which has specific intent to inflict certain, even the slightest degree of pain and / or discomfort<sup>2</sup>, resulting in actual or potential injury of a child.

Examples of physical abuse are: hitting, kicking, pushing, slapping, pulling, choking, throwing, hitting with something, attack with weapon, poisoning, burning, pouring with hot water, deprivation of food, sleep, scratching, pinching, biting, etc.

**Emotional / psychological** violence is an attitude or behavior by which child's personality is neglected, threatened, denigrated, insulted and / or verbally attacked and negative feelings towards him are expressed.

By this behavior it is failed to provide a child with adequate and supportive environment necessary for healthy emotional and social development in accordance with child's potentials.

Emotional violence and abuse include acts which cause belittling, ignoring, insulting, intimidation, blackmailing, name calling, blaming for problem, gossiping, persiflage, ridiculing child's looks or some of his attributes, non-acceptance, extortion, manipulation, threat,

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<sup>1</sup> UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, General Comment No. 13, item 4.

<sup>2</sup> UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, General Comment No. 8, item 11.

restriction of movement of a child, destruction or damage of child's things, imposing feelings of being unwanted, worthless, unloved. Emotional violence also includes situations in which a child is present in conducting violence against another person, although violent actions are not taken against him, and other forms of behavior by which a child is humiliated or pain and embarrassment is caused to a child.

**Social violence** is exclusion from a group and discrimination. It applies to the following forms of behavior: separation of a child from others on the basis of diversity, bringing in position of disadvantage and inequality, isolation, non - socializing, ignoring and rejection on any basis.

**Sexual violence and abuse** of children includes their involvement in sexual activity which they do not fully understand, for which they are not developmentally ready (do not accept it, they are not able to agree with it), and which is intended to provide enjoyment and satisfy needs of other person.

Sexual violence is considered to be:

- sexual harassment - lascivious comments, labeling, spreading stories, touching, sending messages, photographing, phone calls and similar with sexual connotations,
- sexual activities with a child, engaging in sexual activities with a child when at that coercion, force or threat is used or recognized position of trust, authority or influence on a child is misused, including position within the family or misused particularly vulnerable situation in which a child is, his vulnerable position, especially because of mental or physical developmental disability or a state of dependency<sup>3</sup>,
- exposure of a child to any form of pornographic material - engagement or inducement of a child to participate in pornographic performances, forcing a child to participate in pornographic performances and making profit or some other form of exploitation of a child for such purposes,
- engagement of a child for prostitution or inducement of a child to participate in prostitution, forcing a child into prostitution or making profit from some other form of exploitation of a child for such purposes, using services of child prostitution.

**Violence by use of information technology (electronic violence)** includes any form of messaging, by e-mail, SMS, MMS, through web sites, chat, and aims at violation, harassment, or any other harming to a child – abusive and threatening messages, messages with inappropriate content, disclosure of personal and family data, false impersonation and use of false identity, sending images that offend dignity of a child, inciting hate speech, exploitation of children for child pornography, procuring children for prostitution and similar. Electronic

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<sup>3</sup> Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, Articles 18-23

violence can be present 24 hours and every day of the week and in any place where children so far have been fully protected.

**Abuse** of children represents any act or omission by individuals and / or institutions, which directly affects or indirectly harms children or reduces their opportunity for secure and healthy development and / or puts them in a helpless, unequal and dependent position in relation to individuals and institution.

**Neglect and negligent treatment** represent cases of failure to provide a child with conditions for proper development in all areas, which leads to threat to child's health, physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.

Neglect is negligence of a parent, adoptive parent or guardian, or other person who has assumed the responsibility or obligation to care for a child, or institution and service, to ensure necessary conditions for development of a child, and which are related to child's health, education, emotional development, nutrition, accommodation and safe living conditions within reasonable available resources, which results in or could result in, violation and endangerment of child's health or his physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development. Neglect of a child is also failure in exercise of necessary supervision and protection of a child from harm and injury to the extent practicable. Neglect of a child includes refusal or delay in seeking medical care, inadequate supervision, throwing out of house or refusal of allowing to a child to return. Also, neglect includes all procedures by which enrollment of children in school is avoided or child's absences from school are supported, use of alcohol, beggary and similar.

**Exploitation of children** refers to use of children for labor or other activities for needs and benefit of other persons and / or institution. It occurs in various forms- sexual exploitation, child labor, use of children to commit criminal acts, drug abuse, kidnapping and sale of children for labor or sexual exploitation, and all of which are characterized by violence against a child and economic benefit, direct or indirect. Any form of exploitation of children has a consequence of violation of physical or mental health of a child, violation of the right to education, as well as moral, social and emotional development of a child.

### III BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE PROTOCOL

Basic principles on which the Protocol is based are:

- the right of a child to life, existence and development;
- best interest of a child;
- nondiscrimination and
- involvement - participation of a child.

The inalienable **right to life** has every child and state has obligation to undertake all necessary measures to ensure its existence and development, which includes the right of a child to physical, mental, spiritual, moral, psychological and social development.

**The best interest** of a child in all situations and all activities related to a child must be priority, whether undertaken by public or private institutions and services. Interest of a child is primary in relation to interest of all adults who participate in work of institution. The best interest of a child requires ensuring the confidentiality of data and protection of the right of a child to privacy.

The Protocol applies to **all children, without discrimination** on any ground, regardless of sex, age, family status, ethnic origin and any other social or personal characteristics of a child (skin color, language, religion, nationality, abilities and characteristics of a child).

**Involvement - participation of a child** is provided by timely and continuous cooperation with a child, necessary information are received from a child and, at the same time, a child is given opportunity to express its views in all phases of the process of exercise and protection of its rights in a manner that corresponds to its age and understanding of situation.

Violence against children is never justifiable and any violence against children is preventable. Therefore institutes, institutions and services that care for children, in accordance with stated basic principles are obliged to **encourage, create and strengthen** an environment in which:

- culture of behavior and respect of personality is taught and fostered,
- personality and dignity of each individual is respected,
- the right of a child not to be violated and to grow up in a safe environment is respected,
- violence from anyone is not tolerated,
- is not silent about the violence that is occurring,
- responsibility of everyone is developed and strengthened,
- is encouraged to report all forms of violence,
- is committed to adequate treatment of all who have knowledge on violence against children.

## **IV OBJECTIVE OF THE PROTOCOL**

### **1. General and specific objectives of the Protocol**

a) General objective of the Protocol is:

Protection of a child from all forms of violence –

stopping violence and preventing recurrence of violence, which requires:

- prevention - developing and implementing prevention programs in order to create safe environment for life and growing up of every child;
- intervention - by established procedures of treatment of educational institutions, centers-social welfare services, medical facilities and police and other competent institutions in all cases of violence against children ensures multi-disciplinary approach in accordance with the best interests of a child;
- education of both children and adults on all forms of violence, its causes and particularly consequences on proper growth and development of a child.

b) Specific objectives of the Protocol are:

- 1.** Raising level of awareness and sensitivity of all, both individuals and institutions, for recognition of violence, abuse and neglect of children.
- 2.** Promoting, developing, creating and strengthening the climate of acceptance, tolerance and respect.
- 3.** Inclusion of all - children, parents and guardians, teachers, educators, experts, local community in adoption and development of programs for prevention and education.
- 4.** Strengthening competency of all - children, parents and guardians, teachers, educators, competent services, local community for identifying, reporting and addressing the issue of violence, abuse and neglect.
- 5.** Informing all - defined treatment procedures and proceedings for protection of children from all forms of violence against children, also obliges all institutions and individuals.
- 6.** Ensure the implementation of defined proceedings and procedures of reacting in situations of violence, abuse or neglect of a child.
- 7.** Continuous monitoring and recording of cases of violence against children.
- 8.** Assessing the effectiveness of adopted protection programs.
- 9.** Alleviation of consequences of violence on development of a child.
- 10.** Reintegration of a child into community.

## **V OBLIGATIONS OF COMPETENT:**

### **A) EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

This Protocol should sensitize all employees of educational institutions for the occurrence of violence against children, and to oblige them on undertaking measures for detecting and reporting of the problem and appropriate assistance to a child.

All employees of educational institutions are obliged to undertake measures of protection of the rights of a child and on any violation of these rights, especially when it is about different forms of violence against children, neglect of a child or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, to immediately:

- 1.** Upon report or based on the knowledge that a child is a victim of some form of violence, inform coordinator (a person who coordinates activities envisaged by the Protocol - which will be subsequently determined by each school). Coordinator along with principal of school interview a child with mandatory presence of professionals of educational institution (graduated psychologist, graduated social worker, graduated pedagogue) and a professional of competent social welfare center, in a manner to act with special care and caution, respecting child's dignity and giving him support.
- 2.** Immediately upon learning about the violence against a child, regardless of where it is and by whom is committed, coordinator notifies parents or guardians of a child, and introduces them to all the facts and circumstances known to the institution, and on measures taken by the institution or what will be taken. In case of a doubt that parents have committed violence against a child, it shall inform social welfare center and police on that.
- 3.** Give notifications to parents or guardians of a child victim of violence on possible forms of consulting and expert support to a child in and outside the institution, with aim of support and empowering a child for mitigation of consequences and traumas.
- 4.** If a child is injured to the extent that requires medical treatment or examination, or according to circumstances of the case it is assumed that such an intervention or examination is required, coordinator immediately calls emergency service or in the quickest possible way that does not harm health of a child, escorts or provides escort to a child to a doctor and waits for doctor's recommendation on further treatment and arrival of child's parents or guardians.
- 5.** School's principal or coordinator shall immediately notify police and inform social welfare center, as well as line ministry, and familiarizes them with all the facts and circumstances of the case and actions the school has taken, or will take.
- 6.** At the request of prosecution or police immediately submit all available documentation related to clarification and proving violence against a child.
- 7.** If it is about a particularly severe form, intensity or longer duration of occurrence of violence, which caused a trauma, consult with experts outside institution - family medicine, mental health center and social welfare center - who are informed of the case,

on the manner of treatment and support to a child victim of violence within educational institution.

8. If a child is witness of violence, take necessary measures to help a child witness of violence, if necessary, consult with experts outside the institution - family medicine, mental health centers.
9. If, to the knowledge, violence against a child is committed by any person employed in an educational institution, the institution is obliged to initiate procedure of determining all the facts and circumstances for determination of liability of perpetrator, regardless of initiation, conducting and outcome of procedure before relevant institutions outside the institution.
10. School will make an official note on report of violence against a child, on conducted activities, conversations, statements and its observations, which will at request submit to competent authorities.
11. School will keep appropriate record of protected data on all cases of violence against children and submit report on that twice a year (at the end of the first term and at the end of school year) to relevant ministry.

## **B) CENTERS / SERVICES OF SOCIAL WORK**

The objective of this Protocol is to strengthen centers / services of social work to improve care of children by undertaking preventive activities and also by their efficient and quality protection if violence has already occurred.

In all cases where center / service of social work, from any person and in any manner, in its work (by written report, by phone or in person, by knowledge from media or during procedure that is conducted before center or otherwise) has knowledge on violence against a child or suspicion that a child is a victim of violence, it is obliged to:

1. Immediately upon learning about violence against a child, undertake all necessary measures with aim of care for the child and providing appropriate assistance and support. Make an official note on all information and circumstances of violence.
2. Immediately undertake necessary measures and actions with aim to help a child victim of violence within the competence of social welfare center, in particular:
  - a) Establish contact with a child:
    - Enable a child to freely and fearlessly present all the facts and circumstances on committed violence, especially on circumstances related to duration of violence, its continuity, and manner of execution, and on possible previous violence;

- In order to better determine all the facts and circumstances, social welfare center shall in other appropriate manner determine relevant facts by conversation, if necessary, with authorized personnel of educational institution, family physician, and other persons who may have relevant information on all circumstances of committed violence against a child;
  - b) Establish contact with parents or guardians of a child and familiarize them with their legal rights, powers and procedures of social welfare center and measures and actions that will center in further action undertake, which relate primarily to protection of safety of the child, his accommodation and care outside the family;
  - c) Make socio-anamnestic data on conditions in which a child grows up, make findings of psychologist, and establish plan of psychosocial treatment for a child victim of violence;
  - d) Instruct parents or guardians of a child to exercise the right to free legal aid, realization of the right to health care and protection and support of appropriate counseling service;
  - e) In contact with a child victim of violence social welfare center is obliged to act with special sensitivity to the problem of violence, its causes and various forms and during each treatment show special understanding for consequences of the problem on development and growing up of a child.
3. Make report to police on committed violence, regardless of whether it has already been done by another institution or individual, and provide them with all information and circumstances on stated case.
  4. After collecting all necessary evidence social welfare center conducts a procedure for exercising rights of a child victim of violence, in accordance with the Law on Social Protection and implementation of appropriate measures of family- legal protection under the Family Law.
    - In case that a child is a victim of domestic violence - direct or indirect, social welfare center shall, taking into account all circumstances of the case, pronounce appropriate measures of family- legal protection and monitor their implementation and achieved results, on which it will create appropriate report that also includes child's opinion on circumstances in which he/she lives, and if necessary, it will request assistance of appropriate professional services and institutions.
    - If pronounced measure does not give results, center shall replace pronounced measure, taking into account all the circumstances and needs, by another measure.

– If it is a domestic violence committed by a parent who does not live with the child, center shall very carefully, taking into account the best interests of the child, consider all the circumstances and assess the need of passing appropriate decision toward the parent with whom the child does not live, for example, limit contacts and meetings for protection of interests of the child. Center will inform on that the parent with whom the child lives, and in an appropriate and sensitive manner, the child as well, and obtain his opinion and take it into account, in accordance with the child's age and maturity.

5. In extremely urgent cases, such as taking measures to remove immediate threat to life or health of a child, social welfare center shall proceed ex officio and by verbal decision will impose appropriate measures within its jurisdiction, and for immediate protection of child's safety, on which will, within 8 days, issue a decision in a written form and submit it to the parties. Center, which has brought a verbal decision, may order its execution.
6. In the event that, upon learning, a child is a victim of a person employed in an institution, immediately initiate procedure of determining all facts related to that circumstance for determination of responsibility of perpetrator, regardless of initiation, conduct and outcome of the procedure that is conducted before other institutions.
7. At the request of prosecution or police, social welfare center is obliged to immediately submit all documentation that is relevant for clarification and proving of violence against a child, including a report of social worker, head of imposed measures of family- legal protection, finding and opinion of psychologist and other documents on execution of undertaken measures.
8. Social welfare center is obliged to respond to a call of police for immediate care of a child and to discuss the treatment related to violence against a child.
9. In all cases of violence against a child, center shall act with extreme caution by protecting personality and dignity of a child and his right to protection of privacy in accordance with his best interest.
10. Center shall keep appropriate record of protected data on every received report or alert of violence against children and report on it annually submit to competent Ministry.

## **V) HEALTH INSTITUTIONS**

Health institution is obliged, for maintenance of physical and mental health of a child and for recovery from incurred injuries and psycho trauma, to provide a child with adequate health care.

In case of a doubt that child's injury or his health condition is a consequence of violence against a child, health worker is obliged to, with particular care, find out as many facts and circumstances as possible related to the injury, that is, to health condition of the child. In all cases, of knowledge of committed violence against a child, medical institution - authorized person is obliged to act as follows:

1. Immediately after arrival of a child to health facility perform detailed medical examination and determine the existence of possible injuries, and if they are present adequately care for them. Document condition of the child, that is, accurately record all information about the child, companion and alleged perpetrator, on injuries and behaviors, and, if possible, photograph the injuries.
2. After taking care of possible injuries inform the child's parents or guardians of committed violence, and in collaboration with parents and based on estimated psycho social status of the child plan treatment.
3. In collaboration with parents and with their consent, if necessary, refer the child to mental health center.
4. Immediately inform social welfare center on all cases of violence against a child, for undertaking measures within its competence.
5. If a child is a victim of domestic violence, after taking care of the child, undertake certain measures and actions towards the child in collaboration with social welfare center.
6. In case that, after learning, a child is a victim of violence of an employee of an institution immediately initiate the procedure of determining all facts related to that circumstance to determine responsibility of perpetrator, regardless of initiation, conduct and outcome of procedure that is conducted before other institutions.
7. Immediately inform competent police station on all cases of violence against a child.
8. At the request of prosecution or police, health care facilities are obliged to immediately submit all documentation that is relevant for clarification and proving violence against a child.

9. Keep appropriate records of protected data on all cases of violence against a child and annually submit a report on that to the Institute of Public Health.

## **G) POLICE**

In case of knowledge of violence against a child, or receiving request for providing assistance to a child exposed to any form of violence, police officer is obliged to act in a manner:

1. Immediately, and without delay, send competent police officer to the scene to provide intervention, ie verification of report or request and immediate protection and providing necessary support to the child by preventing the perpetrator from further aggressive behavior and for health care of the child.
2. Obtain information and determine facts necessary for clarification and proving criminal or misdemeanor act of violent behavior or some other violation, that is, criminal act committed by violence.
3. Obtain data and determine the facts in a manner by which the child, for whom is reported or is presumed to be a victim of violence, will be provided opportunity to present all facts relevant for determination of committed violence. Information concerning the circumstances related to duration, continuity and manner of committed violence should particularly be born in mind, and possible previous violence against the child and in accordance with applicable legal regulations.
4. Content of allegations of the child victim of violence about facts of committed violence by official note must, in a precise manner, be ascertained.
5. Police officers will, undertaking of necessary measures and actions towards the child, perform mandatory in presence of the parents, unless they are perpetrators of violence, or legal representative or authorized representatives of center / services of social work.
6. If perpetrator of violence against a child legally possesses a weapon, it will be temporary confiscated to prevent possible abuse and proposing appropriate procedure of weapon confiscation.
7. In case of knowledge of illegal possession of weapon, appropriate measures for its location, confiscation and report of the perpetrator and on that circumstance will be undertaken.
8. During procedure police officer is obliged in an appropriate and clear manner to familiarize parents or guardians of the child victim of violence with her legal rights and measures and actions which will in further action police undertake against perpetrator of violence, and which are particularly important for protection of safety of the child.

9. If the child victim of violence must immediately be removed from the environment in which violence occurred, or interview with the child must be performed, police officer shall immediately request intervention and arrival of relevant center / service of social work in order to take measures necessary for care and protection of welfare of the child.
10. Competent center / service will be immediately informed on every received report or knowledge of violence against a child, for undertaking measures of appropriate protection from their jurisdiction.
11. In case that, after learning, a child is a victim of violence of an employee of an institution immediately initiate the procedure of determining all facts related to that circumstance to determine responsibility of perpetrator, regardless of initiation, conduct and outcome of procedure that is conducted before other institutions.
12. Based on the determined facts and depending on circumstances of the event, report will immediately be submitted to competent prosecutor's office or a request for initiation of criminal proceedings to competent court for determination of liability of perpetrator.
13. Keep appropriate records of protected data on all cases of violence against children and annually submit report on that to competent Ministry.

## **VI FORMS, METHODS AND CONTENT OF COOPERATION**

Implementation of activities in prevention of violence against children and acting in accordance with provisions of this Protocol requires establishment of cooperation between competent institutions and services which in accordance with its legal authorities undertake measures and activities in protection of children from every form of violence, abuse and neglect.

Obligations of competent institutions in protection of children from any form of violence are:

1. Each competent ministry, which within their respective jurisdictions undertake measures and activities in protection of children exposed to some form of violence, is obliged to follow implementation of this Protocol.  
With this goal, each ministry will, for monitoring of implementation of the Protocol, submit to the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports of Republic of Srpska report on implementation of the Protocol no later than 03.31.of current year for previous year.
2. Based on data collected from relevant ministries, the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports will submit consolidated report related to violence against children, to the Government of Republic of Srpska.
3. The report indicates number of children victims of violence, gender of children, age, forms of violence, undertaken measures and similar and all in a manner that protects personality and dignity of a child and his right to protection of privacy in accordance with his best interest.
4. Establish cooperation and exchange of information with units of local self-government and non-governmental organizations working with the aim of protection of children victims of violence and affirmation of their rights, for exchange of experiences and creation of best practices.
5. In units of local self-government hold regular meetings of representatives of relevant institutions and services and representatives of non-governmental organizations working with the aim of protection of children victims of violence and affirmation of their rights, both, as related to the problem of individual cases of violence, as well as to achieved progresses in solving the problem of violence against children in general.
6. Establish cooperation with other organizations and services that with their involvement can contribute to improvement of protection of children from any form of violence, abuse or neglect, experts dealing with issues of violence against children, with the aim of joint activities in the field of violence prevention, education on violence, but also in part of intervention.

## **VII OTHER PROVISIONS**

1. By signing this Protocol line ministries are obliged to familiarize all services and institutions within their jurisdiction with the fact of its passing and objectives of passing, and to ensure its availability, as well as to take all necessary measures for its consistent implementation.
2. Each institution, institute or service that undertake measures and activities in protection of children from violence is obligated to act in accordance with procedures and activities stipulated by this Protocol.
3. All competent institutions, institutes and services that are responsible for implementation of this Protocol, by its signature of an authorized person shall certify familiarity with its provisions and take responsibility for its implementation.
4. Form for keeping record on violence against children in accordance with provisions of the Protocol shall be established by each of stated departments.
5. This Protocol will be published in "Official Gazette of Republic of Srpska" and will be applied from 01.01.2013.

The Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Republic of Srpska  
Minister Professor Ranko Škrbić

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The Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports of Republic of Srpska  
Minister Professor Nada Tešanović

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The Ministry of Education and Culture of Republic of Srpska  
Minister Anton Kasipović

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The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Republic of Srpska  
Minister Stanislav Čađo

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