



**Arab Orthodox Christian Community
Romania**

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER AND ACTION FOR CHILDREN
(DPAC)**

ACTIVITY REPORT

"Ion Heliade Rădulescu" School, Bucharest

21 November, 2012

Theme: *"Stop Violence Against Children"*

Date: 21 November, 2012

Venue: "Ion Heliade Rădulescu" School, Bucharest

Participants:

- 1) 27 children (13 years old, 16 girls and 11 boys)
- 2) 3 adults (one teacher and 2 facilitators)

Facilitators:

- 1) Doina Rotaru
- 2) Daniela Sirbu

Activities:

1. Short film and music
2. Role playing
3. Prayer

Activity description

On 21 November 2012 the Arab Orthodox Community in Romania celebrated the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children together with "Ion Heliade Rădulescu" School. Based on the theme "Stop Violence Against Children", the activities were carried out by the facilitators and the children of 7th grade (aged 13 years).

The activities were focused on the following aspects:

- violence in schools;
- violence on playgrounds.
- physical and emotional abuses against children;

The celebration started with a short film where the participants could see pictures representing children, victims of different forms of violence. Meanwhile the children received posters describing the significance of this important day. Then one of the facilitators made a presentation of the "World Day of Prayer and Action for Children". During the activity it was used a scrolling slideshow thanks to which the participants watched pictures representing victims of violence.

Further the children were divided into three groups and played 3 different cases of violence against the children, in order to show different cases of school and playground violence. This way they drew attention to some violent situations from their own life experience (school or playground).

After that, the children responded to our evaluation questionnaires and at the end the participants said together a prayer (conducted by their professor of religion) for children from around the world, victims of violence.

As a result of the performed activities, the children acquired a more profound knowledge about different forms of violence and became more aware of their rights and responsibilities within the communities they belong to.

Outcomes

A. Participants

From the children responses to our evaluation questionnaires, we could extract the following:

- All of them accepted the theme "Stop the Violence Against Children" and found the venue appropriate, with 1-2 exceptions who didn't accepted the location;
- The majority expressed their interest to participate in such activities in the future (1 exception);
- They loved especially: the role playing activity, the fact that one of the characters interfered and stopped the conflict, that they made the difference between right and wrong regarding the violence, that they were "taught to take care", that there are people who stand for the victims and they found out that some children are in situations worse than theirs;

- Negative aspects: they didn't like they had to play, that they didn't hear what we talked, they wanted more role playing activities, they found out that there too many cases of violence, they wanted more examples (from real life);
- In the future, they would like to participate in sport activities (balet, gymnastics, athletic), charity activities or social activities (to meet other children), more activities involving role playing, picture sharing and discussions, to learn how to protect themselves in case of violence and what they should do in emergency situations.

B. Facilitators

As a result of the performed activities, the children acquired a more profound knowledge about different forms of violence and became more aware of their rights and responsibilities within the communities they belong to.

- a) The venue - was appropriate, although some of children didn't appreciated the venue and expressed the desire to do outdoor activities;
- b) Logistics – the materials and resources were adequate for activities we have made;
- c) Positive/negative aspects
 - The children were interested in the proposed theme, although at the beginning they were shy in performing their roles. Finally, they liked that they tried some different things and all were active;
 - They have expressed availability for other activities;
 - A plus was the participation of their professor of religion: this was helpful to keep the children quiet at the beginning of the activity, because they didn't manifest too much interest;
 - A good idea was to present them, at a moment, one case of violence against children which happened in their school that had the role to draw their attention about the gravity of the issue.