



**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS NUOLATINĖ ATSTOVYBĖ  
PRIE JUNGTINIŲ TAUTŲ BIURO IR  
KITŲ TARPTAUTINIŲ ORGANIZACIJŲ ŽENEVOJE**

**MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA LITUANIE  
AUPRÈS DE L'OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES ET  
DES AUTRES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES À GENÈVE**

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and with the reference to its note verbal of 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2015 has the honour to transmit the answer of the Government of Lithuania to the questionnaire in relation to Human Rights Council resolution 7/13 on Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania seizes this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 11 June 2015



**Office of the United Nations High Commissioner  
for Human Rights  
GENEVA**

## **Information provided by the Republic of Lithuania on assistance and rehabilitation programmes for child victims of sale and exploitation, including sexual exploitation**

1. When dealing with the cases of child abuse in Lithuania, the specialists from different institutions provide assistance for children and their families, for example : child rights protection offices in municipalities, law enforcement institutions, health care institutions, social workers, social pedagogues and psychologists working at school, specialists of non-governmental organisations.

Seeking long-term assistance to child victims, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania is planning to implement a project “Establishment of a support centre for child victims of sexual abuse”. The project will be implemented in 2016 as part of the programme “Children and Youth at Risk” under the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism. Establishment of such centre in Lithuania will enable the provision of specialized comprehensive assistance to child victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as to their family members. A support centre for child victims of sexual abuse will be established to provide a “safe house” as well as comprehensive services including individual, group and family psychological support. A comprehensive system of rehabilitation, with a long-term and short-term social assistance measures for family and the child who has suffered sexual abuse or sexual exploitation, will also be developed.

2. National Programme for the Prevention of Violence against Children and Assistance for Children for 2011-2015 (hereinafter referred to as – the Programme) was adopted by Order of the Minister of Social Security and Labour on 3 January, 2011. The Programme and Plan of Measures for the Implementation of the Programme were adopted with the aim to reduce the incidence of all types of violence against children, among children and in their families.

Seeking to protect children from sexual exploitation, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour drafted amendments to the Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child. The amendment includes a provision prohibiting persons convicted of crimes against freedom of child’s sexual self-determination and inviolability, irrespective of expiration of the conviction, to work at children’s social, healthcare, sport and educational institutions or organisations, independent of his/her working functions, if s/he is related (regularly or temporarily) with education of children and ensuring of their safety.

3. In order to reduce the number of children deprived of parental care, parents with children, who find themselves in a crisis situation, are provided with integrated services. In 2014, this kind of assistance was provided to 2265 persons (990 families): 1085 children, 883 mothers and 297 fathers.. In 2014, 34 projects related to the provision of integrated services to parents with children, who find themselves in a crisis situation, were financed.

4-5.

Ministry of Social Security and Labour organised a tender for the provision of comprehensive services to children who have suffered from abuse. In Lithuania, child victims are assisted by municipalities, social work is carried out with families; children receive consultations of psychologists and school social pedagogues. Psychologist’s consultations in the majority of cases are provided to children in urban areas, as it is still complicated to organise and provide this type of assistance to the child and his family in rural areas because of the lack of day centres, non-government organisations and other agencies there.

National Programme for the Prevention of Violence against Children and Assistance for Children for 2011-2015 continues the implementation of the activities and measures of the previous Programme since 2005. Under the current Programme, children and their family members are provided with comprehensive social, medical, legal and psychological assistance. Qualified experts provide training aimed at recognising and preventing various forms of violence for specialists employed at various institutions, i.e. educational, child rights protection, social care and law enforcement. The Ministry of Education and Science prepared 5 methodological guides for school administrations, teachers, children and parents on the issue. It has also organised over 60 training courses for school pedagogues and specialists providing educational assistance. With the aim to tackle the problems of bullying and violence at schools the Description for the Procedure of Crisis Management at Schools was adopted. Lithuania's pre-school education institutions and general education schools started implementing some of the most efficient target programmes of violence and bullying prevention (Zipio draugai/Zip friends, Second Step, OLWEUS).

Other relevant strategies on violence prevention are worth to mention:

- National Strategy on Prevention of Violence against Women
- Strategy of the State Policy on Child Welfare in 2013-2018.

6. In implementing National Programme for the Prevention of Violence against Children and Assistance for Children for 2011-2015, comprehensive assistance services to child victims of violence and victims (witnesses) of indirect domestic violence and their family members have been provided by Seven non-governmental organisations.. In 2014, qualified professionals provided complex assistance to 326 children and 196 family members who were victims of violence.

In addition, one of the measures for implementation of the Programme is "Organising events of prevention of violence against children, developing the campaign "Say NO to Violence against Children" by forming public intolerance to violence against children. In 2014, activities in implementing this measure included disseminating information about the rights of the child through mass media, preparing and publishing informational and methodical publications, broadcasting of audio clips on national radio stations on the issue of children's protection against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. It should be noted that the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of the Interior as well as a number of non-governmental organisations have been actively participating in the process of solving the cyberbullying problem as well.

Furthermore, on 6–7 November 2014, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour organised an international conference entitled "Progress in protecting children's rights, challenges and opportunities". Its aim was to discuss future challenges and opportunities while strengthening protection of children's rights and to share international best practice acquired when implementing Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on combating sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography and the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse. Nearly 250 participants attended the Conference: foreign experts and representatives from child rights protection offices, non-governmental organisations and other institutions working in the area of child well-being.

The "No Hate speech" campaign has also been implemented in Lithuania. The NO HATE SPEECH MOVEMENT is the international youth movement aimed at suppressing the manifestations of racism, discrimination, xenophobia and other incitement to hatred in virtual space. The movement seeks to rally young people and youth organisations for action by advocating human rights values.

The movement was initiated by the Council of Europe (further information is available at: <http://www.myliupanda.lt/#apie-kampanija>)

7.

Principle of non-discrimination is enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania. Article 29 of the Constitution establishes the principle of non-discrimination of all persons, while other current legal acts guarantee equal rights for all people regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race, nationality, disability, age, religion or convictions. One of the main laws establishing principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination in Lithuania is the Law on Equal Treatment. The Law on Equal Treatment prohibits direct and indirect discrimination, harassment, instruction to discriminate on the basis of sex, race, nationality, language, origin, social status, religion, faith, convictions or opinions, age, sexual orientation, disability, ethnic origin.

Principle of non-discrimination of a child is enshrined in the Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child. According to it, every child shall enjoy equal rights with other children and cannot be discriminated on the basis of sex, race or any other circumstances. Complaints concerning possible discrimination of a child may be addressed either personally or by child's representative to the Office of Ombudsman for Children Rights, Child Rights Protection Service at his/her municipality or a court.

The Ministry of Social Security and Labour coordinated the Inter-institutional Action Plan for Promotion of Non-discrimination 2012–2014. The purpose of this Plan was to ensure the implementation of educational measures of non-discrimination promotion and equal opportunities, to raise legal consciousness, to increase mutual understanding and tolerance on the grounds of gender, race, nationality, language, origin, social status, faith, convictions or views, age, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity and religion, to raise public awareness of manifestations of discrimination in Lithuania and its negative impact on opportunities for certain groups of society to actively participate in public activities under equal conditions.

On 28 January 2015, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania approved an Inter-institutional action plan for promoting non-discrimination for 2015-2020. The plan provides for reducing discrimination, ensuring equal opportunities, raising awareness and promoting respect. It stipulates the organization of annual equality and diversity awards, seminars, information campaigns and other educational events aimed at promoting non-discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, race or language as well as educating children from ethnic minority and migrating families.

The plan will be implemented by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as other institutions.

8. Seeking to support positive parenting, under the Strategy of the National Policy on the Welfare of the Child for 2013-2018, assistance to families is provided through encouraging and supporting parenting, creating necessary conditions and increasing parental responsibility by examples of the good practice, i.e. teaching parents the culture of non-violent parenting.

Since 2008, Lithuanian schools have been systematically implementing targeted prevention programmes, globally recognised as efficient, aimed at the development of children's social-emotional skills and prevention of bullying and abuse. The programmes and their aims are the following:

The aim of “Zippy’s Friends” programme is to help children aged 5–7 to develop social and emotional coping skills seeking children’s better emotional well-being. This programme teaches children to overcome everyday emotional difficulties: alienation, loneliness, bullying or harassment, difficult changes, helps to perceive and encourages to talk about their feelings, search for ways to cope with these feelings; teaches children empathy, to find friends, ask for support and accept it as well as help others; helps not to become victims of bullying and not to become bullies themselves. New educators were trained while implementing the programme: 182 educators in 2012; 200 educators in 2013; 180 educators started to be trained in 2014.

The aim of “Apple’s Friends” programme is to help children aged 7–9 to develop social and emotional coping skills seeking children’s better emotional well-being. The programme helps to develop children’s social and emotional coping skills: teaches them to perceive and talk about feelings, say what they want to say, listen attentively, make friends and preserve friendship, ask for help and help others, cope with loneliness, alienation, bullying or harassment, solve conflicts, more easily withstand changes and losses. The programme was launched in 2013. It involves 43 schools, 108 teachers, 2332 children. In 2014, new educators (60) started to be trained.

The aim of Olweus Bullying Prevention Programme is to reduce bullying at school by teaching the staff to notice, recognise and properly react to bullying. The programme aims at creating an environment at school in which adults assume responsibility that children are not abused and feel safe. The main activities of the programme are targeted at the training of adults working at school to notice bullying and properly react to it, establish strict limits of unacceptable behaviour, constantly adequately apply conduct rules and be able to create a safe environment. 49 schools have been implementing the Olweus programme quality assurance system (continuity of programme activities); other 51 schools have been given the international name of the Olweus school, certifying that the school has been systematically combating bullying according to the Olweus programme standard. According to the data of the annual Olweus survey, the scope of bullying decreased from 27.6 to 20.4 per cent in schools implementing the Olweus programme in 2013–2014.

The “Second Step” programme develops socio-emotional skills in primary schools. Its aim is to reduce children’s aggressive behaviour, teach them to perceive their feelings, resist impulsive behaviour, and solve conflicts and problems as well as to understand the consequences of their conduct. According to teachers who have been implementing the “Second Step” programme for many years, children learned not to be afraid to express their opinion, find more diverse solutions, express their feelings verbally and not through fighting, which resulted in the decrease of cases of aggressive conflict resolution. Furthermore, children who took part in the programme became able to concentrate better and their study results have improved. In 2012 and 2013, 100 institutions participated in the programme each year, compared to 495 institutions in 2014. The number of persons trained to work under the “Second Step” programme: 216 teachers in 2012; 217 teachers in 2013; 180 teachers in 2014.

The LIONS QUEST programme “Crossroads of Teens” aims at the development of social and emotional education of pupils of 5<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> grade as well as improvement of school community cohesion. LIONS QUEST programme develops five essential pupils’ emotional and social competences. 1000 children participating in the programme and their parents as well as 490 educators were provided with relevant methodical material. In 2014, 308 teachers were trained to implement the programme in 25 schools.

The Child Emotional Expression Control Programme is a non-traditional education model aimed at helping children to understand that there is a link between thoughts, feelings and behaviour; teaching children to observe their emotional states, recognise and name feelings as well as physiological feeling signals. The programme also enhances child's self-control and impulse control by showing ways how to divert impulsive behaviour in a socially acceptable direction and develops resistance to stress as well as develops child's ability to understand other people and teaches, to feel empathy. The programme was launched in September 2014 in 10 schools.

The aim of the Conflict Prevention Programme is to provide school community with necessary knowledge and methodological assistance enabling educators and youth to recognise pupils with difficulties, help them and reduce the risk of their dropping out from the education system. The objectives of the programme are to develop young people's and educators' cooperation, community problem solution, mutual assistance skills and competences, help all class and school members to integrate, and reduce social exclusion. The programme is targeted at pupils of 5<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> grade. The programme was developed in 2013 and has been tested in five selected pilot schools since 2014. Efficiency of the programme is under evaluation now.