



**Arab Orthodox Christian Community
Romania**

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

ACTIVITY REPORT

School for the Visually Impaired, Bucharest

22 November, 2012

Theme: *"Stop Violence Against Children"*

Venue: School for the Visually Impaired, Bucharest, Romania

Date: 22 November, 2012

Participants:

- 1) 27 children (12-14 years old, 15 girls and 12 boys)
- 2) seven adults (four teachers and three facilitators)

Activities:

1. Song
2. Role plays
3. Story
4. Drawings
5. Working with modeling paste
6. Prayer

Facilitators:

1. Doina Rotaru
2. Diana Zotea
3. Georgiana-Simona State

Activity description

On 22 November 2012 the Arab Orthodox Community in Romania together with the School for the Visually Impaired celebrated the "World Day of Prayer and Action for Children". Based on the theme "Stop Violence Against Children", the activities were carried out by children (aged between 12 -14 years old).

The activities were focused on the following aspects:

1. Violence in schools;
2. Violence on playgrounds;
3. Physical and psychological abuses against children.

The activity started with a song, "Let there be peace on earth"; one of the facilitators translated to the children the words of the song so they could understand its message. Further, the same facilitator presented briefly the "World Day of Prayer and Action for Children."

For the role plays, the children "transformed" themselves into little actors playing different situations from their own life experience. Therefore they were divided into two groups in order to show two different cases of school violence (during the break and during the classes). This way they drew attention to some situations from their own life experience.

The first part of the event was ended with the story "*The two wolves inside you*" read by one of the facilitators; the children discussed the story's significance.

The last activity encouraged the children's creative side: some chose working with modeling paste, others made different drawings. Through art they expressed their vision about the theme.

Later on, the participants prayed for the children of the world who are victims of violence.

Outcomes

A. Participants

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

- All accepted the theme “Stop the Violence against the children” and found the venue appropriate and also expressed their interest to participate in such activities in the future;
- They loved especially the role playing activity (the theatre), the music used during the event and the modeling activity;
- As negative aspects, the room, as space, was small for such number of participants, few of them didn’t like the idea of violence;
- For the future, they would like to participate in sport and all kind of artistic activities (music, dance, modeling and drawing) or social activities. Few children said they would also like to take part in activities related to communication or storytelling and to do again some role playing activities.

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 too small, considering the fact that the participants had some special needs;
- b) Logistics – the materials and the resources were adequate to the activities;
- c) Positive/negative aspects
 - The children were interested in the proposed theme and also very excited to be involved in such activity;
 - The children were open to try new activities and at the end all the participants were active;
 - They expressed availability for other activities;
 - A plus point was the participation of their own teachers, who know how to deal with such segment of children.
 - None of us had previous experience in working with children having such disabilities and we weren’t totally aware about the different way to realize some activities, but we adapted ourselves with the teacher’s help.

