

Session 55 – Montenegro

Recommendations to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

Prepared by Child Helpline International and NGO Children First – April 2010

Recommendation 1

The government of Montenegro should work in partnership with the child helpline by:

- Supporting the implementation of the EU harmonised number 116 111
- Supporting the implementation of the number 116 111 in the entire European region
- Acknowledging the child helpline as a fundamental child protection tool, and a tool toward the prevention and detection of violence against children

Established in 2003, Children First is a local NGO, within which a child SOS phone line has been working for four months in 2009 and it continued its work in 2010, as toll-free (4 hours per day available) helpline for children and young people. It is operational 5 days a week, and is staffed by experienced professionals and volunteers. Children First has not applied for the number 116 111 but will do so in the near future.

Recommendation 2

The government of Montenegro should recognise the child helpline as a viable source for data on children's issues on a national level.

The Government should look to Children First as a reliable and trustworthy source for data on children's issues to formulate child-focused government policies.

Recommendation 3

The Government should examine the empowering and child-centred model practiced by Children First and adapt this framework to child-related government departments.

Many children and young people who contact Children First are concerned that government agencies do not listen to children's voices when making decisions affecting children's lives. The advocacy activities carried out by Children First indicates a need for the views of children and young people to be integrated into government policies.

Recommendation 4

Government support for the helpline should include adequate funding to cover the cost of providing ongoing services.

In 2009, Children First has not received any funding from the government for the functioning of the children helpline. The total amount was raised through corporate sponsors, individual donors and the helpline's own fundraising activities. The Government should provide adequate resources to ensure the continuity of the services of the child helpline.

If you wish further information please contact Child Helpline International:

Johan Martens
Advocacy Officer, Child Helpline International
johan@childhelplineinternational.org
Tel: + 31 (0)20 528 9625
Fax: + 31 (0)20 638 7655
www.childhelplineinternational.org