

PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Sunchica Dimitrijoska

*Ss. „Cyril and Methodius” University
Skopje, Faculty of Philosophy, Institute of social work and social policy*

Abstract: *As stipulated in Article 19, paragraph 1 The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, „violence“ may be „all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse“. Violence does not recognize any cultural or social differences and is not necessarily always reflected in the same form. No matter in what conditions or forms it occurs, violence leaves behind long-term, devastating, and indelible consequences. In developed countries, the problem of violence is considered a national problem and there are programs that coordinate different sectors of the society (education, health, justice, social work and others) that carry out various synchronized activities and take various measures to restrain and prevent violence against children.*

In the literature you can find suggestions for programs designed to prevent or reduce violence against children, but also treatment of emotional and behavioral problems in children and adolescents.

Prevention should contribute for raising public awareness on the situation of violence against children, familiarizing the citizens with the rights of children and a healthy family, successful parenting, protection of children from addictions, perceiving and overcoming problems related to education and upbringing of children.

The analysis of the data collected by associations of citizens indicates that we can draw a conclusion that there is a harmonization of the national legal framework with international documents and standards on children's rights and their protection, and above all, with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.⁵⁷

There is a lack of coordination in the planning and implementation of preventive activities, both in terms of time distribution and in terms of geographical coverage. There is a big difference in the intensity of the implementation of campaigns in different municipalities. Most campaigns are conducted in larger municipalities but not in continuous manner.

Keywords: *violence, children, prevention, associations of citizens*

suncica.dimitrijoska@zfz.ukim.edu.mk

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 20 November 1989

Prevention of violence against children is aimed at reducing or eliminating various risky situations, such as unfavorable and long-term economic, psycho-social and other circumstances that adversely affect or can adversely affect the healthy growth of children and youth (NASW, 2002). The purpose of prevention is to prevent violence, ie. by implementing primary prevention or by limiting the spread or development of already present violence by implementing secondary prevention or within the framework of tertiary prevention to help solve the problems of violence and the development of healthy forces and children's skills for their return to the community.

Prevention of juvenile delinquency, and in that manner prevention of child violence and protection of child victims against violence, was first introduced in the national positive legislature with the **Law on Juvenile Justice** (Official Gazette of RM No. 148/2013).⁵⁸ The aim of prevention is to contribute towards raised public awareness on the issue of child violence, to acquaint the public with child rights and values such as healthy family relations, successful parenting, protection of children against substance abuse and addictions, identifying and overcoming problems related to education and child development.

The existing legal framework offers comprehensive prevention of violence against children and is in line with international documents pertaining to child rights and their protection.

Civil society organizations find that the existing legal framework offers opportunities for comprehensive prevention of violence against children, accordingly the national legislature. More specifically, it encompasses the following laws: the Law on Child Protection, the Law on Prevention and Protection against Domestic Violence, the Law on Social Welfare, the Law on Primary Education, the Law on Secondary Education, the Law on Health Care, the Criminal Code and the Law on Criminal Procedure.

Furthermore, based on the data analysis, it is safe to assume that there is harmonization of the national legal framework with international documents and standards in regard to child rights and their protection, most evidently with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. (Comparative Review of the Legislation in the Republic of Macedonia and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. https://www.unicef.org/tfyr-macedonia/macedonian/Macedonian_Full_Report_14_October_Part_1%282%29.pdf.)⁵⁹

Violence against children, is regulated either directly or indirectly with several laws and bylaws.

The Law on Child Protection (Official Gazette of RM No. 23/2013)⁶⁰ prohibits any form of sexual exploitation or sexual abuse of children (child pornography, child prostitution), violent treatment, sale or trafficking in children, physical or mental harm or violence, punishment or any other inhumane treatment, all kinds of exploitation, exploitation or abuse of children for economic purposes which violate their fundamental human rights and freedoms, as well as child rights. Furthermore, all kinds of discrimination are banned.

⁵⁸ Official Gazette of RM No. 148/2013.

⁵⁹ Comparative Review of the Legislation in the Republic of Macedonia and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

https://www.unicef.org/tfyr-macedonia/macedonian/Macedonian_Full_Report_14_October_Part_1%282%29.pdf.

⁶⁰ Official Gazette of RM No. 23/2013, 12/2014, 44/2014, 144/2014, 10/2015, 25/2015, 150/2015, 27/2016, 163/2017 and 21/2018), Article 12., 198/2018, 104/2019, 146/2019 and 275/2019

*The Family Law Act (Official Gazette of RM No.150/2015)*⁶¹ penalizes any form of violence against the spouse or family members (Article 33-a), stipulating that any interim measure for protection against domestic violence can be issued for a period of minimum 3 months and maximum of 1 year (Article 94-z). Domestic violence is defined in Article 3 of the *Law on Prevention and Protection Against Domestic Violence (Official Gazette of RM No. 138/2014)*⁶² as “harassment, abuse, insult, compromising one’s safety, physical harm, sexual or other emotional or physical abuse, economic deprivation, which may cause feelings of insecurity or fear, including threats of the afore mentioned acts”. Article 4 of the law provides separate definitions for: physical abuse, emotional harm and abuse, stalking, sexual abuse and economic deprivation.

*The Law on Protection and Prevention of Discrimination (Official Gazette of RM No. 101/2019)*⁶³ prohibits any form of “direct or indirect discrimination, invoking and initiating discrimination and aiding and abetting discriminatory practices where, among other, age is taken as a basis for discrimination.”

Article 53 of the *Law on Primary Education (Official Gazette of RM No. 161/2019)*⁶⁴ and Article 51 of the *Law on Secondary Education (Official Gazette of RM No. 44/1995)*⁶⁵ contain similar provisions, stipulating that any forms of “corporal punishment or emotional harassment of the pupil are prohibited”. The laws stipulate a fine in cases of “administered corporal or psychological (verbal) punishment”. Article 30 of the *School Inspection Law (Official Gazette of RM No.52/2005)*⁶⁶ authorizes the inspector to file a formal motion requesting termination of employment of any member of staff when there is reasonable doubt that the person has administered corporal or psychological (verbal) punishment upon a child or a pupil.

The current legislation endorses **opportunities for providing support to families in raising their children**, i.e. it endorses services for early child development. Article 6 of the Law on Child Protection stipulates as follows: 1) child support, 2) special support, 3) one-off newborn supplement, 4) child participation and 5) child-raising allowance. Article 7 outlines the following forms of child protection: 1) placement and care of pre-school children, 2) holiday and leisure 3) other forms of child protection.

⁶¹Official Gazette of RM No. 80/1992, 9/1996, 38/2004, 33/2006, 84/2008, 67/2010, 156/2010, 39/2012, 44/2012, 38/2014, 115/2014, 153/2014, 104/2015 and 150/2015.

⁶² Official Gazette of RM No. 138/2014, 33/2015 and 150/2015.

⁶³ Official Gazette of RM No. 50/2010, 44/2014, 150/2015, 31/2016, 21/2018, Article 3.and101/2019

⁶⁴ Official Gazette of RM No. 103/2008, 33/2010, 116/2010, 156/2010, 18/2011, 42/2011, 51/2011, 6/2012, 100/2012, 24/2013, 41/2014, 116/2014, 135/2014, 10/2015, 98/2015, 145/2015, 30/2016, 127/2016, 67/2017 and 64/2018 and 161/2019

⁶⁵ Official Gazette of RM No. 44/1995, 24/1996, 34/1996, 35/1997, 82/1999, 29/2002, 40/2003, 42/2003, 67/2004, 55/2005, 113/2005, 35/2006, 30/2007, 49/2007, 81/2008, 92/2008, 33/2010, 116/2010, 156/2010, 18/2011, 42/2011, 51/2011, 6/2012, 100/2012, 24/2013, 41/2014, 116/2014, 135/2014, 10/2015, 98/2015, 145/2015, 30/2016, 127/2016, 67/2017 and 64/2018

⁶⁶ Official Gazette of RM No. 52/2005, 81/2008, 148/2009, 57/2010, 51/2011, 24/2013, 137/2013, 164/2013, 41/2014, 33/2015, 145/2015, 30/2016 and 64/2018

The Law on Social Welfare (Official Gazette of RM No. 104/2019)⁶⁷ offers certain services for low-income parents which are designed to cover children's needs, but in practice these services are only partially rendered. A noted problem is the lack of more measures for single-parent families. Parents can claim regular child benefits in the following instances:

- regular child benefits for a single parent to a child under the age of three,
- regular child benefits for a single parent unable to work,
- welfare for families with no other income, but benefits are gradually reduced after the third year.

The Law allows parents to children with special-needs to work part-time and receive a monthly support amounting to 4,800.00 Macedonian denars.

The Law on Juvenile Justice (Official Gazette of RM No.148/2013)⁶⁸ and the *Law on Execution of Sanctions* (Official Gazette of RM No.99/2019)⁶⁹ unequivocally prohibit any actions or punishment which might affect the child's mental wellbeing and peace, such as: corporal punishment, detainment in a dark room, or solitary confinement.

Article 9 of the Law on Juvenile Justice bans any and all actions and punishments which feature cruel and inhumane treatment, i.e. it bans any kind of emotional or physical abuse or torture, punishment or other inhuman treatment, all types of exploitation, exploitation of children for economic purposes or abuse which violates the fundamental human rights and freedoms, and child rights.

In terms of the **services and support programs for prevention of alcohol addiction and substance abuse**, the Law on Juvenile Justice puts children with addictions in the „at risk” category⁷⁰ and proposes help and protection measures in line with the individual needs of the child. These measures include: financial support, health care, legal aid, institutional placement, support for educational purposes, planning of leisure time activities, and educating the parent on skill development regarding responsible parenting. In the Law on Social Welfare, the section pertaining to the provision of services for people with alcohol or substance abuse puts children in the same category of adults, i.e. children are not treated as a separate category.⁷¹

The Law also stipulates that **any information shared with children must be communicated in a form and language appropriate for their age**. According to current legislation, the child has the right to be informed about his/her rights by all institutions who have contact with him/her, i.e. a right which includes the duties and responsibilities stipulated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international documents pertaining to child rights. Furthermore, the child is entitled to be heard and questioned, and to be informed about the procedure and about his/her rights during the procedure. In any

⁶⁷ Official Gazette of RM No. 79/2009, 36/2011, 51/2011, 166/2012, 15/2013, 79/2013, 164/2013, 187/2013, 38/2014, 44/2014, 116/2014, 180/2014, 33/2015, 72/2015, 104/2015, 150/2015, 173/2015, 192/2015, 30/2016, 163/2017, 104/2019,149/2019 and 275/2019

⁶⁸Official Gazette of RM No. 148/2013

⁶⁹ Official Gazette of RM No. 2/2006, 57/2010, 170/2013, 43/2014, 166/2014, 33/2015, 98/2015, 11/2016, 21/2018.and 99/2019

⁷⁰ A child at-risk is any child over the age of 7 but under the age of 18 who is an active user of drugs, psychotropic substances, precursor chemicals or alcohol (Article 19 of the Law on Juvenile Justice).

⁷¹ Article 31 of the Law on Welfare.

court proceedings or non-contentious procedures which include a child, said child holds the right to actively participate in the decision-making process and to share his/her opinion and stance.⁷²

The Law on Audio and Audiovisual Media Services (Official Gazette of RM No. 148/2013)⁷³ prohibits broadcasting of programs which may “seriously damage the physical, emotional or moral development of minors, especially programs containing pornography or gratuitous violence”. The ban also applies to other programs which are likely to damage the “physical, emotional and moral development of minors”.

The attainment of child rights is guaranteed with the adopted **measures for early child development**. The 2019 Action Plan for Development of Child Protection Activities⁷⁴ provides the necessary conditions for: an optimum inclusion of children in the system for child rights protection, increased inclusion of children in the system for placement and care of pre-school children, optimal and rational use of space facilities, personnel and other resources, as well as creating conditions for other types of placement and care of children under the age of 6.

The legislation itself proposes measures that **deter the procurement and use of weapons or explosive materials** by incriminating the act of ‘unlawful manufacture, sale, procurement or exchange of firearms, ammunition or explosive materials’, as stipulated in Article 396 of the Criminal Code (Official Gazette of RM No.55/2013)⁷⁵. Furthermore, any procurement or use of explosive materials is considered a criminal offense, according to Article 37 of the Law on Trade in Explosive Materials (Official Gazette of RM No. 184/2013).⁷⁶

The current legislative **does not allow children to be convicted or penalized for committing an act of crime in cases where the act was induced by an adult person**. Furthermore, children are protected by law against torture, neglect, abuse, exploitation and criminal activity. At-risk children are legally protected with separate measures for help and protection, accordingly Articles 24 to Article 32 of the Law on Juvenile Justice, even in cases of minor criminal offences and petty crimes.

The national framework of bylaws proposes **establishing and developing cross-sector teams within the Unit for Provision of Help to At-Risk Children** (at-risk children, child victims, street children, children with addiction problems, neglected and abandoned children) in order to provide adequate protection (Joint Protocol on Action against Domestic Violence, UNDP, 2010; Multidisciplinary Action Protocol-Identification and Referral of Street Children/Children on the Street in the Republic of Macedonia, MLSP, 2010; Joint Action Protocol in Cases of Child Abuse and Child Neglect, 2014).

⁷² Law on Juvenile Justice, Official Gazette of RM No. 148/2013, Article 4, Paragraph 1, 2, 3.

⁷³ Official Gazette of RM No. 184/2013, 13/2014, 44/2014, 101/2014, 132/2014, 142/2016 and 132/2017, Article 50, 247/2018, 27/2019 and 42/2020

⁷⁴ Official Gazette of RM No. 246/2018

⁷⁵ Official Gazette of RM No. 37/1996, 80/1999, 4/2002, 43/2003, 19/2004, 81/2005, 60/2006, 73/2006, 7/2008, 139/2008, 114/2009, 51/2011, 135/2011, 185/2011, 142/2012, 55/2013, 82/2013, 14/2014, 27/2014, 28/2014, 41/2014, 115/2014, 132/2014, 160/2014, 199/2014, 196/2015, 226/2015 and 97/2017

⁷⁶ Official Gazette of RM No.30/1985, 6/1989, 12/1993, 31/1993, 53/1991, 66/2007, 86/2008 and 148/2015

WHAT HAPPENS IN PRACTICE?

Based on their experience in the field, civil society organizations claim that **protection laws pertaining to education** are insufficiently applied. Also, program activities and measures remain unavailable to at-risk children. However, civil society organizations offer support to such children, preparing them to start school and giving them the much needed help and support while at school. This is particularly true of at-risk children.

“The opportunity for free education, as provided by law, is not available to all children. We have had a case where a client, part of our program for help and support, had to continue her secondary education. Since she was unable to attend regular classes due to a medical condition, the only solution was to enroll her as a part-time student. Unfortunately, part-time secondary school is not free and it entails enrollment costs and exams fees. For our client, these costs were covered by the civil society organization in charge of providing care and protection, but laws and regulations must treat people equally, i.e. part-time education must be free as well.”⁷⁷

Civil society organizations⁷⁸ have noted a rather complex procedure for additional **birth registration of a child in the Birth Registry, which prevents the child to take advantage of the measures for early-child development**. The procedure lasts much longer than the allotted time frame for solving such cases, especially when the child was born at home.

The procedure is further complicated by the Law Amending the Law on Birth Registry⁷⁹, which proposes a lengthy, red-tape process with a number of imposed preconditions.⁸⁰ For this reason, unregistered children do not have access to some of their fundamental rights: access to certificate of nationality, free health care, education and welfare.⁸¹

Civil society organizations have come to the conclusion that the country lacks institutions offering support and recovery programs for children with alcohol and substance abuse problems, which impedes the invested efforts within the prevention component. This is also true of probators - there are no institutions for in-house placement except within the programs offered by a small number of civil society organizations.

During 2017, the civil society organizations involved in the preparation of this report organized an array of different activities: **campaigns, debates, trainings and workshops on prevention of violence against children. It is hard to give an estimate** regarding the number of targeted people and the impact these activities have had on raising public awareness, especially the campaigns. This is due to the lack of system for data collection which civil society organizations can use, as well as the lack of sufficient access to information.

⁷⁷Interview with a Civil Society Organization.

⁷⁸2017 Annual Report by the MYLA available at: <http://myla.org.mk/B7%D0%B0-2017.pdf>.

⁷⁹Published at the Official Gazette of RM No. 27/2016.

⁸⁰These amendments also propose submitting a number of additional items as evidence in support of the request for additional birth registry, such as: a note from a pediatrician certifying the child's age, DNA analysis, statements from witnesses verified by a notary public, etc. In cases when the mother is a foreign citizen, additional proof of citizenship is needed. All of this further complicates the already long and difficult process of additional birth registry, which is why it sometimes lasts for years.

⁸¹2017 Annual Report, MYLA, p. 30.

Of the total **number of campaigns** (30) organized by the civil society organizations, five were jointly run with state institutions; more specifically with educational institutions/schools.

However, civil society organizations believe there is a lack of coordination in the process of planning and execution of these campaigns in terms of adequate time scheduling and geographic coverage. They note that there is a large gap regarding the intensity with which the campaigns were run in different municipalities. Most campaign activities take place in larger municipalities.

According to civil society organizations, all measures for raising public awareness must be carefully planned in advance, considering their effect as assessed in previous campaigns, and must focus on identified needs, target groups and new trends.

The planning and provision of support for children victims of violence requires continuous research which would inspire law amendment, proper planning, staff capacity building, and development of a proper support system for children victims of violence.

Based on the information about the reporting period, it is safe to conclude that **a small number of research studies** were conducted, i.e. there was only one such research, while two other studies are in progress and will be published in the course of 2018. (The National Network Against Gender-Based and Domestic Violence is currently conducting a research project entitled *National Study on Violence Against Children*).

MYLA has prepared a comparative analysis of the legal framework which pertains to the legislation on protection of children victims of violence; pending publication.⁸²

The research study entitled *Identification and Assessment of Needs of the Youth in Gevgelija and Gaps in Community Support of Children in Need of Specialized Protection* was published in 2017 and tackles a local context. It gives recommendations on how to improve the support services for adolescents and children in the Municipality of Gevgelija (Open Gate, UNICEF, 2017).⁸³

Despite the fact that civil society organizations identify the need for research and obviously have the capacity to engage in such activities, they point out that the availability of funds is immediately connected to the number of such research projects.

CSOs explain that all data collected during **research projects is used for activity planning**. However, they note that institutions which prepare annual programs for child protection do not take advantage of the information obtained from these research projects.

CSOs collect information on violence against children, but what is missing is a unified, systematic, comprehensive and secure database. **Therefore, civil society organizations note the need for a systematicity and continuity in the collection and sharing of data pertaining to violence against children**, which would contribute towards a better transparency and visibility of the current situation.

⁸²The National Network Against Gender-Based and Domestic Violence is currently conducting a research project entitled *National Study on Violence Against Children*;

MYLA has prepared a comparative analysis of the legal framework which pertains to the legislation on protection of child victims of violence; pending publication.

⁸³Open Gate, UNICEF, 2017.

Overall, civil society organizations believe that there is an established practice of publishing recurring and annual reports, which are available on the websites of the respective civil society organizations. They further note that this practice makes them more visible to the public and institutions, which in turn increases the visibility of the problem pertaining to violence against children and the need for intervention.

However, it is noted that there is a significant variety regarding the scope of information in these reports. In other words, they do not always report exclusively on violence against children.

CONCLUSIONS

- Children victims of violence are **only partially provided with the required support and services** adequate to their age, or in line with the need for emergency placement, medical attention, information and legal counsel.
- There are still no set standards for evaluating the quality of services civil society organizations offer to child victims of violence.

Recommendations

- We recommend the development of specialized services for immediate support and protection of children, especially vulnerable children in terms of medical attention, legal counsel, placement in foster care, their inclusion/continuation of formal or informal education.
- The Institute for Social Activities should develop national standards for assessment and evaluation of the services aimed at child victims of violence.

Legislative

1. Action Plan for Development of Child Protection Activities Official Gazette of RM No..246/2018
2. Annual Report by the MYLA available at: <http://myla.org.mk/B7%D0%B0-2017.pdf>.
3. *Identification and Assessment of Needs of the Youth in Gevgelija and Gaps in Community Support of Children in Need of Specialized Protection* was published in 2017, Open Gate, UNICEF, 2017
4. *Criminal Code of RM*, Official Gazette of RM No.37/1996, 80/1999, 4/2002, 43/2003, 19/2004, 81/2005, 60/2006, 73/2006, 7/2008, 139/2008, 114/2009, 51/2011, 135/2011, 185/2011, 142/2012, 55/2013, 82/2013, 14/2014, 27/2014, 28/2014, 41/2014, 115/2014, 132/2014, 160/2014, 199/2014, 196/2015, 226/2015 and 97/2017
5. *Law on Juvenile Justice*, Official Gazette of RM. No. 148/2013.
6. *Law on Child Protection*, Official Gazette of RM. No. 23/2013, 12/2014, 44/2014, 144/2014, 10/2015, 25/2015, 150/2015, 27/2016, 163/2017,21/2018, 198/2018, 104/2019, 146/2019 and 275/2019
7. *Law on Prevention and Protection against Domestic Violence*, Official Gazette of RM No. 138/2014, 33/2015 and 150/2015
8. *Law on Execution of Sanctions*, Official Gazette of RM No. 2/2006, 57/2010, 170/2013, 43/2014, 166/2014, 33/2015, 98/2015, 11/2016, 21/2018 and 99/2019
9. *Law on Prevention and Protection Against Discrimination*, Official Gazette of RM No. 50/2010, 44/2014, 150/2015, 31/2016, 21/2018 and 101/2019.
10. *Law on Primary Education*, Official Gazette of RM No. 103/2008, 33/2010, 116/2010, 156/2010, 18/2011, 42/2011, 51/2011, 6/2012, 100/2012, 24/2013, 41/2014, 116/2014, 135/2014, 10/2015, 98/2015, 145/2015, 30/2016, 127/2016, 67/2017 and 64/2018.
11. *Law on Secondary Education*, Official Gazette of RM No. 44/1995, 24/1996, 34/1996, 35/1997, 82/1999, 29/2002, 40/2003, 42/2003, 67/2004, 55/2005, 113/2005, 35/2006, 30/2007, 49/2007, 81/2008, 92/2008, 33/2010, 116/2010, 156/2010, 18/2011, 42/2011, 51/2011, 6/2012, 100/2012,

- 24/2013, 41/2014, 116/2014, 135/2014, 10/2015, 98/2015, 145/2015, 30/2016, 127/2016, 67/2017 and 64/2018.
12. *Law on Social Welfare*, Official Gazette of RM No. 79/2009; 36/2011; 51/2011; 166/2012; 15/2013; 79/2013; 164/2013; 187/2013; 38/2014; 44/2014; 116/2014; 180/2014; 33/2015; 72/2015; 104/2015; 150/2015; 173/2015; 192/2015; 30/2016 and 163/2017, 104/19, 146/19 and 275/19.
 13. *Law on Trade in Explosive Materials*, Official Gazette of RM.No.30/1985, 6/1989, 53/91 12/1993, 31/1993, 66/2007, 86/2008 and 148/2015
 14. *Law on Birth Registry*, Official Gazette of RM No. 8/1995, 38/2002, 66/2007, 98/2008, 67/2009, 13/2013, 43/2014, 148/2015
 15. *The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*, 1989
 16. *The Law on Audio and Audiovisual Media Services*, Official Gazette of RM No. 184/2013, 13/2014, 44/2014, 101/2014, 132/2014, 142/2016 и 132/2017, Article 50, 247/2018, 27/2019, and 42/2020
 17. *Family Law Act*, Official Gazette of RM. No.80/1992, 9/1996, 38/2004, 33/2006, 84/2008, 67/2010, 156/2010, 39/2012, 44/2012, 38/2014, 115/2014, 153/14, 104/2015 and 150/2015
 18. *School Inspection Law*, Official Gazette of RM No. 52/2005, 81/2008, 148/2009, 57/2010, 51/2011, 24/2013, 137/2013, 164/2013, 41/2014, 33/2015, 145/2015, 30/2016 and 64/2018

ПРЕВЕНЦИЈА НАСИЉА НАД ДЕЦОМ

Абстракт: *Као што је наведено у члану 19. став 1. Конвенције о правима детета, „насиље“ обухвата „све облике физичког и психичког насиља, повреде или злостављања, занемаривање или неодговорно понашање, узнемиравање или искориштавање, укључујући и сексуално злостављање“.*

Насиље не препознаје културне или друштвене разлике и не мора увек бити исто. Без обзира у којим се условима или облицима се дешава, насиље оставља дугорочне, погубне и неизбрисиве последице.

У развијеним земљама проблем насиља сматра се националним проблемом и постоје програми који координишу различите секторе друштва (образовање, здравство, правда, социјални рад и други) који спроводе различите синхронизоване активности и предузимају разне мере за спречавање и превенцију насиља над децом.

Превенција треба да подигне свест јавности о ситуацији насиља над децом, да упозна грађане са правима деце и здраве породице, успешним родитељством, да заштити децу од зависности, уоче и превазиђу проблеме везане за образовање и васпитање деце.

У литератури се налазе предлози програма намењених спречавању или смањењу насиља над децом, али и лечењу емоционалних и проблема понашања код деце.

Из анализе података прикупљених од стране удружења грађана закључује се да постоји усклађени национални правни оквир са међународним документима и стандардима за дечја права и њихову заштиту, а пре свега са Конвенцијом о правима детета.

Постоји недостатак координације у планирању и спровођењу превентивних активности, како у погледу поделе времена, тако и у погледу географског обухвата. Велика је разлика у интензитету спровођења кампања у различитим општинама. Већина кампања се спроводи у већим општинама и неконтинуирано.

Кључне речи: *насиље, деца, превенција, удружења грађана*