

## **Prevalence of violence against children in Lithuania according to Children's Rights Ombudsman Institution of the Republic of Lithuania**

One of the Children's Rights Ombudsman Institution's (further on – CRO) activities, while implementing supervise and control of compliance with children's rights and their legal interests, is to start investigation on possible violation of children's rights in consideration to different complaints or to start investigations on the initiative of the Ombudsman when signs of violation of child's rights are perceived.

The experience of CRO shows that violence against children is being used by police officers, schoolteachers, employees of childcare institutions and child's family members. Furthermore, violence and bullying among children themselves is also of big concern.

There were 357 complaints that CRO got in the year 2006, out of which 36 were concerned with physical violence (15 – violence in family, 10 – violence at school, 6 – violence in childcare institutions, 2 – violence by guardian, 3 – violence in other places). 29 complaints were concerned with psychological violence (12 – psychological violence in family, 6 – psychological violence at school, 5 – psychological violence in childcare institutions, 5 – psychological violence in guardian's family and 1 – psychological violence in other place). Moreover, there were 7 complaints concerning sexual abuse against child.

There were 46 complaints concerning possible violence (physical, psychological and sexual) against child and 14 investigations on the initiative of the Ombudsman started in the year 2007, out of which 5 cases were concerned with sexual abuse against child, 16 – physical violence among children themselves, 4 – schoolteachers' physical violence against children, 16 – physical and psychological violence in family, 12 – psychological violence at school, 4 – psychological violence used against children by police officers, neighbours and etc., 3 – images of violence among children which were broadcasted in the Internet.

Articles 6.3 and 7.2 of the Resolution No. 695 on “Affirmation of the list of indicators of statistical data on children”, issued by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on 8 June 2004, determines that information on the reports on violence against children received in municipality child right protection institutions and information on children as victims of criminal offences are provided to the Department of the Statistics under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

There are 60 municipal child right protection institutions, which target is to safeguard children's rights. Under the Articles 5 and 8.14 of the Resolution No. 1983 on “Affirmation of

the Regulations of the institutions for the protection of children's rights", issued by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on 17 December 2002, Child right protection institutions are obliged to collect data on the reports on violence against children and to cooperate with the Department of the Statistics under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

In consideration to the data, presented by the Department of Statistics:

(<http://www.stat.gov.lt/en/pages/view/?id=1887>)

### Reports on violence against children received in municipality child right protection institutions

	Reports			
	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Total</b>	<b>2359</b>	<b>2311</b>	<b>1639</b>	<b>1778</b>
Vilnius	855	1004	686	641
Kaunas	409	341	170	164
Klaipėda	364	159	92	89
Šiauliai	270	227	160	229
Panevėžys	144	145	86	122
Alytus	85	83	61	35
Utena	87	136	220	175
Marijampolė	82	86	59	77
Tauragė	13	75	54	211
Telšiai	50	55	51	35

### Cases on violence against children received in municipality child right protection services by type of violence

	Number of cases		
	2005	2006	2007
Physical violence	1459	894	988
boys	1047	551	637
girls	412	343	351
Psychological violence	605	611	676
boys	309	312	382
girls	296	299	294
Indecent assault	141	134	114
boys	37	18	29
girls	104	116	85

**Children as victims of criminal offences**

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total	3864	4955	5109	4571
By age group, years:				
0–3	105	125	137	122
4–6	103	221	205	196
7–9	218	357	455	386
10–13	957	1277	1344	1166
14–17	2481	2975	2968	2701
By sex:				
males	2615	3329	3318	2982
females	1249	1626	1791	1589
Children as victims of:				
parents	232	530	730	614
stepparents	68	56	65	74
adoptive parents	2	5	1	3
foster-parents	4	10	16	5
pedagogical staff	10	10	6	10

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