

**Progress of Republic of Bulgaria in implementation of  
the Convention on the Rights of the Child**

**2016 - February 2021**

National Network for Children – Bulgaria

**APPENDICES**

**REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD RECOMMENDATIONS - CRC/C/BGR/CO/3-5 21 November 2016**

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO THE STATE	REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION
To take measures to ensure that the provisions set out in other relevant domestic legislation are harmonized with the Child Protection Act	Not implemented No progress Partial progress There is progress Fully implemented
To introduce a child rights impact assessment procedure for all new legislation adopted at the national level	Not implemented
To offer continuous capacity-building in international human rights law for judges, prosecutors and lawyers, in line with recommendation made by the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers (see A/HRC/20/19/Add.2, para. 105), placing particular focus on the Convention	Partial progress
To consider the recommendations outlined in the independent review and amend the strategy as appropriate to ensure that it is as comprehensive as possible and encompasses all areas covered by the Convention and covers all children	No progress
To ensure that the strategy is supported by the elements necessary for its application, including sufficient human, technical and financial resources	Not implemented
To ensure consultations with all relevant stakeholders, including children, to further develop the strategy and continue to regularly assess the effectiveness of its implementation	Not implemented
To develop an awareness-raising campaign to promote the benefits of establishing a commission for children	Not implemented
To establish an institutional mechanism at the interministerial level with a clear mandate and	Not implemented

sufficient authority to coordinate all activities related to the implementation of the Convention at cross-sectoral, national, regional and local levels. The State party should ensure that the coordinating mechanism is provided with the human, technical and financial resources necessary for its effective operation	
To establish a child rights perspective in its budgeting process and specify clear allocations for children in the relevant sectors and agencies, including specific indicators and a tracking system	Not implemented
To establish mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the adequacy, efficacy and equitability of the distribution of resources allocated to the implementation of the Convention;	Not implemented
To ensure transparent and participatory budgeting through public dialogue, especially with children, and proper accountability of the authorities, including at the local level	Not implemented
To conduct a comprehensive assessment of the budgetary needs of children and allocate adequate budgetary resources, in accordance with article 4 of the Convention, for the implementation of children's rights; increase the budget allocated to social sectors; address disparities on the basis of indicators relating to children's rights; and, in particular, substantially increase the allocations in the areas of education and social assistance to adequate levels	Not implemented
To improve expeditiously its data collection system to cover all areas of the Convention. Data should be disaggregated by, among others, age, sex, disability, geographic location, ethnic and national origin, and socioeconomic background in order to facilitate analysis on the situation of all children, particularly those in situations of vulnerability	Partial progress
To ensure that data and indicators are shared among relevant ministries and used for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes and projects for the effective implementation of the Convention	No progress

To take into account the conceptual and methodological framework set out in Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation, by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, when defining, collecting and disseminating statistical information	Not implemented
To strengthen the mandate of the Deputy Ombudsman to receive, investigate and address complaints by children in a child-sensitive manner, and allocate sufficient technical, human and financial resources to support the work of the office;	No progress
To ensure the privacy and protection of child victims, particularly when monitoring and follow-up visits to institutions are undertaken in the context of the Ombudsman's role as national preventive mechanism	Partial progress
To ensure continuous capacity-building and training of Ombudsman staff on issues related to children's rights	Partial progress
To strengthen its efforts to provide adequate and systematic training and/or sensitization on children's rights to professional groups working with and for children, such as law enforcement officials, parliamentarians, judges, lawyers, health personnel, teachers, school administrators, academics, social workers, media professionals and others, as required	No progress
To ensure systematic teaching of the principles and provisions set out in the Convention, at all levels of the school curriculum	Not implemented
To give special attention to promoting the participation of children in the dissemination of their rights	Partial progress
To encourage the media to demonstrate sensitivity to children's rights and ensure the inclusion of children in the development of programmes	Partial progress
To continue to strengthen its efforts to increase the awareness of the Convention, its principles and provisions, and to disseminate the	No progress

Convention throughout the country, in close cooperation with non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders and by paying particular attention to remote and rural areas and children belonging to minority groups	
To ensure full implementation of relevant existing laws prohibiting discrimination, including by strengthening public education campaigns to address negative social attitudes towards Roma children, children with disabilities, minority children and refugees and asylum seeking children	Not implemented
To ensure that children living in rural areas have access to quality education, adequate health care and housing	Partial progress
To implement the National Strategy for Roma Integration (2012-2020) and ensure the availability of sufficient human, technical and financial resources	Partial progress
To introduce a specific mechanism within the Commission for Protection against Discrimination to address cases of discrimination against children	Not implemented
To introduce a thorough investigative review procedure in respect of cases in which a child has died or is seriously injured as a result of abuse or neglect and, in particular, conduct a full investigation into the allegations of the significant number of child deaths in medical and social care institutions	Partial progress
To fully investigate all allegations of ill-treatment of children and ensure that such acts are addressed appropriately through judicial processes in order to avoid impunity for perpetrators;	No progress
To strengthen efforts to ensure that access to adequate health care, including prenatal care for uninsured pregnant women, is extended to the most vulnerable families, in particular those living in marginalized and remote areas	Partial progress
To intensify awareness-raising and educational campaigns through the National Strategy for the Improvement of Road Safety	Partial progress

<p>To establish a monitoring mechanism to ensure that all children deprived of their liberty, including in the course of criminal or corrective procedures, are free from all forms of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment, and ensure that they have access to a safe and child-friendly mechanism to file complaints relating to their deprivation of liberty, conditions of detention or internment and treatment in coordination with the Office of the Ombudsman, in its capacity as national Preventive mechanism</p>	<p>No progress</p>
<p>To ensure that child victims of ill-treatment are provided with proper care and rehabilitation programmes and that revictimization of any kind is avoided</p>	<p>Partial progress</p>
<p>To strengthen capacity-building programmes for teachers and staff of childcare facilities in order to promote positive and alternative forms of discipline and respect for children’s rights and to raise awareness about the adverse consequences of corporal punishment on children</p>	<p>No progress</p>
<p>To ensure efficient cooperation, coordination and data-sharing between child protection services, the police and the justice system</p>	<p>No progress</p>
<p>To establish compulsory training courses on violence against children for all relevant professionals</p>	<p>Partial progress</p>
<p>To develop a national programme to address violence in schools with support from the Ministry of Education and Science and teacher training agencies to establish standards, mentoring and peer review of violence in schools, and provide training, including for parents, on the risks of bullying, including cyber bullying</p>	<p>Partial progress</p>
<p>To develop a public-awareness campaign as a means of changing prevailing attitudes in relation to violence against children and move towards zero tolerance</p>	<p>Not implemented</p>
<p>To strengthen awareness-raising and education programmes — including campaigns — with the involvement of children, in order to formulate a comprehensive strategy for preventing and combating child abuse</p>	<p>No progress</p>

To establish a national database on all cases of domestic violence against children and undertake a comprehensive assessment of the extent, causes and nature of such violence	No progress
To ensure the allocation of adequate human, technical and financial resources to the State Agency for Child Protection to enable it to implement long-term programmes for addressing the root causes of violence and abuse	No progress
To encourage community-based programmes aimed at preventing and tackling domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, including by involving former victims, volunteers and community members, and providing training support to them	Partial progress
To explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in legislation	Not implemented
To ensure that the prohibition of corporal punishment is adequately monitored and enforced in all settings	Not implemented
To promote positive, non-violent and participatory forms of child-rearing and discipline through awareness campaigns	Not implemented
To ensure that offenders are brought before the competent administrative and judicial authorities	No progress
To establish a system to track all cases involving child marriage within ethnic groups, particularly Roma girls, and provide victims with shelter as well as appropriate rehabilitation and counselling services	No progress
To reduce urgently placement of children under the age of 3 years in residential institutional care, including those with disabilities, and expedite placement in family-based care	Partial progress
To ensure adequate safeguards and clear criteria, particularly for Roma children and children with disabilities, based on the needs and best interests of the child, for determining whether a child should be placed in alternative care	Partial progress
To ensure that institutionalization is used only in the short term, including by providing information to expectant parents and health-care workers who serve new parents, on the rights and dignity of children with disabilities	Partial progress

To ensure implementation of proper preparation procedures, before relocation to the newly established family-type placement centres, including adequate participation by children and develop a monitoring mechanism to ensure that staff receive adequate and regular training and supervision	No progress
To ensure adequate legal safeguards and clear criteria for determining whether a child should be placed in alternative care, taking into consideration the views and best interests of the child, and enforce such criteria by raising awareness of family court judges	Partial progress
To support and monitor regular and appropriate contact between child and his or her family, provided that it is consistent with the child's best interests	Partial progress
To strengthen support to children and young people leaving care, including those with disabilities, to enable them to reintegrate into society, by providing access to adequate housing, legal, health and social services, as well as educational and vocational training opportunities	Partial progress
To raise awareness in society to counter the stigmatization and discrimination of children in alternative care	No progress
To ensure that children with disabilities and Roma children are not discriminated against in the adoption process and establish programmes to reduce misconceptions relating to the adoption of children with severe disabilities and Roma children	No progress
To amend the Family Code to ensure that children under the age of 14 years are consulted in all decisions that affect their lives, including in cases of adoption	No progress
To ensure enhanced coordination of relevant agencies and sufficient training of staff to ensure appropriate long-term support for adopted children and adoptive parents	No progress
To introduce legislation guaranteeing the right of the child to know his or her origins in line with recommendation 80.79 of the universal periodic review of 2011 (A/HRC/16/9)	No progress
To enhance data collection relating to children with disabilities and conduct studies and analyses	Not implemented

on the effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention and the existing laws and policies	
To reform the social assistance system for children with disabilities and their families in order to improve coherence and coordination and avoid institutionalization	Partial progress
To give priority to measures that facilitate the full inclusion of children with disabilities, including those with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, in all areas of public life, including leisure activities, community-based care and provision of social housing with reasonable accommodation	Partial progress
To undertake awareness-raising campaigns to combat the stigmatization of and prejudice against children with disabilities	No progress
To guarantee all children with disabilities the right to inclusive education in mainstream school, independent of parental consent	Partial progress
To train and assign specialized teachers and professionals in integrated classes to provide individual support and due attention to children with learning difficulties and address the shortage of speech therapists and qualified professionals for children with mental and psychosocial disabilities	Partial progress
To revise the draft law on Preschool and School Education to ensure that the proposed three categories of alternative support centres for children with disabilities do not undermine efforts to ensure inclusive education for all	There is progress
To allocate adequate human and financial resources to ensure full implementation of the National Programme for Improving Mother and Child Health care (2014-2020) and strengthen and increase support to newly appointed health mediators in Roma communities	Partial progress
To ensure availability of and equitable access to quality primary and specialized health and dental care for all children in the country, particularly those from socially and economically disadvantaged groups, including Roma children and children with disabilities	Partial progress
To strengthen efforts to ensure that access to adequate health care, including prenatal care for uninsured pregnant women, is extended to families living in the most vulnerable situations,	Partial progress

particularly those living in marginalized and remote areas	
To implement and apply the “Technical guidance on the application of a human rights-based approach to the implementation of policies and programmes to reduce and eliminate preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age” by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/27/31)	Not implemented
To implement the World Health Organization International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and develop a national programme for the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding through comprehensive campaigns, provide appropriate support to mothers through counselling structures in hospitals, clinics and the community and implement the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative throughout the country	No progress
To make community-based mental health services readily available and preventive work in schools, the home and care centres be strengthened. It also recommends that the number of child psychiatrists and psychologists be increased	No progress, except of the small increase of the number of the child psychiatrists
To expand the scope of the National Programme for Sexual and Reproductive Health (2013-2017) to provide comprehensive, age-appropriate education on sexual and reproductive health, including information on family planning and contraceptives, the dangers of early pregnancy and the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases	Not implemented
To ensure unimpeded access to sexual and reproductive health services, including confidential counselling and modern contraception, for adolescent girls and boys and make the conditions for abortion less restrictive; in relation to adolescent girls, reflect the right of the child to express her views	No progress
To address the incidence of drug use by children and adolescents by, inter alia, providing children and adolescents with accurate and objective information and life skills education on preventing substance — including tobacco and alcohol — abuse and develop accessible and youth-friendly drug dependence treatment and harm-reduction services	No progress

To consider holding targeted consultations with families and children, including those in vulnerable situations, particularly Roma families, and rights civil society organizations dealing with children's rights, with a view to strengthening the strategies and measures for reducing child poverty	Partial progress
To strengthen support to children living below the poverty line, in particular single-parent families, families with three or more children and families with children with disabilities, and ensure that social protection measures provide for the real costs of a decent living for the children, including expenses relating to their right to health, a nutritious diet, education, adequate housing and water and sanitation	No progress
To review its legislation, policies and programmes on housing in order to prevent and eliminate homelessness, taking into account the special needs of children, including Roma children, children with disabilities, their families and young people leaving alternative care	No progress
To strengthen its efforts to improve access to quality education in rural areas and in small towns, including access to preschool and secondary and higher education	Partial progress
To develop programmes with monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to reduce drop-out rates	Partial progress
To facilitate the participation and inclusion of Roma children in education at all levels — including preschool education — raise awareness of teachers and staff of psychological and pedagogical counselling centres about the history and culture of Roma people and ensure the use of non-verbal and culturally sensitive tests	Partial progress
To ensure the full enjoyment of the right to education by asylum-seeking children, regardless of their status, length of stay or residence, on equal footing with all other children in the country	Not implemented
To ensure that sufficient provisions are made to prevent unaccompanied asylum-seeking children from being placed in rooms with unrelated adults	Not implemented
To take all necessary legal and practical steps to ensure the timely appointment of guardians for unaccompanied and separated children	Partial progress
To avoid any form of detention of asylum seekers under the age of 18 years and families with	Partial progress

children, and consider all possible alternatives, including unconditional release, prior to detention. To that end, the Committee draws the State party's attention to UNHCR's Revised Guidelines on Applicable Criteria and Standards relating to the Detention of Asylum-Seekers of 26 February 1999	
To ensure that all asylum-seeking children are systematically provided with information on their rights and obligations, asylum procedures and available services. In this regard, consider amending relevant national legislation, including the Asylum and Refugees Act	Partial progress
To expand the scope of free legal assistance to all asylum-seeking and refugee children at all stages of the application for international protection by amending relevant legislation and providing financial support to non-governmental organizations that provide legal assistance to asylum-seeking and refugee children	In progress
To ensure full respect of the principle of non-refoulement and facilitate access to the asylum system for children in need of international protection, in line with articles 6, 22 and 37 of the Convention and the Committee's general comment No. 6 on treatment of unaccompanied and separated children outside their country of origin	Partial progress
To take all necessary measures to safeguard the principle of the family unity for refugees and their children, including by making administrative requirements for family unification more flexible and affordable	Partial progress
To develop campaigns to counter hate speech against asylum seekers and refugees	Not implemented
To effectively implement the National Integration Strategy for Individuals Granted International Protection in Bulgaria (2014-2020) with particular focus on the needs of children.	No progress
To conduct campaigns at all levels and in all provinces aimed at addressing the negative attitudes towards the Roma in society at large and take effective measures to prevent violence and hate speech against Roma	Not implemented
To assess the particular situation of Roma children and take measures to facilitate their access to social protection measures and social integration programmes, including by improving cultural	No progress

sensitivity of services provided and readjusting the scope of social programmes	
To ensure that children placed in specialized educational facilities have access to protection measures under the Child Protection Act	Partial progress
The Committee urges the State party to bring its Criminal Code into full compliance with articles 2 and 3 of the Optional Protocol and recommends that it step up its efforts to prevent trafficking in child and take preventive measures to address the sale of children, child prostitution and sex trafficking in Roma communities. In particular, urgent measures should be taken to combat the sale of children for adoption. The State party is requested to provide information in its next report on extraterritorial jurisdiction over all crimes provided for in the Optional Protocol	
<p>The Committee recommends that the State party, in order to further strengthen the fulfilment of children's rights, ratify the core human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party, namely:</p> <p>(a) The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;</p> <p>(b) The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.</p>	<p>No progress</p> <p>Fully implemented</p>

## MONITORING OF THE CHILD RIGHTS 2016-2020

### GRADES, REPORT CARD of NNC "WHAT IS THE AVERAGE GOVERNMENT SCORE FOR CHILDCARE?"

Grade, Report Card*				Average grade, previous reports								
			2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	
<b>Subject areas</b>												
<b>Child Welfare</b>				<b>2.50</b>	3.00	2.60	2.86	2.91	3.06	2.97	2.71	2.88
<b>Protection of Children from All Forms of Violence</b>				<b>2.50</b>	3.00	2.83						
<b>Early Childhood Development</b>				<b>3.00</b>	3.50	2.33						
<b>Child Health</b>				<b>3.00</b>	3.50	3.19	3.64	3.58	3.31	3.21	2.38	2.79
<b>Education</b>				<b>4.00</b>	4.00	3.02	3.44	3.45	3.62	3.11	3.00	2.68
<b>Family Environment and Alternative Care</b>				<b>3.00</b>	3.50	2.53	3.01	3.02	2.61	2.98	2.93	3.14
<b>Justice for Children</b>				<b>3.00</b>	2.50	2.79	3.05	3.45	3.30	2.90	3.44	3.56
<b>Child Participation</b>				<b>3.00</b>	3.50	2.83						
<b>Average grade</b>				<b>3.00</b>	3.31	2.88	3.20	3.28	3.20	3.00	2.90	3.00

\*Scale 2-6

#### Meanings of the scores

The scale for evaluating the topics covered in the report is from 2 to 6, including guidelines for evaluation with "half a unit" to help clearly define the progress and capture details.

The assessment is carried out according to the developed detailed guidelines for assessment during the definition of the problem, from considering the situation in the country with guaranteeing the rights of children and policies aimed at children and their families, through the decision to solve the problem by the state and its implementation, until the permanent elimination of the problem and achievement of a positive effect on children and families.

The scale is also synchronized with the survey "Report Card - how do children, parents and professionals assess the State."

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Report Card</b>	<b>Report card – how do children, parents and professionals assess the State?</b>
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Excellent 6	The state has implemented the activity, it has completed and the measures taken have proved to have an effect. There is a significant, positive, lasting and visible change in the lives of children and families in Bulgaria.	Everything necessary has been done, the rights / rights of all affected children are guaranteed and this is tangible for them.
Excellent 5.5	The state continues to implement activities that generate a positive effect on children and families.	
Very good 5	There is a commitment, a plan and concrete steps have been taken. There is an effect for a large part of the children to whom the activity is directed. The state has also involved other stakeholders in solving the problem.	The concrete promise and plan have been fulfilled to a great extent and their effect on the children is tangible; the rights of many of the children affected by the problem are guaranteed.
Very good 4.5	The state has the commitment, there is a plan according to which it has undertaken and partially implemented activities to solve the problem through a specific department. There are results for part of the group of children to which the activity is directed.	
<b>Good 4</b>	The state has declared political will to solve the problem and a plan for the implementation of the activity and work on it has been established, but there is still no result for the whole group of children to whom the activity is directed	There is a concrete promise, there is a plan for implementation, but few concrete steps have been taken that do not guarantee the rights of enough children.
<b>Good 3.5</b>	The state declares that it will work to solve the problem and is ready to develop a plan, but takes steps with fun, delay and do not have the necessary end result.	
Average 3	The state declares that it will work to solve the problem, minimal, sporadic and / or inconsistent steps have been taken, but there is no visible result (eg due to lack of competence of the leading state	There is a concrete promise and minimal steps have been taken, but there is no visible result for children / the result guarantees the rights of too few children.

	institution to manage the implementation).	
<b>Poor 2.5</b>	The state declares that it will work on solving the problem, but does not provide it with resources (financially and with human resources) and there is no real activity.	
<b>Poor 2</b>	<p>The state does not take action to solve the problem and does not recognize the recommendations for solving the problem (they are not on the agenda of the respective institution).</p> <p>There is a commitment, but the steps taken are in the wrong direction, nothing has been done or the work is not achieving the expected effect, but the state supports it.</p>	Nothing has been done to guarantee the rights (s) of children affected by the problem, or even actions that violate their rights.