

Conception strategy in Kosovo – GROUP 4

REDUCING VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS

1. Topic of the strategy

Formulate and describe the topic of your strategy regarding gender mainstreaming in Kosovo (e.g. equal pay, equal parental leave, protection against gender-based violence, equal property rights, and so on...)

The topic of the conception strategy is based on the situation encountered in several cases regarding the violence and bullying of teachers against young people. Such issue has an influence on the upbringing and education of kids, on mental well-being of the students and enables rape culture to spread in the academic as well as public space. The aim of this strategy is to have the issue to be minimized as much as possible so as to contribute to a healthier, stronger and more understanding society.

This conception strategy focuses on the cases of physical violence conducted by the educators against children in the kindergartens, as such cases affect the child's mental development and can lead to undesirable effects in the adulthood.

Furthermore, this strategy shall also cover cases of sexual violence and psychological violence in the University of Pristina, specifically the case of Prof. Bekim Bejta.

2. Current situation

Describe the current situation relevant to your chosen topic in Kosovo. What issues does the society face concretely?

The case of the physical attack by a teacher against a child was news that shocked the whole society, and that is why this strategy aims to minimize such cases because they are unacceptable in modern human society. Therefore, the competent authorities should deal with this case and condemn it with further provisions for the victims of such behavior.

The professor of the University of Prishtina, Faculty of Philology, Bekim Bejta, was initially suspended after the allegations of sexual and psychological violence towards students. Later he resigned on his own initiative. There were no punitive measures taken against him, which should not be acceptable.

According to the laws of Kosovo, every action that involves violence is condemned, even more so when we are dealing with sexual and psychological violence. However in this case, the perpetrator in question has not received any specific punishment for his action against the students. This is an issue that the society should deal with, as the victims as

well as the perpetrators should be aware of the consequences following the undesirable action which is sexual and psychological violence.

3. Objective of the strategy

Formulate the objective of the strategy. What do you want to achieve? Is awareness-raising your goal, or do you want to use international human rights mechanisms to push through a change? Identify the obstacles on your way to achieving your goal.

- I. Increasing the number of psychologists in kindergartens, schools and universities;
- II. Provision of first aid by the ambulance (to be possible in the respective institutions);
- III. Awareness campaign for the benefits we receive from psychologists;
- IV. Encouraging youngsters to speak out for any injustice against them;
- V. Distribution of handbooks in schools for the prevention of violence;
- VI. Encouraging the elaboration of the handbook by parents towards children;
- VII. Punishment in any case of violence under any conditions

4. Means to acquire your goal

What is the action plan? What steps do you see as necessary to reach what you have set out in the previous question? Design your campaign.

I./II. School psychologists have a significant impact on the school's environment and the well-being of students; such as covering the emotional and mental needs of students. Kosovo regulates with law that "every school has to have a psychologist", however the enforcement of said rule is not effective as of now. To have the assistance available in every school is a crucial step to be undertaken with this strategy. Early medical care is also crucial, as should the victim come report the case immediately, there should be no barrier for the victim to cross.

III. The society is generally prejudiced and still does not distinguish the role between the psychologist and the psychiatrist as well as the mental health issues. Based on this the awareness sessions will be held in which we shall raise awareness about the differences between psychologists and psychiatrist and generally the importance of mental health.

IV. It's very important to let the youngsters to know and be aware of where and how they can address the irregularities they encounter, because when youngsters are self-aware of their rights, they will become more successful in claiming the rights and speaking up for themselves.

V./VI. The handbooks should include what violence is, how to avoid it and where to go if you feel or you are being treated unfairly. The handbooks will be graphic- and language-wise appropriated to the age of the target group, so as to catch the attention as well as to be understandable. We shall also run a campaign with the Ministry of Education to encourage parents to elaborate the handbooks to their children.