



NEWS BULLETIN

“Gavroche” Association, Varna, 3 A “Voinishka” str., tel: 052/ 300 229 fax: 302 341 e_mail: gavroche@vega.bg, [http:// www.gavroche-bg.org](http://www.gavroche-bg.org)

RESOURCE CENTER “CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION”

Number 1, Year 1

November, 2005

Dear friends,

We are glad to announce that today, 3.11.2005 we are inaugurating the Resource center for preventing the child abuse. This bulletin will be published to inform you about the problems in child protection and child abuse. If you wish, you can have it on your Internet address or read it on Gavroche`s website.

We will be happy, if you could help us with the development of the center by sending us actual information about your organizations and the activities in the sphere of child abuse, and also to suggest interesting topics, we could write on.

Enjoy reading!

CONTENT:

Presentation of Gavroche Association.....	1
Project “To promote.....”.....	2
Resource center “Gavroche”.....	3
News.....	3
Summer with students in Gavroche.....	3

“GAVROCHE” Association

Gavroche Association is non-governmental, non-profit organization, established in 1994 from a group of citizens , worried about the destiny of the homeless little vagrants in Varna.

Gavroche Association gives complex social services to the children and juveniles in risk in Varna and the region.

Gavroche Association is registered in the Central register of the jurists with non commercial target for socially useful activities./Certificate № 3/31.01.2003/and we are in possession of a License for social services, projected by The State Agency of Child Protection.

Goals:

- Socialization and integration in the society of children and juveniles in risk
- Prevention of violence and homelessness of children and juveniles in risk

- Development of Gavroche as a model of prevention, support and a second chance for the homeless children
- Dissemination of the results from working with homeless children aiming to stimulate the good energy of the society

Activity:

- Working with homeless children
- Providing day and night services for children from 5 to 16 years old, who drop on the street
- Educative programs and vocational training – for homeless children
- Work for permanent settlement of children – program for cooperation with parents aiming to return them at home.
- Program for socialization of children on the street – meeting with students from the schools at regular intervals
- Preventive sessions with children in risk who are about to drop from school on the street
- Work with juveniles – boys and girls over 16 years – development of skills for independent living and supporting them thus providing professional qualification, dwell and work.
- Work with victims of sexual violence
- Work on the street with children, using volatiles. .
- Social work in the Roma districts
- Training in social work for homeless children on the street, working with their families and their families in the Roma society
- Co-operation with other NGO-s, state and local authorities, medical experts, teachers, jurists, journalists.
- Public campaign for protecting the homeless children`s rights. This activity includes printing and publishing brochures and written materials, related to the condition, problems and children`s rights, media appearances, public expressions, exhibitions, concerts aiming to demonstrate the abilities, skills and contributions of these children
- Direct work with children and juveniles in risk, aiming their integration and re-socialization in the society

- Direct work with the families of children in risk
- Setting up educational programs with children and juveniles in risk
- Functional training of children and juveniles in risk
- Protecting children`s and women`s rights
- Prevention from violence /physical, emotional, sexual abuse and neglect/of children and juveniles.
- Developing Manual for Child protection
- Developing Gavroche as a model of prevention, support and chance for the homeless children
- Disseminating the results of working with homeless children, aiming to stimulate building up similar structures, carrying for them
- Developing Gavroche as a center of excellence.
- Successful development of Gavroche as a social enterprise – production and decoration with glass, porcelain and wooden souvenirs.



Projects:

- 1.“Children on the street”1996 PHARE LIEN
- 2.”From children to children”1997
- 3.“Urgent help for children on the street” 1998 - “Help for charity in Bulgaria “Foundation
- 4.“Feeding children in day Center “Gavroche “ 1998 - “Help for charity in Bulgaria “ Foundation
- 5.“Socialization of homeless children” 1999 “Open society “ Foundation
- 6.“Socialization – street children” 2000 “Help for charity in Bulgaria ”Foundation
- 7.“Developing Gavroche Home, Varna as a model for prevention, support and a chance in life for street children” 1998-2000 - PHARE LIEN
- 8 .“From children to children – integration of street children through sport and art” 2001 – 2002 - “Open society “Foundation
- 9.“Prevention of child neglect and social exclusion among Roma” 2001 – 2002

- 10.“Integration through education of vulnerable children” 2001 – 2002 - PHARE ACCESS
- “Prevention of sexual abuse on street children in Varna” 2002 – 2003 - OAK Switzerland
- 11.“Social integration through education and enhanced future prospects for children in risk” 2003 British Embassy –Bulgaria
- 12.“Roma women for their rights “ 2003 – Canada
- 13.CATCH “Creative approach to combat social exclusion”2004 Sweden
OAK

The Child Protection is an undeveloped theme in Bulgaria. Gavroche has long experience of the problems caused by a lack of policy and the absence of a clear understanding of how best to provide protection for children. We have been working since 1989 with children make vulnerable to a range of problems because of poverty and a lack of understanding of how best to respond. This project reflects this, and the lessons learned from a recent two-year piece of work designed to protect children from violence in Varna. An essential problem is the lack of coordination between the responsible authorities in all the sectors – social policy (state), social protection (local authority, police, social services etc), NGOs and wider civil society. The “joint action” of the institutions is something that rarely happens which is the main reason for the increasing number of victims of child abuse. Meanwhile, the universities do not give good enough preparation for recognizing and working with sexual abuse. Lots of researches have been done among children that proved the fact that the abuse problems are not a matter of understanding and researching neither in the family nor at school. That` why the main priority of the current project is increasing the general knowledge about the problem, the types of abuse and mostly the sexual abuse, among the children and also among the students, experts and citizens.

Specific goals of the project:

- To develop a Child Protection (CP) training manual for schools, kindergartens and other state institutions;
- To develop the CP capacity of teachers and other child care professionals;
- To improve the CP training of social work students, pedagogic students, psychology students at Varna Free University and the Shumen University “Kosntantin Preslavski”;
- To promote the use by Varna Municipality of multi-disciplinary CP committees;
- To strengthen CP within the family;
- To develop Gavroche as a center of excellence for the promotion of CP in N.E. Bulgaria;

So far, “Gavroche” association has made serious steps to implementing these goals. The Manual for training in C. P. is already written and is expecting its approval from the Ministry of Education and Science, several

educational trainings have been done so far with students and working experts, lots of work in the Roma families have been done also to promote the child protection. Gavroche association is also very successful in working with the Multi-disciplinary Committees and teams.

Every concrete case needs active participation and assistance from the police inspectors, responsible for the children, Child Protection Department and other institutions. We have managed to establish successful net-working with different NGO-s, including Roma NGO-s.

Resource center “Gavroche”

The Gavroche is already turning into a center for Promoting the Child Protection. The inauguration of the Center is an important step to a wider and more massive informing the society about the problems of the abuse. The general idea in making the center is to collect a data base that would be enriched and would support the dissemination of the best practices and models for abuse prevention as the special stress is on the sexual abuse and its consequences of it. The use of the Resource center will be done in the place of Gavroche and also can be reached by Internet. The use of the Resource center will be assisted by the working experts from Gavroche.

The center is addressed to all the people who are interested in the abuse issues and the preventive practices and models for protecting the children - teachers, psychologists, social workers, students, citizens.

The opening of the Resource center initiates the beginning of this bulletin. We plan to start disseminating current and actual information among large number of people and institutions. The bulletin will be released in the web-site of Gavroche.

News

An education with 16 teachers and psychologists from the schools in Varna has just started. It is a part of the current project, gavroche is working on. It is held in the business hotel of Varna and is lead by Penka Stoyanova – Executive director of Gavroche and Project Coordinator.



The training is combined with visits the sessions held by the social workers in Gavroche and are the essential part of the CP Manual.

Summer with studentst from England

The summer of 2005 was one of the best summers for the children in “Gavroche”. It was full of emotions and nice experiences. From July 4 to September 26, the guests of the Center were 24 boys and girls from England – students in two of the most prestigious English universities – Oxford and Birmingham.



The students were sent by the volunteers organizations OXAB and ICAB. By their intersession “ Gavroche” is becoming more and more popular every year and the number of students from England, willing to come to Bulgaria is increasing every year. Dom “Gavroche” traditionally is the most attractive destination for those who would like to help the homeless children and this year the interest in us is more than serious.

Every day, during two weeks time (as the maximum duration of the groups staying was), the girls and boys painted the children’s days in colours and emotions. They successfully alternated nice walks nearby the beach, contests in beach volleyball, sport events, freezby matches with a day, spent in Aquapolice waterpark and tasty lunches at Mc. Donalds.

The children took the students to their favorite places in Varna region – the beautiful white town Balchik with the gorgeous Botanic garden, the place Shkorpilovtsi with its warm beaches and cold forests, the Rocky monastery Aladzha, the magical spring nearby Devnya, the Stone forest.

At the end, the children embraced their new friends saying “Good bye” in English, captivated forever by the melody of the language. All the students promised to be back again and the children are already counting the days in the calendar till the next summer.



This bulletin is written and printed by the
Resource center “Gavroche”

Address: 9002 Varna

Tel/fax: 052/ 302 341

Tel: 052/ 300 229

e-mail: gavroche@vega.bg

web-site: www.gavroche-bg.org

Contacts: Gergana Encheva, Rossitsa Dimova