



# Country report Bulgaria

Responding to Child to Parent Violence:  
European Perspectives

# Bulgaria

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## Country Reports on Child to Parent Violence - Bulgaria

Compiled by Anna Assenova - covering time period 1 Feb 2013 to 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015.



Source of map: BBC News Online <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17202996>

### Introduction

There are no official policies or legal definitions of Child to Parent Violence (CPV) in Bulgaria. The definition that we use is child to parent violence is a harmful act carried out by a child with the intention to cause physical, psychological, or financial pain or to exert power and control over a parent (Cottrell 2001; Calvete et al 2013). The family is seen as private in Bulgaria and as dealing with its own problems hence at the outset of RCPV there was little public or professional awareness of CPV.

### Political, Social and Cultural Context

Bulgaria, located in the Eastern Balkans, has changed in many ways due to its economic transition from a communist country to a market economy in the 1990's and it became a member of the European Union in January 2007. Today according to the World Bank it is an upper middle-income economy of 7.3 million people although there are sharp divisions in social classes. Due to the level of poverty that exists people often have to leave Bulgaria to find employment leaving villages consisting largely of grandparents and children which could contribute to levels of CPV. In terms of national and regional policy, family issues tend to remain on the edge of the policy agenda rather than central to it. Culturally Bulgaria has strong patriarchal structures although there are a range of organisation which are working on issues of gender equality and women's rights such as the Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation and Stop Violence Against Women <http://www.stopvaw.org.bulgaria2>. Ethnically Bulgaria is a society where the major ethnic group is Bulgarian (84.8%), Turkish (8.8%) and Roma (4.9%).

### Statistics on CPV

CPV is a hidden issue in Bulgaria and not measured explicitly by any agency. Currently the Child Pedagogic Rooms and the Agency for Child Protection do not have any statistics both at regional and national level. However, statistics are being collected on domestic violence.

### Legislation and Policies

The legislation that is available in Bulgaria relates to child protection and domestic violence: Law on Child Protection, Law on Protection against Domestic Violence 2005, Law on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Law on combating anti-social acts of minors, Law for Youth, Family Code, Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, Civil Procedure Code Ordinance on the special protection of children at public places, Ordinance on the conditions and procedures for providing police protection to children.

## Referral pathways when CPV is reported

When it comes to children or young people - victims or perpetrators of crime, the case is referred to Local Police Department - Child Pedagogic Room, Municipal Service For Social Support - Department For Protection Of The Child and to Local Commission Against Anti-Social Acts of Minors and Underage Persons. If there is a crime committed by or against a child the case is referred also to Regional Prosecutor's Office. These institutions work together on the case and take appropriate measures regarding the child.

## Institutional Stakeholders

### Municipality

Local Commission Against Anti-Social Acts of Minors and Underage Persons,  
Municipal Service For Social Support  
The Public Council for Social Assistance

### Police

Child Pedagogic Room  
Local Police Department  
Social Services  
Department For Child Protection  
Regional Prosecutor's Office  
Regional Inspectorate of the Ministry of Education

### NGOs

There is a national Women's helpline in Bulgaria that is free of charge but it does not operate 24 hours a day. In the period June 2012 to June 2013 it received 469 calls.

Women shelters – 7 – in the same period they accommodated 110 women and 112 children; currently 93% of recommended women's shelter places are missing in Bulgaria and the country does not yet meet the Council of Europe Taskforce Recommendations for their provision.

Women centres – 12 – but no specialized centres for women survivors of sexual violence.

## Participation in previous Daphne Projects

Project HERA (2011-2012) was a project led by the Local Police of Valencia that has been approved by the European Commission under the framework of the Daphne III programme whose goal is to fight violence against women, youth and children.

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