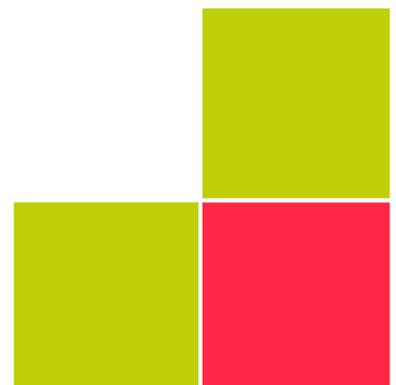


**Alternative report on the implementation
of the *Optional Protocol to the Convention
on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children,
child prostitution and child pornography*
(OPSC) in the Slovak Republic**

Bratislava, May 2012

Prepared by the Coalition for Children - a coalition of NGO-s dealing with issues children
and young people in Slovakia - under the supervision Children of Slovakia Foundation






CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. AWARENESS ABOUT OPSC	4
3. VULNERABLE GROUPS OF CHILDREN.....	5
4. LEGISLATION.....	6
5. MONITORING.....	7
6. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	8
7. EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE	9
7.1. Preventive educational activities	9
7.2. Helplines for children, young people and parents.....	10
7.3 Tools to protect children on the internet	11
7.4 Examples of good practice	11
8. CASUISTRY - SELECTION FROM INFORMATION AVAILABLE.....	13
9. RECOMMENDATIONS	15



1. INTRODUCTION

The preparation of the *Alternative report on the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC)* was an impulse for creating the Coalition for Children – a coalition of non-governmental organisations (NGO) which have been long dedicated to working with children and young people in Slovakia; in other words, organisations that have long been dealing with issues related to children and young people up to 26 years of age, including marginalised groups and refugees. The founding members of the Coalition are as follows: (i) the Children of Slovakia Foundation, the largest independent foundation focused on working with children and young people up to 26 years of age; (ii) Civil Society Organisation (CSO) Náruč (Open Arms) – Helping Children in Crisis, an association which assists abused and abandoned children, abused women and families at risk of domestic violence; (iii) Open Society Foundation (OSF) which has long been supporting children and youth, mainly in the fields of education, health and human rights; (iv) Slovak Committee for UNICEF – an organisation promoting children’s rights in Slovakia, which prepared both previous reports on the implementation of the Convention for the UN Committee in the SR; (v) Slovak Humanitarian Council – a national volunteer centre of NGOs, which is focused on working with socially disadvantaged and physically or mentally challenged people, and also on issues related to refugees; (vi) International Organisation for Migration (IOM) which is focused on issues such as assisted voluntary return, human trafficking prevention, helping trafficked persons and integration of migrants; (vii) Úsmev ako dar (Smile as a Gift) – the oldest and largest volunteer organisation for supporting children from foster homes; (viii) Návrat (Return) – an organisation focused on child advocacy as well as on counselling, educational and therapeutic services for families at risk and in the field of substitute family care; CSO Odysseus – an organisation providing low-threshold services to drug users, street sex workers and young people; CSO Prima – an organisation with an aim to help in solving the problem of drug abuse; (ix) Človek v tísní o.p.s. (People in Need) – branch Slovakia – an organisation with a goal to eliminate poverty as well as to help the complex incorporation of socially excluded Roma localities.

The purpose of the Coalition is to become a platform of non-governmental organisations in the fields of children’s rights and needs of the children in Slovakia. In addition, the Coalition shall monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to the most current reports as well as to prepare the alternative report on the implementation of the recommendations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Slovakia in 2013.

We have had a limited time of one month for the preparation of this report; therefore, its content does not provide complex and complete information on the state of the OPSC implementation in Slovakia. When preparing the report, we have addressed tens of NGOs working with children and youth. Altogether, 22 NGOs working with children and youth in Slovakia have contributed to the preparation of this report.

For the purpose of the report, we closely cooperated with Ms Alexandra Malangone, member of the European Commissions’ monitoring committee GRETA and with Mr Peter Guráň, member of both the UN Committee for the Rights of the Child and the Board of Directors of the Children of Slovakia Foundation.

We would like to express our cordial thanks to all who have made their contribution to this work.
Coalition for Children



2. AWARENESS ABOUT OPSC

Public awareness of the existence of the OPSC in Slovakia shall be considered more or less insufficient. On the contrary, the knowledge of experts (professionals working with children concerned) about the OPSC has been increasing, mainly among NGO employees and experts cooperating with them, but also among the police. The experience of NGOs indicates a willingness of public administration (state authorities and self-government), mainly police and social guardianship authorities, to cooperate in solving cases related to the content of the OPSC.

According to our information, the MVOs have not been invited into cooperation on the preparation of the latest state report on the OPSC implementation.



3. VULNERABLE GROUPS OF CHILDREN

The group of children which are most at risk of trafficking, prostitution and pornography are those from foster homes, re-education homes, special boarding schools and socially weak communities, mainly Roma and unaccompanied minors (UMs) who come illegally to the SR.

According to unofficial findings, the most endangered group consists mainly of children from predominantly Roma settlements and young people leaving the foster care system. The latter ones are neither given an adequate support when leaving foster homes nor are they sufficiently monitored.

Today, mainly children from the Roma ethnic group are at the greatest risk of prostitution. Sexual activity of minors (under age 15) is more frequent in this ethnic group than in the mainstream population. Prostitution of children often happens to be a significant source of income for the family and, therefore, it is very hard to be revealed. "Borrowing" children between families in exchange for food or other advantages can be considered a specific case of prostitution. An interesting fact is that the mainstream population considers it more or less natural that minor Roma girls are sexually active, i.e. their exploitation is not perceived as sexual abuse of children, which also adds to the general difficulties with identifying these child victims.

In the last few years, the amount of victims of sexual exploitation in virtual world has grown to alarming numbers. Mainstream children or young people who normally had a significantly lower chance of becoming victims of this type of violence are easily, without being monitored or controlled, getting among the groups at risk. Distressing is the estimated number of direct offers of financial or other types of compensation (most often topping up mobile phone credits, new telephone, shopping) given to children and youth for sexual services (photographs, videos, meetings) as well as the number of offers accepted by the victims themselves.

UMs, captured or found in Slovakia, can also be considered a group at high risk. When found, these minors are placed in a specialized foster home. As a general rule, they run away from this facility, while the reasons are officially unknown. It can be assumed that these persons are victims of trafficking which takes place both during their travel from the country of their origin and after their escape from the facility. The experience of the NGOs indicate that leaving the country of their origin is very expensive (illegal in general and with the help of people smugglers) and the costs are paid in various ways.





4. LEGISLATION

Not one of the OPSC topics is covered by a separate act in Slovak legislation. The entire content of the OPSC is covered by the Criminal Code, Act No. 300/2005 Coll., containing individual provisions to each particular topic. To certain extent, these themes are also included in Act No. 305/2005 Coll. on social-legal protection of children and social guardianship.

Since the ratification of the Council of Europe Anti-Trafficking Convention in 2005, Slovakia has taken significant measures to combat Trafficking in Human Beings (THB). An Expert Group for the Area of the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings has been set up since 2006 under the Ministry of the Interior. A multidisciplinary entity, this group is chaired by the National Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and includes representatives of all relevant national actors and NGOs. Three National Action Plans have been adopted since 2006. Further, legislative provisions concerning THB have been introduced in the Criminal Code, and the Ministry of the Interior has adopted regulations concerning the provision of protection and assistance to victims of trafficking.¹

Among the most serious problems occurring in the implementation of the existing legislation is the low capacity of the professionals from state executive authorities and jurisdiction to identify the child victim of this kind of violence. Consequently, this child is then often placed in an inappropriate facility where instead of addressing his/her traumas, secondary symptoms of the violent act committed against him/her are being tackled. The judicial practice in particular is such that adult psychologists are frequently called to children's cases and they, unlike child psychologists, are not able to identify fully the symptoms of violence committed against these children.

Measures, which do not reflect the needs of practice, usually stand as a problem in following the OPSC rules as well. For example those that do not allow the child victims of violence, defined in the OPSC, come to crisis centres when they are under the influence of drugs or alcohol. However, the practice shows that it is these children and youth who are the most frequent victims of this violence.

Also, conditions for implementing the UNICEF Guidelines on Protection of Child Victims of Trafficking are not favourable. The number of identified child victims of trafficking is very low (according to available data, 2 – 10 per year). This fact could serve as a good reason for not providing help to such victims in specialized facilities (which, for instance, exist for adult victims of trafficking). Child victims are given assistance in selected facilities which carry out the measures of social-legal protection of children. These facilities, however, primarily serve to help different target groups of children, thus not having sufficient capacity and technical equipment to meet all the requirements of the UNICEF Guidelines on Protection of Child Victims of Trafficking.

¹ Country report Slovakia - Assisting and reintegrating children victims of trafficking, People in Need, Slovakia, 2011



5. MONITORING

No public administration authority or institution is bound to carry out systematic monitoring of the OPSC-related issues. Monitoring of individual types of violence is sporadically completed, particularly by state research institutions (Slovak Academy of Science, Academy of the Police Force, Research Institute of Child Psychology and Pathopsychology, and the like), occasionally by NGOs, mainly as part of international cooperation. Some research projects, ordered by private companies, have been carried out in the field of internet threat to children and young people.

The problem of monitoring child prostitution lies in the fact that sex services have not been legalized; therefore, exact records of the providers, particularly off-street (e.g. escort service), do not exist. In addition, NGOs doing streetwork have no chance to get among off-street sex service providers.

There is a lack of statistical data about the victims of violence defined in the OPSC, which is also related to the earlier mentioned insufficient ability of experts to identify such a child victim.



6. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

International cooperation on issues tackled by the OPSC exists in the fields of monitoring, preventive programs and solving problems related to unaccompanied minors, sale of children or blocking inappropriate content on the internet. Participants include public administration representatives, state executive authorities and institutions and NGOs.

Institute for Research in Social Communication of Slovak Academy of Science is a member of the EU Health Programme – Youth sexual coercion and violence as a threat to young people's sexual health in Europe – knowledge and intervention.

Research Institute of Child Psychology and Pathopsychology cooperates on the EU project, EU Kids Online, which focuses on studying the behaviour of children when using the internet and social networks on international level. The outcomes of this research are used in NGO activities aimed at protecting children in Slovakia.

The web link stopline.sk for reporting illegal content on the internet, even from abroad, is a member of the European network of these web links – INHOPE.

Child Protection Helpline is a member of Child Helpline International.

Helpline for Lost and Abused Children is a member of Missing Children Europe – the European Federation for Missing and Sexually Exploited Children.

Mr Peter Guráň, a member of the UN Committee for the Rights of the Child and Ms Alexandra Malangone, a member of the European Commissions' monitoring committee GRETA, dealing with human trafficking, are both actively involved mainly in educational and monitoring activities related to OPSC issues in Slovakia.



7. EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

7.1. Preventive educational activities

The greatest number of good practice examples can be found in the field of preventive educational activities, mainly thanks to the work of NGOs. Today, most attention in Slovakia is given to informing and educating public, particularly children and young people, teachers and parents about the risks of using the internet and social networks, including the issues defined in the OPSC.

The European Commission's Programme – *Safer Internet* – and private companies, particularly all three mobile operators but also other internet service providers, are the main financial source for these activities. A small part of them is funded by the State.

Educational activities on the topic of virtual networks risks are mainly carried out in the form of workshops with psychologists, experts in the field concerned or cartoon series *ovce.sk*. In Slovakia, we have been joining the Safer Internet Day for a couple of years. To this occasion, the book *Deti v sieti* (Children in Net), dealing with the topic of internet threats, was published. Currently, the most comprehensive project in the field of protection of children against inappropriate content on the internet in Slovakia is implemented by an NGO, in cooperation with state administration authorities and UNICEF.

Since 2009, the Media Education program has been part of the complementary education of teaching staff, thus including this topic in the educational process at schools. The first project – Media Education and Protection against Inappropriate Content on the Internet – was started in 2010. It was formed as a part of informal education of both teachers and non-teaching staff, and it is funded by a private donor and implemented by NGOs. Via this project, the protection of children against inappropriate content in the virtual world has become a part of free-time activities of children, too.

The increase of public awareness about the threats of the internet to children and the possibilities of their protection has also been contributed by mobile operators and internet service providers – they place information on their web pages. In total, an estimated number of 50 thousand children and young people have so far been a part of various types of information activities. The methodology and curriculum of Media Education have been implemented in 35 schools and non-governmental organisations. This year, another 27 teachers have taken part in the course on media education as a school subject.

Regarding other OPSC issues, preventive information activities are carried out mainly as part of streetwork, helpline services and the work of low-threshold and crisis centres. Further, these activities are part of the work in social care institutions, foster homes and other facilities for the target group of children and young people at risk. They are implemented mainly by NGOs.

The currently running campaign of the Ministry of the Interior of the SR (MISR) “Do you know what your child is doing at the moment?” is focused on the risks present in children's lives, mainly consumption of alcohol and drugs by young people and human trafficking.

Specialized education in various fields of the OPSC issues, including the threats of the internet, is provided to police employees, social workers, judges and health care personnel. This education is mainly organized by NGOs. A positive moment is that education of professionals who are or could come in touch with child victims of trafficking has started.



7.2. Helplines for children, young people and parents

The helplines in Slovakia function via telephone but also e-mail or chat, although psychologists encourage the clients to make use of direct online discussion (telephone, skype call) which can better reveal the emotions of the person calling. The helplines are used not only by children victims of the violence defined in the OPSC, but also by children or adults who seek information.

The general helplines primarily serve to help solve some of the common problems of children, such as relationships in family, school, etc. The helplines are run by NGOs, with child psychologists doing the counselling. The problems discussed include the ones defined in the OPSC, increasingly involving the threats resulting from using the internet and social networks. In case a child is under immediate danger, the psychologists contact the police or social guardianship authorities. In addition to general helplines, there are also those that specialize in dealing with a certain kind of violence.

Existing helplines:

Specialized

- a) National helpline for helping the victims of human trafficking (0800 800 818). Since 2008, this helpline has been run by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), funded by the Ministry of the Interior of the SR and supported by Telekom (a telecommunication company). The helpline is a free telephone line which operates on working days from 9 am to 5 pm. Outside of working hours, answering machine is at disposal: when necessary, the persons calling can leave their telephone number and the operators subsequently contact them back. The purpose of the helpline is to provide help and information to persons which might have found themselves in a situation at risk of human trafficking. The helpline arranges for contacts with an organisation or institution, which in these cases can provide the promptest and most effective help, or these persons are offered to use the services of the IOM's Return and Reintegration Programme for trafficked people. Furthermore, the helpline services are focused on prevention and elimination of dangers linked with working abroad, notifying the calling people of human trafficking risks. So the helpline also serves as a prevention tool helping to avoid the threats connected with labour migration and unsheltered work of vulnerable groups of people.
- b) The International 24-Hour Hotline for missing and sexually exploited children (116 000) is operated by the Children's Safety Line of the Slovak Committee for UNICEF.
- c) Helpline pomoc.sk – safe internet is a combined portal which focuses on dealing with threats to children in the virtual world, including topics defined in the OPSC. It combines the UNICEF Children's Safety Line (116 111), live-chat pomoc.sk, e-mail line potrebujem@pomoc, Stopline.sk as well as other information.

General

- d) UNICEF Children's Safety Line (116 111) provides a free 24-hour anonymous telephone assistance for children and youth but also for adults who call because of facing a child-related problem. It covers the problems connected with the virtual world as well – internet and social networks, including the issues defined in the OPSC. It provides both preventive care and actual



assistance. It is the most widely used helpline in the SR, which has already been functioning for 16 years, recording at least 15 thousand calls a year. Its activities include preventive and training programmes for professionals working with children, for parents as well as children. Furthermore, they operate a medical treatment crisis centre and a social-legal counselling office. Help in virtual world is also available via livechatpomoc.sk and e-mail address: potrebujem@pomoc.sk.

- e) Children's Trust (0800 11 78 78) is a free nationwide helpline accessible on working days from 3 pm to 9 pm. It also provides counselling via e-mail (odkazy@linkadeti.sk) and Skype. This helpline is operated by the Children's University Hospital, Košice, which cooperates on this project with the CSO Children's Friends Society – Li(e)nka. The helpline assists in helping solve problems of children and youth, including those related to the use of the internet and social networks and those defined in the OPSC. It received 3.658 calls in 2011, out of which 1.990 were concerning various problems with using the internet and social networks, including those defined in the OPSC. If necessary, the helpline employees can arrange for help, including emergency assistance, in cooperation with the police or social guardianship authorities.
- f) Children's Rescue Helpline (0800 12 12 12) is a free helpline providing assistance to children and young people facing a variety of problems, including those defined in the OPSC. It is accessible on working days from 3 pm to 8 pm. It also provides counselling via e-mail (dlz@centrumslniecko.sk). The helpline functions under the NGO – Centrum Slniečko, n.o., Nitra. The employees of the Children's Rescue Line do not meet with children in person but they can arrange for help or provide contacts to various institutions which can assist the clients calling.

7.3 Tools to protect children on the internet

Each mobile network operator providing access to the internet and social networks also ensures blocking of web pages with prohibited content as well as offers software tools for parental protection of children on the internet.

Another tool to protect children is a web link Stopline.sk, a part of the Safer Internet project, which should be able to block inappropriate content on the internet, in cooperation with the police, within 48 hours of reporting. The link was created in cooperation with the NGO eSlovensko and the Ministry of the Interior of the SR (MISR) with a goal to prevent propagation of child prostitution, pornography and sales of children on the internet. Since its founding in 2010, about 500 cases of inappropriate content disclosure on the internet – specifically child pornography – have been reported.

7.4 Examples of good practice

An example of good practice is the treatment of unaccompanied minors (UMs). The UMs are, after found in the territory of the SR, placed in a special foster home where they receive continual social-legal protection and social guardianship. In case medical testing cannot prove whether the person is minor or major, pursuant to the act on aliens, he/she is considered minor. This provision of law allows





applying an increased care to persons until it is clear if they are still in the minor category. However, NGOs indicate that a unified system for determining the age of people does not exist, thus causing frequent problems in practice in terms of exercising the legal rights of these people. According to the Centre of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, the foster home in Topoľčany has been allocated for placing UMs. The employees of this foster home received single training in the field of working with victims of human trafficking. So far, not one such case has been identified, while UMs frequently run away from this institution and the reasons of their escape are not officially known.

A joint police action Icarus against distribution of child pornography was carried out at the end of 2011 in 22 European countries, including Slovakia. According to accessible information, Slovak Police organized a crackdown against online child sex abuse file-sharing networks. 13 house searches and 2 searches of other premises were completed within Slovakia. The police got hold of more than 800 CDs, more than 1,300 DVDs, photography films and video cassettes. Furthermore, they seized more than 30 computers, various computer technology and cameras. According to public accessible information, the Slovak Police managed to reveal 84 cases of child pornography by October 2011, which is a 190% increase when compared with the similar time period in 2010 (29).



8. CASUISTRY - SELECTION FROM INFORMATION AVAILABLE

- *Lenka (age 12) was recruited by a family acquaintance to the Czech Republic, reportedly to take care of his little children. She was transported there against her will and medicated. Upon arrival, she was isolated and received minimal care (food, accommodation, clothing...). She was restrained from contacting her family. Using violence and threats, she was sexually abused and forced into prostitution.*

After 4 years of this life Lenka got back to Slovakia, reportedly with the help of a client. Upon return, she had problems with school attendance and her behaviour was judged disordered; therefore, she was placed in the youth diagnostic centre. Here she confided to the employees about her own experience; however, nobody believed her and she was accused of lying. After going through some routine procedures, she was transferred to a juvenile detention centre. So, instead of receiving adequate therapeutic care, she became a subject of secondary victimization – she was treated not as a victim but as a delinquent.

Lenka was later incidentally identified as a victim of human trafficking thanks to her participation on a presentation given on this topic in the retention centre. After the presentation, she herself addressed the presenter with words: “Ma’am, you spoke about me”. The fear of being condemned made it hard for Lenka to speak about her experience but in the presence of a trustworthy person the need of sharing her traumatic experience got manifested. She confided in the presenter, mainly because she felt this woman was understanding and knowledgeable about the topic. Thanks to identifying Lenka as a child victim of human trafficking, she was eventually moved from the detention centre to a foster home with a recommendation to receive special care and assistance.

Lenka’s case served as an impulse for the authorities in charge (MI SR) to organize training courses focused on the identification of child victims of trafficking and special help they require. The employees of diagnostic centres for children and youth were the target group of this training.

- *In 2006, the German television SAT 1 broadcasted a special report on the sale of children from Slovakia. Minor Roma girls from Lučenec, Košice and Banská Bystrica were sold for sex by family members or friends. According to articles and blogs, the police were not interested in informing public about the given case.*
- *In November 2008, an article on the prostitution of children and youth in the town of Trebišov (eastern Slovakia) appeared on the SME (daily newspaper) blog: “There are places in our town where you can see girls of darker skin hanging around, offering their body. They can be found at four – five locations near the Roma settlement (it is an integral part of the town of Trebišov)... Little girls (in some cases children under the age of 15 years) are standing in the street or sitting on grass, in winter in bust stop shelters, and they are offering their services for truly low prices. For ridiculous 200 SK (about 7€) they will do anything. Some of them only for food.” According to the author, it is very problematic to solve this situation. The girls are offered for sexual services by their own families and nobody wants to change the given situation. They also refuse any help from CSOs. The policemen are “helpless” because the customers will not admit anything, the girls are silent and someone notifying of the situation could end up accused of libel by the girls’ relatives.*
- *On the Children’s Trust Hotline in Košice, the counsellors have encountered the problem of commercial sexual exploitation of children in the form of conversation on this topic, i.e. providing information, thus responding to child’s curiosity. For example, a Roma girl said*



that a man offered her playing in a porno film and her father consented. In a more detailed discussion, however, it appeared that the girl was only interested in the opinion to this kind of an issue. The counsellors have also met with a case of virtual sexual abuse; the parents then handled the problem according to the advice from the Hotline counsellors. Other kinds of problems defined in the OPSC have not yet been communicated by children.

- *The following appeared in the questionnaire given to a Slovak school which implemented a project funded by the Children of Slovakia Foundation: “When it comes to child prostitution, there is prostitution in our town but nobody speaks about it and it is hard to prove it. Roma girls of age 15 – 18 years are involved. I have also encountered sexual abuse (probably benevolent, not forced) – it was a 12-year girl with previous sexual experience. The case of a 14-year old boy, exploited by adult men, was investigated by the police. In this case, we were asked to provide a report on the behaviour of this pupil to the police.”*
- *The Re-socialization Centre Adam, founded by the NGO Adam, Bratislava, encountered in their practice one case of prostitution over the last few years. It was a minor boy who was placed into the centre based on a court decision. This boy had been prostituting with a goal to acquire money to buy toxic substances, or he was prostituting in a direct exchange for these substances. The NGO participated in solving the consequences of this case; the boy went through a complex re-socialisation program in the Centre. This program tackles problems related to prostitution, too.*
- *Results of a survey completed by the Research Institute of Child Psychology and Pathopsychology, in cooperation with the CSO eSlovensko, concerning behaviour of children and adults in the virtual world in 2011 show that 37% of girls and 22% of boys have had experience with sexual innuendos and comments on the internet. 303 children, 162 girls and 141 boys, were addressed in this survey. 36.4% of girls and 14.9% of boys experienced situations when someone was trying to convince or force them on the internet to send their photography or video. 25.9% of girls and 16.3% of boys stated that they were sexually exploited on the internet. The behaviour of children and adolescents, however, can contribute to these risks on the internet. They are sometimes provocative, trying to test the limits (how far they can go) and the reactions of people on the other side of the line. Extra information and statuses that the children put in their profiles as well as the topics they talk about and persons they chat with are of a significant impact, too. As the adolescents themselves admit, 11.1% of girls and 7.8% of boys have already put photographs of themselves in sexy positions on the internet; 3.1% of girls and 6.4% of boys even in underwear or showing naked parts of body; 9.9% of girls and 22.7% of girls talked about sex on chat.*



9. RECOMMENDATIONS

After evaluating all the available information, we have identified fields where improvement is possible. Our proposals are aimed at ensuring all the rights of the child in Slovakia in the field defined by the OPSC. They are as follows:

1. **To establish the institute of the Ombudsman for Children** which would become a centre of educational and monitoring activities in the field of children's rights and needs. It would also initiate changes in the legislation and enforce their implementation in practical life.
2. **To create appropriate financial mechanisms** for funding monitoring, preventive and educational activities concerning the issues defined in the OPSC, in which NGOs can take part. To use appropriate education activities aimed at developing personal and social skills of children at risk, as a prevention of the violence defined in the OPSC.
3. **To ensure systematic monitoring and research** concerning issues defined in the OPSC, to which NGOs would contribute.
4. **To reinforce the protection of groups at risk** in the fields defined by the OPSC (foster homes and re-education centres, special boarding schools, socially-weak communities, mainly Roma).
5. **To introduce preventive measures**, including giving priority to the OPSC themes in the existing national action programs, setting up financial mechanisms, incorporating OPSC issues into both formal and informal education of children and adults, working on raising the public awareness of problems concerning children and youth, standardising the procedures for working with child victims – to be followed by social guardianship authorities, intensifying multidisciplinary cooperation.
6. **To create a standard, clear and fast system of intervention** when working with a child victim affected by any of the issues defined in the OPSC. The system should reflect the needs of practice (defined by both experts and specialized NGOs) and be flexibly implemented. Close cooperation of all the involved institutions shall be an inherent part of the implementation process.
7. In prevention and intervention, **to make a better use of the service and expertise of child psychologists**, NGOs and foreign experience, to make sure that the rights and the needs of children are taken into consideration at each step of the process.
8. **To carry out training of professionals** (police, prosecutors, judges, social workers, health care personnel, NGOs, and others) who come into contact with the issues defined in the OPSC, focusing on their ability of an early identification of a child victim in cooperation with NGOs.
9. **To assure** in all activities, including legislation and financial mechanisms development, that a special emphasis is made on the **issues defined in the OPSC concerning virtual world** – the internet and social networks. Besides others:
 - a) to reinforce the existing helplines which make it possible to respond to new and specific needs of the child users of the internet,
 - b) to demand that ethical codes are created and adopted by internet providers,
 - c) to carry out awareness-raising campaigns for wide public, particularly for children, young people and parents.
10. **To get involved in international projects on all levels** and improve the transfer of know-how concerning the problems defined in the OPSC to Slovakia.

