



Center for Legal Aid  
**Voice in Bulgaria**

This brochure is prepared by  
**CENTER FOR LEGAL AID – VOICE IN BULGARIA**  
organization and is part of our project  
“Support for children on the move”.

As organization we provide legal support for refugee, asylums seekers and migrants in Bulgaria.

The project “Support for Children on the Move” is implemented by the Legal Aid Center - Voice in Bulgaria Foundation in the period January 2025 - March 2026 within the INSPIRE project: Improving national support for prevention, intervention, and response to violence against children, and empowering victims and is co-funded by the European Union and the Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation (WCIF).

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# PREVENTION OF ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

You are a **CHILD**, if you are under 18 years of age!

You are “**ON THE MOVE**” if you are out of your country of origin or habitual residence with or without your family.

Being **IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY** can be very difficult, sometimes dangerous.

But you need to know that as a child you have **PROTECTION AND SUPPORT** the same way as all other kids in that country.

**YOU HAVE RIGHTS**, including the right of protection against all forms of violence against you.



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## AS A CHILD YOU HAVE AS MUCH RIGHTS AS ADULTS, AND EVEN MORE:

- Right of security and safety;
- Right of life and well-being;
- Right of health and education;
- Right to be united with your family;
- Right to be heard, to speak, express and share your thoughts and feelings;
- Right to have translation to a language you speak;
- Right to have legal representative, if you are not with your parents;
- Right to be consulted with a lawyer for all your procedures free of charge;
- Right not to be discriminate;
- Right not to be detained if you are unaccompanied;
- Right to be protected from any form of violence at home, at school or at the community where you live.

## WHAT IS VIOLENCE?

**VIOLENCE IS SOMETHING THAT HAPPENS TO YOU WITHOUT YOUR AGREEMENT AND HURTS OR HARMS YOU.**

It is any act of physical, mental or sexual abuse, neglect, commercial or other exploitation resulting in actual or likely harm to your health, life, development or dignity, which may take place in your family, family type of community, school or social setting.

## SO, VIOLENCE CAN BE:

**PHYSICAL** – when someone causes you pain of physical harm like beating, hitting with or without object, pushing, kicking, hurting you, including setting a dog against you. When the physical harm is causing serious or lasting damage or disability, it can be considered crime.

**MENTAL OR EMOTIONAL** – when someone treats you with humiliation, mocks you, threatens you, treats you with discrimination, rejects you or shows other kind of rude attitude. Emotional violence is when you also witness violence towards other people, like violence (beating, hitting) at home among your parents or siblings.

**SEXUAL** – any improper sexual attitude of someone against you, like touching, kissing, undressing you, making pictures of you naked or forcing you to do with your body things that are shameful or make you feel uncomfortable. Sexual violence is when someone makes you do upper described action online, shows you video content that is improper or makes improper pictures/video of you.

**NEGLECT** – when your parent, guardian, custodian or caregiver fails to provide for you home, safety, access to doctor and medicine when you are sick, prevents you from going to school, does not provide enough food or clothes and does not pay needed attention to your immediate needs.

## WHO CAN EXERCISE VIOLENCE AGAINST YOU:

- Mother, father, brother, sister, cousin, uncle, any other family member;
- Guardian, custodian or caregiver, who is looking after you;
- Director or other officers of a home or institution you are placed in;
- Teacher at school;
- Other children in school or place where you live;
- Employers or other colleagues you have at work;
- Police officers, border guards or other people of authority;
- Traffickers and smugglers that help you move from one place to another;
- Other adults or children.

## WHERE YOU CAN EXPERIENCE VIOLENCE:

- At home;
- In the place, institution, where you live;
- At school;
- At work;
- In the social community – neighbourhood, streets, malls, shops, restaurants, playgrounds, etc.;
- During your travel from one place to another.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO WHEN YOU EXPERIENCE VIOLENCE OR YOU WITNESS VIOLENCE AGAINST OTHER CHILDREN AROUND YOU:

**YOU CAN SPEAK** with an adult that you trust – your parent, relative, guardian, lawyer, teacher, social worker;

**YOU CAN CALL** a special number for help for children that is free of charge – **116 111**

For not so urgent intervention **YOU CAN SEND A MESSAGE TO OUR ORGANIZATION HERE:**



This number is operated by the special institution in Bulgaria that provides care for children – National State Agency for Child Protection.

**This phone number operates only in Bulgarian, so you need to be assisted by a translator!**



Follow the instructions, which are available in English, Arabic, Farcy, French and Russian.

If you leave your phone number, you will be contacted back in period of maximum 24 hours. After consideration you will be provided guidance or direct help.

You can contact us if you also want to provide information for past events of violence for you or another child.

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN YOU SUBMIT A SIGNAL:

A special case will be opened, a social worker from the municipality will come to speak with you and a team of experts will start working on providing you with help and safety.