

Working in Partnership with Children to Increase Children's Influence in Society



Mila Jelavić

Pravobraniteljica za djecu

Dubrovnik
26.-28. ožujka 2014.

The Children's Ombudsperson – Promoting and Protecting the Rights and Interests of Children in Society

- Child Participation Principle – one of the guiding principles of **the Convention on the Rights of the Child**
- Article 7 of **the Ombudsman for Children Act**
- The Ombudsman for Children ... has a primary responsibility to advise children of their rights and teach them how to exercise and protect their rights and interests.
- The role of the Ombudsman for Children ... **is to work with children, encourage them to express their views and give their views due consideration**,... The Ombudsman for Children proposes steps to increase children's influence in society.

What Do Children Think? Ways to Encourage Children To Express Their Views

- Visiting children at schools, kindergartens, homes for children ...
- Children visiting the Office of Children's Ombudsperson
- Enhancing the participation of children and young people in policy formation **through delivery of a range of different focus group consultation sessions**

FOCUS GROUP

Age of Consent to any form of sexual activity as set out in the Criminal Code

- Further to a discussion that took place at the Office of Children's Ombudsperson, high school students who participated in one of the focus groups became interested in the topic of the minimum age at which a child may legally consent to sexual intercourse with an adult (the age of consent is set to 14 years).
- They suggested that a survey should be conducted among students at their schools (students across 4 secondary schools in Zagreb participated in the survey).

Network of Young Advisors (NYA)- **Giving Children a Stronger Voice in Society!**

In Spring 2010 preparations for the establishment of an advisory body – comprised entirely of children – to the Children’s Ombudsperson were already underway.

The formal founding meeting of the NYA was held in Autumn 2010; they chose the name by themselves

NYA – The Network of Young Advisors

- Online forum – children exchanging opinions and ideas
- Follow-up survey regarding the age of consent
- Consultation sessions with a focus on specific topics of concern or interest to children and young people

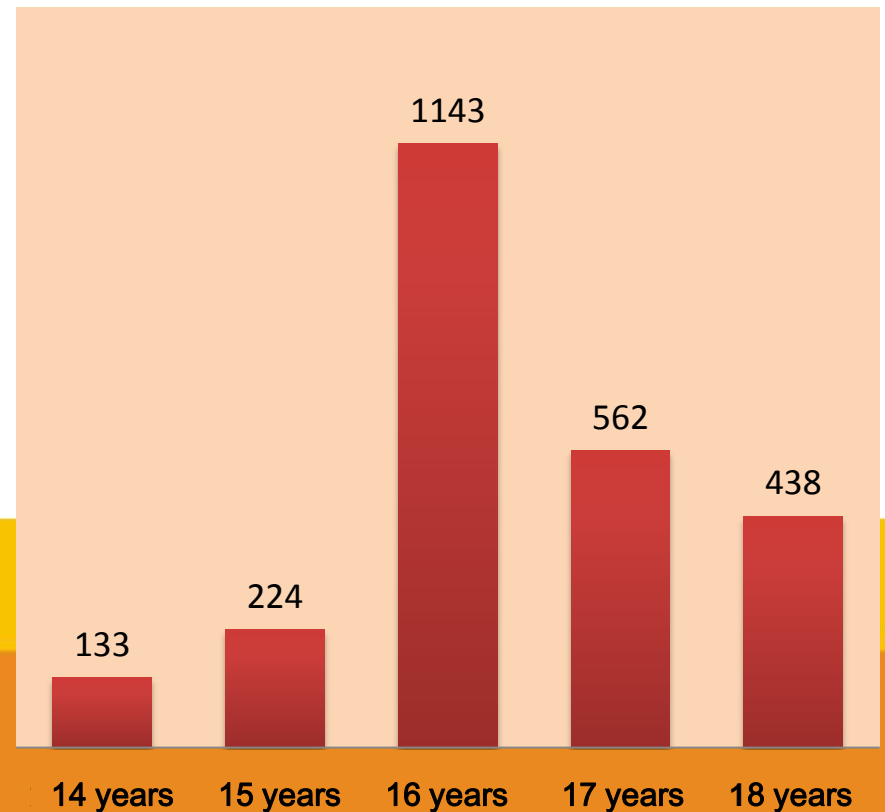
YOUTH SURVEY:

Legal Age of Consent to Sexual Activity

A survey among 2500 high school students in Zagreb, Split, Osijek and Rijeka (2010).

Survey results show that 94.68% of respondents believe that the age of consent of 14 is too low:

- 45.72% - 16 years
- 22.48% - 17 years
- 17.52% - 18 years
- 8.96% - 15 years
- 5.32% - 14 years



WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED SO FAR

Shared responsibility: Achievements and Successes Through Joint Efforts

- Changes to the Criminal Code have raised the age of consent for sexual activity to 15
- The children (members of the NYA) could see for themselves the immediate and positive results from their efforts, but also realized that it is a time-consuming and toilsome process.
- Partnership with children to promote violence prevention.



WWSF

2001

The Women's World Summit Foundation, launched a campaign to promote the prevention of child abuse.

2004

The WWSF decided to award prizes for innovative child abuse prevention programs.

2007

We joined the campaign by arranging meetings with students and expert debates; constructing media messages; issuing publications for children and adults; creating a culture of prevention and raising awareness about child abuse prevention in society.

2008

Our Office was awarded first prize for an innovative approach to child abuse prevention by the WWSF.

children's PARTICIPATION

- The award was accompanied by a cash prize; we decided to donate this award as a way to give back **to design students at the Graphic Design Department at the School of Applied Arts and Design in Zagreb**
- **Partnership** to prevent violence against children through discussions and awareness-raising events
- **They created visual and verbal messages** targeting not only young people, but also adults. Using visual and verbal means of communication they delivered a familiar message:

19. studenoga
Svjetski dan prevencije zlostavljanja djece



*There can never be justification for violence against children.
All violence against children can and must be prevented.*



**nasilje
ostavlja
bolne
tragove**



Sara
***Violence leaves painful
marks***

ožiljci *nestaju...*

Lucija

***Scars fade, but the
pain remains...***

BOL *ostaje...*

19. STUDENI
svjetski dan prevencije zlostavljanja djece



Romana

What's hidden beneath the surface?

Don't let the smile deceive you!!!

Report violence, it doesn't have to be a part of your childhood.

ŠtO se skriva

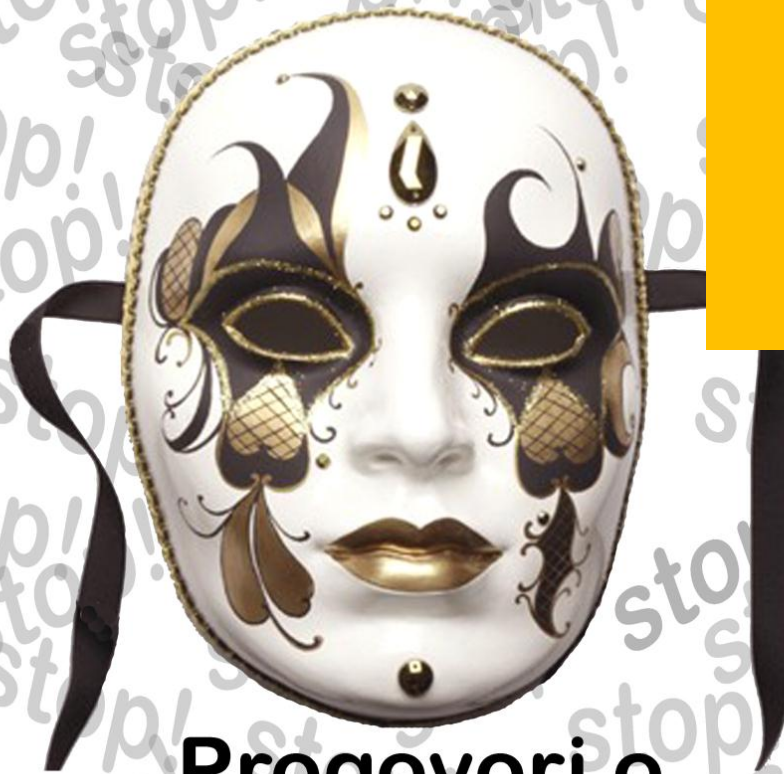
ispod ??



**NE DAJTE DA VAS
OSMIJEH ZAVARA !!!**

**prijavi nasilje, ono ne mora biti
dio tvog djetinjstva.**

**Ne skrivaj se
iza maske...**



Tajana
**Don't hide behind a
mask...
Speak up about the
problem and stop the
violence...**

**Progovori o
problemu i
zaustavi nasilje...**



Republika Hrvatska
Pravobranitelj za djecu

19. STUDENI

svjetski dan prevencije zlostavljanja djece



Joint exhibition



19 November 2009

The World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse

This piece by **Borna Aron Grčević** was chosen as the artwork that best represents our cause.

Copies of the poster were **sent out to all schools in Croatia**. The image **was widely used in our campaign to raise awareness of this issue**.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue of works by these young artists. The catalogue, which is also available online (www.dijete.hr), was published and distributed.



ožiljci ostaju...

19. studeni
svjetski dan prevencije
zlostavljanja djece



www.dijete.hr

Medijski pokrovitelj:
Školske novine

Dizajn: Borna Aaron Grčević, učenik; Vlasta Pirnat, mentor; Škola primijenjene umjetnosti i dizajna Zagreb



The event gets great response...

Večernji.hr - Sprječite nasilje: Djeca ...

AKTUALNO BIZNIS SPORTAL KULTURA SCENA ŽVOT REGLJE ZAGREB V MAGAZIN BLOG Petar@vecernji.hr

Hrvatska Svijet Publika Crna kronika Kokamra Povijest Znanost Tehno Zanimljivosti Auti Galerije Igre

OBJAVA: 20.11.2009 10:45 PRIGAZA: 2881

DOSTAI PORUČILI SU TO SREDNJOŠKOLCI I OTVORILI IZLOŽBU PLAKATA

Sprječite nasilje: Djeca su tako mala, ali su još manja kad ih netko tuče

Suradnja sa školom primijenjene umjetnosti i dizajna potaknuta je osvojenom prvom nagradom za inovativni pristup prevenciji zlostavljanja djece koju je prošle godine organizacija WWVSF, koja djeluje u suradnji s UN-om, dodijelila Uredu pravobraniteljice za djecu.



Domagoj Grčić pokraj svojeg pobjedničkog plakata. Foto: Goran Jelusić/Photo

0 Tweet

VEZANI ČLANCI

- Brad Pitt: Volim kaos u kućenoj Dini
- Djeca gube događaje iz najranijeg djetinjstva ako o tome razgovaraju
- Gotovo 40% učenika vrati se iz škole s opeklinama od sunca
- Sex više mlakarima otrelo, a

Čitaj i ovo Budi prvi od svojih prijatelja koji će ovo preporučiti.

Pisac: Lana Novaković/VLM

Čudovište. Tako je crtežom odgovorio devetogodišnji velikogrčki dječak na pitanje "Tko si?"

Velika glava i krvave oči
Velika glava s još većim očima i krvavim ustima.

Dom Remete (Zagreb)
Kvalitetna i povoljna usluga smještaja starih i nemoćnih osoba
www.dom-remete.hr

Depresija te bača od vas
Pomognite sami sebi. Ako vam trenutna terapija ne pomaže
www.nowestrans.com

Dječja odieća
Vruća odieća koje se ne propuštaju. Proveriti: shop.magma.hr

Ekskluzivni stanovi
Top lokacije u Zagrebu u blizini Britanskog trga
www.ekskluzivni-stanovi.com

Google+gisi

Večernji.hr na Facebooku
17,423 ljudi kažu da im se sviđa Večernji.hr.

What have we learned?

- We must not be afraid that children would find us boring
- We are “allowed” to bring up topics for discussion that children would never come up with themselves
- We do not need to choose a discussion topic close to their heart
- We should not avoid difficult difficult topics
- Conversations and debates provide valuable insight into children’s attitudes and perceptions (even though we may disagree with their opinions)

What we have yet to learn

- How to find the right balance between offering some guidance and encouragement to children and allowing them the freedom to take initiative?
- How to balance our need to protect children and our commitment to increase children's influence on decision-making?
- How to respond fast enough to children's evolving ideas?
- How to encourage children to contact us to seek protection of their rights?

- We learned never to assume that we know all about children's needs and interests.
- We should talk to children to find out what they think and encourage them to express their views freely.

www.dijete.hr
azanas.dijete.hr