

REPORT ON THE STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF PERSONS PLACED IN THE CENTRE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH “LJUBOVIĆ”

Centre for Children and Youth “Ljubović”, Podgorica

(29 November 2011)

Summary report

No form of abuse has been established in the Centre and no such complaints have been received by the monitoring team. However, two staff members, against whom the criminal proceedings on charges of sexually abusing female residents of the Centre in 2005 are still in progress, have never been suspended in accordance with the law. They continue to work with children during the night shift.

In anticipation of additional accommodation facilities, the Centre is still in an emergency situation regarding the requirements for the accommodation of its residents. Facilities that will be occupied in 2012, with some delay, will provide suitable accommodation and spatial division of children within the Centre units (admission and treatment), but there is still a problem of accommodation of abused and neglected children who are not criminal offenders and who are in need of different psychotherapeutic environment. The competent Ministry of Social Welfare should find a solution to place these children in a separate social care facility and/or direct them to foster families. In this regard, it is necessary to develop a culture of non-kinship foster care in Montenegro.¹

In relation to the situation found and criticized by the CPT in 2008, the method of keeping records in the Centre has changed, so now there are clear records of admission and discharge of each resident of the Centre containing information about their treatment and activities as well.

The Centre should promote regular training for all employees and make an effort to always include proper professional staff in educational work with children.

Programme of activities offered to children (other than formal education and current activities, which are insufficient in the words of the children) should be improved in order to re-educate and prepare them for a healthy social life. It is necessary to improve the method of group

¹ According to UNICEF, there are only a few non-kinship foster families in Montenegro.



work in the form of workshops and allow all children to acquire skills that will enable them to find employment after leaving the Centre. This is especially important for girls, who, unlike boys who work in a metal workshop, are not offered anything similar in the Centre. Staff should not allow the use of tobacco products to children, but apply appropriate methods to teach children to give up this harmful habit.

The Centre should improve cooperation with faculties educating future psychologists and social workers in order to provide practice to students, in addition to helping Centre's current staff and providing wider selection of future staff. On the other hand, all interested representatives of civil society, NGOs protecting children's rights and human rights or faculties should be included in the Administration Board of the Centre.

