

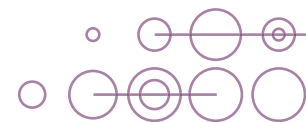
Romania's Statement

Romania became a Pathfinding country in 2016. As part of the Together to #EndViolence Solutions Summit Series, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection working with the National Authority for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Children and Adoption made commitments to end violence against children and issued a Leaders Statement.

Key highlights from the Leaders Statement are as follows:

1. Development of a National Pact Against Children's Domestic Violence to reduce the risks to children of violence in the home, including awareness raising, support for positive parenting and trauma-informed care and response services.
2. Protection for children in the digital environment through development of the Legal, Prevention, Combating, Partnership Plan 2021-2025, including legislative measures, information for children and parents, targeting perpetrators and implementing a multi-sectoral partnership approach.
3. Adoption of a funded National Strategy for the Protection of the Rights of the Child 2021-2027.





Statement by Romania- Together to #ENDViolence Solutions Summit Series

December 15, 2020

The National Authority for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Children and Adoption (ANDPDCA) within the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection- is the appointed focal point for Ending Violence, in Romania.

To confirm the high profile on political agenda, the GPEVAC was launched nationally in March 2017, in the presence of the Prime Minister, key ministries and civil society. During the launch, the issue of combating VAC was firmly placed in the commitments of all participants, as a priority issue on the agenda of promoting child's rights in Romania.

The country's efforts to tackle violence against children has grown progressively in the last two decades and resulted in noticeable effects in policies and practices at all levels and in all relevant areas. Initially focused on addressing the violation of child's rights following separation from their families and living in large state institutions, the structural changes in the child protection system lead to a decrease in the number of children in institutions/residential facilities from 100.000 in early 90s to around 13.000 in 2020 , with a visible shift from residential to community based care.

Further steps were taken by successively adopting national legislation to ban, prevent and combat all forms of abuse, neglect, trafficking or exploitation; in 2004, Romania became one of the 54 countries that fully banned all forms of physical punishment of children. Social services' institutional capacity was build-up, being established local intersectoral cooperation mechanisms to provide interventions in all forms of violence against children.

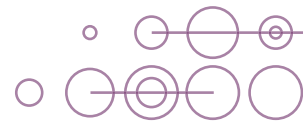
Romania's National Strategy for the Protection of the Rights of the Child 2014-2020 was developed through multi stakeholder, multisectoral consultation, including NGOs, academia and children. The Strategy concentrated in one of its core four pillars the objectives and measures targeting specifically VAC. At the same time, the new Strategy 2021-2027, currently under development, incorporates a dedicated objective on tackling violence against children.

When it comes to data collection, Romania has made important steps forward, developing various data collection tools and researches from the perspective of violence against children, which enable us to create evidence-based policies.

Way forward

For the next period of time, we are committed to address the phenomenon of violence against children from two perspectives: reducing the risks of domestic violence against children (1) and protecting children in digital environment (2) under the umbrella of a five years **Plan for Ending Violence against Children**.





(1) When it comes to reducing the risks of domestic violence against children, we are committed to develop a National Pact Against Children's Domestic Violence.

Knowing that domestic violence against children remains a neuralgic challenge in Romania, we are currently building our strategic approach around the idea of listening the voice and experiences of children, the experiences of social workers and on reliable data and statistics.

The National Pact Against Children's Domestic Violence will bring together the relevant stakeholders (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Health, National Association of Local Authorities, NGOs, representative children organizations) in the area in order to develop a common engagement to address the phenomenon from the perspective of prevention and care. Trauma informed care/services, trauma informed communities, mentoring and outreach work and positive parenting platforms are just a few examples of areas of intervention. A particular attention will be paid to raising awareness and building a public trend against children's domestic violence.

(2) Protecting children in digital environment is the second key strategic goal of our five years Plan, especially in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, which exposed more of the risks associated with the engagement of children in online activities. We have the duty to protect our children in any environment.

For this particular purpose, we are working on developing the Legal, Prevention, Combating, Partnership Plan – LPCP Plan (2021-2025), which will be focused on the following objectives:

- Amending and creating relevant legislation based on a wide consultation with the relevant stakeholders (LEGAL);
- Children have an age appropriate and evolving understanding of the opportunities and risks which exist in the online world and parents are equipped to guide and support their children's online activity (PREVENTION);
- Potential perpetrators are deterred from committing abuse online (COMBATING);
- Wider society plays a role in enhancing internet safety for children and young people based on public-private partnerships – protection, screening and alerting mechanisms (PARTNERSHIP).

The above-mentioned highlights of tackling violence against children in Romania will be also part of the next National Strategy for the Protection of the Rights of the Child 2021-2027 and will benefit from financial support from national budget sources and European funds.

