



The Human Rights Ombudsmen of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

ENOC 15 th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Year 2010, besides important activities of Department in a field of protection of Rights of Child was significant for Human Rights Ombudsman of BaH because of the fact that full membership in ENOC was confirmed.

In previous year the Ombudsmen of BaH paid particular attention to issue of the rights of a child because of concerns that that due to lack of statistical data, analyses, procedures, standards and norms, based on professional principles, there can not be created picture of real situation of the rights of a child in BiH, and there is also occurrence of exclusion of children and their parents or legal guardians from decision-making process on the rights of a child, even in the cases where law prescribes such activities as an obligation.

Ombudsmen identified few issues that should be stressed parallel with particular activities of Department for Protection of Rights of the Child that is importance for more consistent application of the Convention on the Rights of a Child in day-to-day work and in decision-making and harmonization of legislation with the Convention. And also equally important advocating for relevant actors in decisions making process to always take in account best interest of child, equally as hearing children's opinion and allowing them to participate in these processes.

In Department for protection of the rights of a child in 2010 there were 94 complaints received and these complaints are mainly related to non-possibility of contacts between a child and one of the parents or other members of close family, non-issuance of passports for children, non execution of registration of children in birth registry books, lack of ensuring of effective protection of children against domestic violence and peer groups violence, non-payment of alimonies, etc. So, in complaints filed with the Department, as responsible organs, violating and endangering children's rights, most frequently are identified social work centres, courts, schools, and less frequently educational inspections and competent ministries from the area of social and children's protection, including education as well. And in a first half of 2011, 56 co

Special reports and researches that Ombudsmen BaH conducted in 2010 were related to children exploitation, especially problem of children beggars, and advocating for establishment of day-centers for children happened to bagging as well as welcome centers for children and youth

happened to be drifters or baggers in all municipalities in BiH. Report on rights of the children with disabilities in the psycho- physical development/ specially emphasized problems of autistic children. Report on institutions for accommodation of children without parental care /children in resident institutions was including results of monitoring visits to 33 institutions of this type from the territory of whole country. And on the end research on participation of the children and adults in interest of schoolchildren, resulted with concrete recommendation to competent organs, school founders and schools to urgently and without delays undertake concrete steps with a view to rise level of respect for opinion of the adults and children in decision-making process in schools.

As sometimes is hard to separate one activity that is more important than other, and in the case of the children is even more difficult, as all of them seem equally important. Still there is one activity that we as Institution and Department for the protection of Rights of a Child are specially proud of, and that is our activity "Ombudsmen in your school" that enabled us to visit around 40 schools in 25 cities in a less than two years. This direct contact with children created the space to educate them about their rights and to hear their opinion on things they think are important, this provided us valuable dimension, an input on issues that we didn't even assumed that children know that much about, so this influenced a lot our work and priorities that we set with children and for children.

As NHRI accredited in status A we are trying to meet our international obligations, so in that sense interaction with UN Committee on the rights of a child, and submission of reports related to CRC and optional protocol was also in our scope of work in 2010 together with other activities related also to continuous promotion of rights of a child.