

Association Gavroche Varna, Bulgaria



Association Gavroche

- **Is a non-governmental, non- profit organization established in 1994 by citizens of Varna concerned for the fate of the children left without care and home.**
Officially the association is registered in 1995.
- **Has The MISSION** Provision of complex of services for children and youths at risk in the town of Varna and the region.
- **develops** its services according to the needs of the community in Varna, in accordance with the Municipal strategies and Social program. We follow the laws and recommendations of the ministry of labor and social policy concerning the street children state.

Association GAVROCHE

The GOALS:

- Socialization and integration of children and youth at risk
- Prevention and intervention of child abuse
- Development of “Gavroche” as a model for prevention and work to give chance to new life.
- Dissemination of the results from the work with children and youth at risk and establishing alternative services.



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Services

Gavroche Association is registered in the Central Registrar of legal entities with non-profit goals for doing civil activities /Certificate № 3 from 31.01.2003 and owns licenses as follows:

- License № 0065 from 30.12.2004, issued by the State Agency for Protecting Children for social services with children: **Day centre, SHELTER, Crisis centre, Centre for social rehabilitation and integration, Social assistant, Centre for temporary accommodation.**
- Certificate for registration № 1884 with MLSP (Ministry of labor and social policy), “Social support” Agency for providing social services – **PROTECTED HOMES**
- License № 0185 from 28.09.2006 for social services with children: Home for temporary accommodation; Protected HOMES



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CENTER FOR TEMPORARY RESIDENCE

The Gavroche Shelter was established in 1997. Until today about 1300 children have stayed at the shelter at the age between 7 and 18.

Since January 2008 the shelter was transformed into center for temporary residence for children at risk.

The maximum period of residence is 3 months.

- Children are placed at the center by DCP (Department for child protection) until their problem is solved by sending the child back to their family, sending him/her to another institution or a foster family.
- At the home children receive medical, social and educational care, psychological consultations. The Gavroche Home is an institution with free daily routine.



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Day CARE Center

- physical survival,
- literacy by a short-term educational program for children who are completely illiterate,
- Art therapy
- professional and social integration of the children from the city of Varna
- preventive work in the Roma community
- preparation for independent life of youths over 16



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RESOURCE CENTER

In order to make up for the lack of enough information on violence issues in Varna and the region, we established a resource center “Gavroche” Home for promoting the methods, forms, institutions and organizations for protecting children from violence. “Gavroche” Resource Center gather information from numerous sources, so that it can provide resources concerning the problems of preventing violence of children. At the same time the “Gavroche” Resource center is going to be a focal point for students, social workers, psychologists and citizens who are interested.

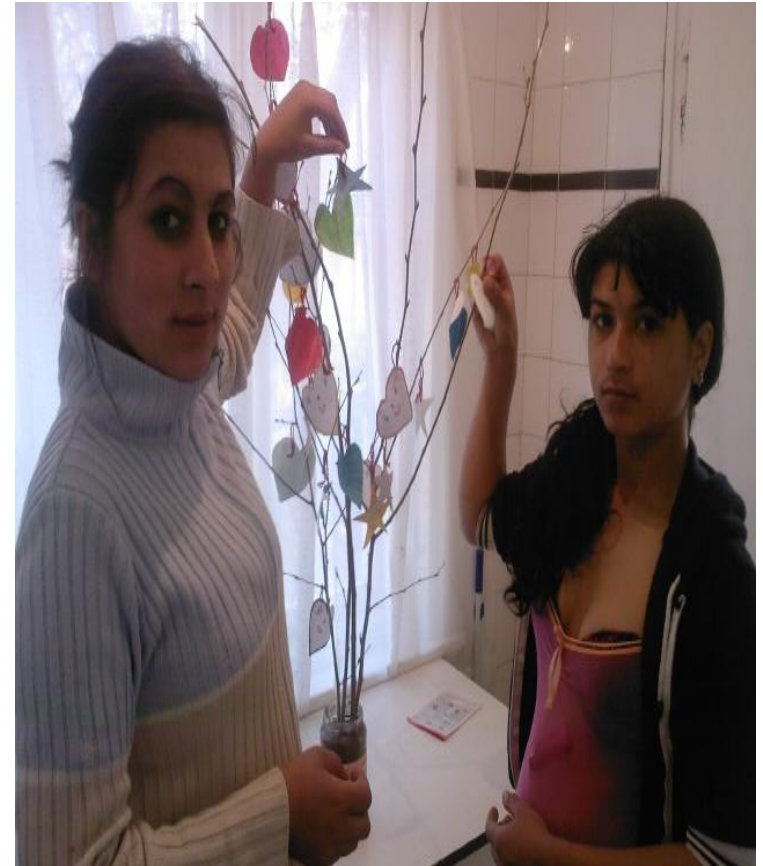
We organize school for young women aiming at making them familiar with their rights, sessions on protecting street children from abuse and sexual exploitation



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CRISIS Center for abused children

The crisis center GAVROCHE is established in service to victims of abuse at the age of 0-18 years. Social workers and specialist in different areas- law, psychotherapy, pedagogues provide assistance in regaining the secure and abuse less environment to live in – foster families, institutions for long-term care, healthier family conditions. The center does not work with drug abuse and mentally ill children.



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PROTECTED HOMES for young people, leaving institutions

This service is aimed at creating the necessary conditions and requirements by the "Gavroche" Association for socialization and integration of youths between over 18 years of age leaving specialized institutions in Varna through converting two flats into Sheltered homes.

The youths are made functionally literate to live an independent life and are helped to get involved in suitable qualification courses as well as to seek and find a suitable job through the model for social job center which is implemented by the "Gavroche" Association.

The team working at the Sheltered homes helps and trains the youths for long-term employment.

The maximum duration of stay at the homes is 1 year.



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National Youth CENTER GAVROSHOVCI

The center was established on May 2, 2007 and was situated in the Old Mountain, central Bulgaria, near to the old Capital of Bulgaria- Veliko Tarnovo

The center aims at providing rest and social reintegration for children and youths at risk.

It serves specialized institutions and non-governmental organizations from all over Bulgaria working with children and willing to have organized activities during vacation and leisure time.

The center provides lodging with 4 rooms and 15 beds, multifunctional hall to organize trainings sessions and presentations.

The center is been used so far for the needs of 2 NGOs, 5 trainings of national parameter, 6 summer camps.



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Activities

- work with street children;
- Provision of program for the socialization of street children – regular meetings
- preventive work with children threatened to remain on the street and their families;
- work with children who have been victims of sexual abuse;
- preventive work in Roma neighborhood;



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Activities

- mutual work with other NGOs, state and local authorities, medical specialists, teachers, lawyers, journalists;
- Publishing a Manual for prevention of child abuse
- direct work with the families of children and youths at risk;
- prevention against violence (physical, emotional, neglect and sexual) over children and youths;



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Activities

- implementing intervention regarding affected children and supporting their social integration;
- making popular the results of the work with street children aiming at encouraging the establishment of similar structures;
- Youth club for engaging in free time activities.



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Achieved outcomes so far

- Supported **1300 children at risk, who found shelter in "Gavroche"**.
- Helped **back to school 302 children**
- Supported **66 youths to find job**
- Provided vocational **training in tailoring to 40 young women.**
- We helped **184 children to be placed in institutions, and 512 children be back to their families.**
- We **LITERATED 120 children**
- We supported more than **500 families in Varna and the region.**
- We participate and work in **network with more than 30 NGOs in the country and abroad.**
- We **developed a network of volunteers – physicians, pedagogues, social workers, students- more than 70**
- We successfully develop as a **model for prevention and intervention work**
- We successfully **run the day care center.**
- Published **manual for** prevention of child abuse.
- Successfully **running Resource center**
- **TRAINING of trainers** in prevention of child abuse for students, pedagogues, councilors fro schools and kindergartens in northeastern Bulgaria.

Projects realized in the period 1996-2007

- „Children on the street“1996 PHARE LIEN2.
- “From children to children”1997.
- “Urgent help for children on the street” 1998 - “Help for charity in Bulgaria “Foundation.
- “Feeding children in day Center “Gavroche “ 1998 - “Help for charity in Bulgaria “ Foundation
- “Socialization of homeless children” 1999 “Open society “ Foundation6.
- “Socialization – street children” 2000
- “Help for charity in Bulgaria “Foundation.
- “Developing Gavroche Home, Varna as a model for prevention, support and a chance in life for street children” 1998-2000 - PHARE LIEN .
- “From children to children – integration of street children through sport and art” 2001 – 2002 - “Open society “Foundation.
- “Prevention of child neglect and social exclusion among Roma” 2001 – 2002.
- “Integration through education of vulnerable children” 2001 – 2002 - PHARE ACCESS
- “Prevention of sexual abuse on street children in Varna” 2002 – 2003 - OAK Switzerland
- “Social integration through education and enhanced future prospects for children in risk” 2003 British Embassy –Bulgaria
- Roma women for their rights “ 2003 – Canada
- CATCH “Creative approach to combat social exclusion”2004 Sweden
- Promotion of best practices in child protection in Northeastern Bulgaria| OAK foundation 2004-2007
- Secondary prevention of child abuse in the region of VARNA” Municipality of Varna, Department of youth and sports 2007
- New vision – social inclusion of young roma women “ Municipality of Varna, Department of youth and sports , 2007
- Chance for Gavroche residents” PHARE Deinstitutionalization”/MLSP 2007-2008

THANK YOU

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