



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
OMBUDSPERSON FOR
GENDER EQUALITY

Ev. broj: PRS-bE-SAFE 12-01/23-6

Ur. broj: 08-23-01

Zagreb, 18th of April, 2023

Child protection policy

Ombudsperson for Gender Equality gives Child protection policy aimed for employees, partners and associates of the Ombudsperson for Gender Equality who work directly with/have contact with children within project "*Raising awareness about gender-based cyber violence and advocating for safer online environment for women and girls — CERV-2022-DAPHNE-101096462-bE-SAFE*". Ombudsperson for Gender Equality is accountable for the Child Protection Policy and responsible for its implementation.

Ombudsperson for Gender Equality promotes rights and protection against all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Child protection policy is based on following documents:

1. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (NN – International Treaties, no. 12/09)
2. European Convention on Human Rights (NN - International Treaties, no. 18/97, 6/99, 14/02, 13/03, 9/05, 1/06, 2/10 and 13/17)
3. Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data

Child protection policy is based on acts of Republic of Croatia:

1. Gender Equality Act (NN 82/80 and 69/17)
2. Croatian Family Act (NN 103/15, 98/19 and 47/20)
3. Primary and Secondary School Education Act (NN 87/08, 86/09, 92/10, 105/10, 90/11, 5/12, 16/12, 86/12, 126/12, 94/13, 152/14, 07/17, 68/18, 98/19, 64/20 and 151/22)
4. Health Care Act (NN 100/18, 125/19, 147/20, 119/22, 156/22 and 33/23)

Child protection policy is based on codes:

1. Code of Ethics for Research Involving Children, Croatia, Council for Children (2003.)
2. Code of Ethics for Research and work with children, Institute for Social Research in Zagreb

Child protection policy is based on universal principles that all children have equal rights to:

- protection from harm of physical abuse
- protection from harm of sexual abuse
- protection from harm of emotional abuse
- protection from harm of neglect or negligent treatment
- personal data protection
- protection from harm of commercial or any other exploitation of a child

Employees and associates of the Ombudsperson for Gender Equality who work with children must respect following principles regarding child protection:

- physical, emotional and mental integrity
- protection of human rights and human dignity
- protection of privacy and anonymity
- human right to freedom of opinion and expression
- child's rights to self-determination
- responsibility in cases of ethical issues
- objectivity, accuracy and fairness in work
- information transparency

Informed consent for participation in activities

- parents/guardians/child must provide consent
- parental/guardian consent is required for children under the age of 14
- child consent oral or written for children above the age of 14
- child between 7 and 14: have to be informed about the activity in terms appropriate to their age
- written consent from the parents of each child involved in the research
- parents or guardians have to be informed about the activity even when parental consent is not required
- person can make decision to decline participation or withdraw consent
- parents/guardians/children give consent after being informed about the purpose, benefits, risks, type and duration, confidentiality, protection of privacy, consequences, participation willingness, right to decline participation

Personal data protection

- Ombudsperson for Gender Equality have obligation to keep information related to work as official secret (Gender Equality Act, Article 25, paragraph 2)
- child needs specific protection with regard to their personal data, as they may be less aware of the risks, consequences and safeguards concerned and their rights in relation to the processing of personal data

- Ombudsperson for Gender Equality's employees and associates who work directly with/have contact with children must undertake all measure of data secrecy protection
- it is forbidden to reveal identity of participant, unless consent is provided
- Ombudsperson for Gender Equality's employees and associates must inform participants if their identities could become available to other persons

Special measures for activities involving children:

- using/creating audio and video materials and fake mirrors - Ombudsperson for Gender Equality's employees and associates must explain the purpose and get consent from participant
- if participant is disturbed or harmed by content of activity, Ombudsperson for Gender Equality's employees and associates must undertake measures in aim to decrease negative effects; if measures don't bring results or don't remove consequences in appropriate period, activities should be stopped
- if unexpected and unwanted consequences occur during activity, Ombudsperson for Gender Equality's employees and associates must undertake measures in aim to remove the consequences or to implement appropriate measures or to stop activity

Final provisions

- articles of Child protection policy is mandatory for people carrying out activities that involve children
- in case the Child protection policy is not implemented and damage is consequence, general regulations regarding responsibility are applied
- if person has information that Child protection policy is violated or child is harmed, she/he must notify Ombudsperson for Gender Equality
- parents/guardians must refuse cooperation if rights and welfare of child are violated

Zagreb, 18th of April, 2023

**OMBUDSPERSON FOR
GENDER EQUALITY**

Višnja Ljubičić, dipl.iur.

STATEMENT

I _____ parent/guardian
(Name and surname)

Page | 4

of child _____, class _____
(Name and surname)

_____, in _____
(Name of the school) (Place of the school)

give consent for participation of my child in following activity
_____ of the project "*Raising awareness about gender-based cyber violence and advocating for safer online environment for women and girls — CERV-2022-DAPHNE-101096462-bE-SAFE*", coordinator is Ombudsperson for Gender Equality, partners are: Institute for Social Research in Zagreb, CESI – Centre for Education, Counselling and Research, Domine – organization for the promotion of women’s rights; CIG - Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality from Portugal; LEM Spain - Organization for the Protection of Women’s Rights of Spain and PpDM - Portuguese Platform for Women’s Rights. Supporting state bodies: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Ministry of Science and Education.

Activity is implemented according to Child protection policy.

I confirm that I read project summary in annex.

Additional remarks:

Date and place: _____

Signature (parent/guardian): _____

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Ombudsperson for Gender Equality is the holder of the European project “*Raising awareness about gender-based cyber violence and advocating for safer online environment for women and girls - CERV-2022-DAPHNE-101096462-bE-SAFE*” which deals with raising awareness about the problem of gender-based cyber violence at the institutional and social level to create the preconditions for improving the legislative and legal framework for the regulating cyber violence in Croatia, Spain and Portugal, but also at the European level as a whole.

Gender-based cyber violence is often part of the ongoing violence that victims experience offline. Cyber violence and harassment are experienced by both women and men, but women are more often among victims of cyber violence committed on the basis of gender, especially in cases of sexual violence. Likewise, women and girls more often report more severe forms of such violence.

The target groups are young people in education, teachers, experts working with young people, police officers, social workers, health care workers, experts in the judiciary, representatives of local, regional and national authorities, non-profit organizations, gender experts, members of Parliament and representatives of equality bodies.

Through the project we will get new knowledge that will enable understanding of the causes and consequences of gender-based cyber violence, we will create an educational program, develop a national legislative framework and organize national campaigns to raise awareness about this problem. The project is being implemented from 16th of January, 2023 until 15th of January, 2026.

Total value of the project: 2.194.983,02 EUR.

Project phases:

1. Comprehensive research project in Croatia, Spain and Portugal

In the Republic of Croatia through the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb, and in Spain and Portugal through authorized researchers.

2. Creation of educational programs

Education of the people working with young people and persons who encounter gender-based cyber violence in their daily work activities (police officers, social workers, judicial officials).

3. Developing a national legislative framework to combat and prevent cyber-violence

Developing a strategic document with guidelines for creating a common approach to gender equality in this area, and presenting it to legislative bodies at national (Croatia, Portugal, Spain) and European level.

4. Increasing topic visibility

Conducting an international media campaign and promotional activities to sensitize relevant stakeholders and Croatian, Spanish and Portuguese and European citizens about cyber GBV.

Project results:

- 2 research reports
- Brochure with summary of the research results
- Educational program and manual
- Strategic Document with guidelines for an integrated legislative and policy approach to combating cyber GBV
- Advocacy campaign
- National cyber GBV media campaign
- 2 educational videos
- 5 international and national thematic events

Target groups:

- Young people in education
- Teachers
- Experts working with young people
- Police officers
- Social workers
- Health care workers
- Experts in the judiciary
- Representatives of local, regional and national authorities
- Members of Parliament
- Representatives of equality bodies