



**FIRST CHILDREN'S EMBASSY IN THE WORLD - MEGJASHI
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

Address: str. "Kosta Novakovic" No. 22 a, Skopje

Tel: (02) 2465-316; Tel/Fax: (02) 2463-900

info@childresembassy.org.mk; www.childresembassy.org.mk

**ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 2006**

ACOMPLISHED ACTIVITIES

Skopje, December 2006

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MISSION

The First Children's Embassy in the World – Megjashi is a Civic Organization whose aim is protection of children and their rights, strengthening the NGO movement for Children's Rights in republic of Macedonia . The Embassy stands for respecting the child's personality through protection of their rights, advocacy of child's best interests and enriching the life with contents that make the childhood safe and creative. The Embassy connect children from different meridians and enriches the life of children with contents that make childhood happy cheerful and creative.

ANNUAL REPORT

During the year 2006, the First Children's Embassy in the World- Megjashi had carried out numerous activities focused toward the implementation of the Convention of Children's Rights in Macedonia, out of which, we would emphasize the following:

0800 1 2222 – FREE SOS HELPLINE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

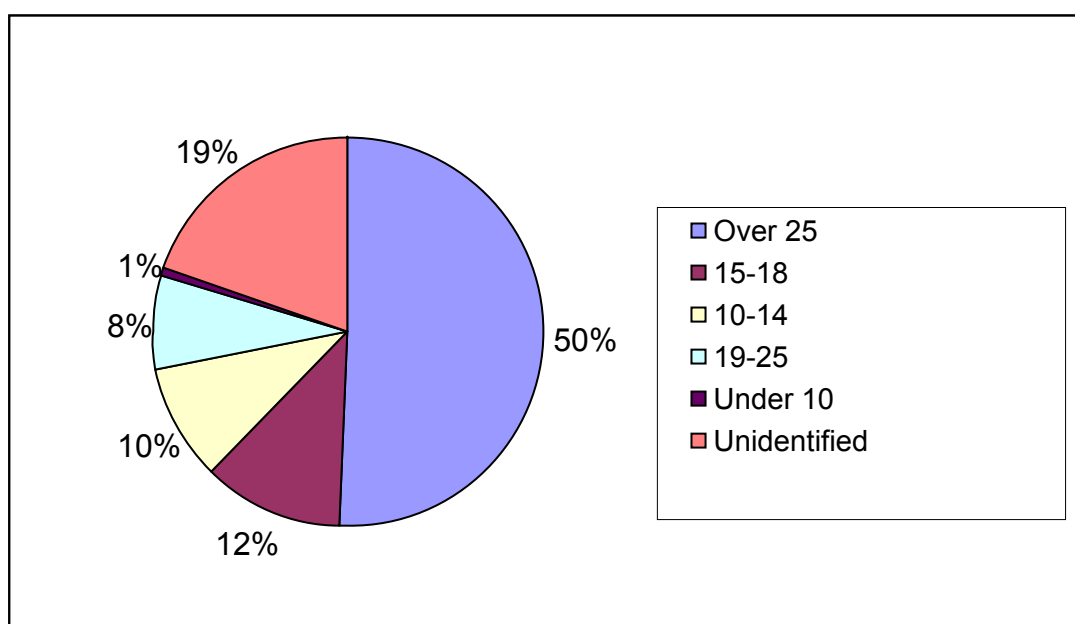
The SOS helpline for Children and Youth of the First Children's Embassy in the World- Megjashi is the first toll-free helpline in the country, which is actively working 14 years already (since 1993). So far, over 16.000 children and youth have called this helpline to talk about problems regarding violence (physical, sexual or psychological), family-related problems, about friend, love problems, personal problems and others. Since the beginning of this helpline, more than 150 volunteers have engaged in its work – trained undergraduate and graduate students (psychologists, pedagogues, social workers). The children and youth can call and talk about their problems every working day from 8.00 till 20.00h.

In the period from January 1st 2006 till December 31st 2006, on this free SOS helpline for children and youth (0800 1 2222) there were 704 calls.

- On the table below is the number of calls, number of conversations, the total number of calls each month, as well as the number of callers by gender.
- On the table bellow, expressed in percent, are the most frequent problems of the callers in the past 12 months

PROBLEM	No of CONVERSATION	PERCENTS
1. Abuse and violence	126	18%
o Physical violence	50	39.7%
o Sexual violence	26	20.63%
o Psychological violence	15	11.90%
o Domestic violence	35	27.77%
2. Boyfriend/girlfriend relations (sexuality and sexual relations)	136	19.31%
3. Psycho-social, mental and physical health	110	15.62%
4. Information for the SOS helpline	54	7.7%
5. Family relations	63	8.94%
6. Legal matters	42	5.96%
7. Use and abuse of psychotropic substances	33	4.68%
8. Financial aid	36	5.11%
9. School problems	20	2.84%
10. Peer relations	26	3.7%
11. Homelessness/ basic needs	10	1.42%
12. Commercial exploitation (prostitution, pedophilia, begging etc)	12	1.7%
13. Other	36	5.11%
TOTAL	704	100%

- o There were 514 (73%) female callers, 190 (27%) male callers.
- o In the chart below are the calls on the helpline divided by age categories.



Most of the callers were from Skopje 345 (49%), 121(17.18%) from Prilep, 38 (5.4%) were from Veles, from Bitola 31 (4.4%), Struga 9 (1.21%), Kumanovo 12 (1.7%), Sv. Nikole 8 (1.1%), Ohrid 41 (5.82%), Kocani 5 (0.71%), Vinica 5 (0.71%), Tetovo 4 (0.56%), Kavadarci 4 (0.56%), Stip 4 (0.56%), Probistip 6 (0.85%), Zajas 2 (0.28%), Kicevo 3 (0.42%), Gevgelija 2 (0.28%), Strumica 5 (0.71%), Star Dojran 3(0.42), Radovis 1 (0.14%) and 55 (7.81%) from unidentified location.

Realized Activities

- The SOS helpline signed agreement for cooperation with the **SOS helpline for human trafficking prevention (0800 11111)** which operates within Open Gate and with the **SOS helpline INFO for Drugs/Aids (0800 1 4444)**. The preparation of the informational flyer for all three help lines for realized with the help of UNICEF.
- **Training for ten new volunteers** was held, which joined the SOS helpline team. The training was held by senior SOS helpline volunteers and the SOS helpline Coordinator. The subjects were: use and abuse of psychotropic substances, sexuality and STD, Children's Rights and their abuse, Abuse and violence over children, other problems which face the children on the streets.
- In this **training**, the volunteers visited several SOS help lines, governmental organizations and NGOs with which our SOS helpline cooperates: SOS helpline for domestic violence, Drugs SOS helpline, the Ombudsman, HOPS, Open Gate, the SOS helpline for prevention of human trafficking and the SOS helpline for youth.
- Together with the SOS helpline for prevention of Human Trafficking and the SOS helpline for Drugs, from 20th to 23rd June 2006 we held **training** for the volunteers of these three help lines. The goal of the training was the volunteers to get familiar with the issues with which they are not in direct contact, exchange of experience among them, all with the purpose of improving the cooperation between the SOS help lines.
- From 7th to 12th February 2006, Gordana Pirkovska Zmijanac - Program Manager of PDASM and Maja Korubin – Coordinator of the SOS helpline for Children and Youth, participated on the **Second European Meeting of CHI** (Child Helpline International), international network of SOS help lines for children and youth, held in Budapest. On the meeting was discussed for burning issues from the work of the SOS help lines and were defined future steps planned to be implemented in the next six months.
- In the past 12 months we were guests on few TV and Radio Shows: A1 TV, Sitel TV, Macedonian Radio and others, while supplements were made in several newspapers and magazines: Dnevnik, Vecer, Vest, Nova Makedonija, Vreme, Utrinski vesnik, Pogled and other.
- In September we hired the services of **Mr. Stanislav Petkovski, Specialist of Medical Psychology**, to train the new and the old volunteer of the SOS helpline

Almost one year, our SOS helpline (0800 1 2222) is toll-free, thanks to **Macedonian Telecommunications**. With this, the SOS helpline became even more accessible for the children and youth, especial for the ones with a lower social status. On this free SOS helpline, the children and youth can call even if their phone is turned off due to unpaid bills.

Beside **Macedonian Telecommunications**, the work of our SOS helpline is also supported by **Stopanska Bank**, from which we regularly receive financial aid for part of the expenses for the helpline Coordinator, in a period of one year.

This year, the SOS helpline signed partnership agreement with the SOS helpline from Ireland, which operates with the NGO **Irish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children-ISPCC**. With this agreement, ISPCC obliged to cover one part of the budget necessary for the SOS helpline for children and youth and to provide Fundraising training for sustainability of our helpline.

From July 2006, we have another supporter of our SOS helpline- **Pexim Computers**, which has covered the operations expenses for the Helpline in the past six months.

We thank them

FREE LEGAL SERVICE IN FCEW - MEGJASHI

In the period from 01.07.2006 to 15.12.2006, the Legal Service in FCEWM led a total of 11 cases, based on which, we have filed for action in front of the respective Organs. Although, the number of cases that asked for legal advice from the Legal Service and for which there was no need of legal actions is bigger, and is approximately 15 cases.

For its cases, the Legal Service is using the SOS helpline on which the majority of the cases are reported; also we use the media as a source of information, as well as the citizens which on their own initiative come to the Embassy to report a case, and other means as well.

For its work, the Legal Service cooperates with the Centers for Social Work, with the institutions for Public safety, with the Public Defender, the Prosecutor Office and other state and social institutions.

Cases reported in the Legal Service of FCEW-Megjashi for the previous period:

*** Physical injury by a bullet on a minor girl, by unknown person.**

On 12.07.2006 FCEWM filed to the Public Attorney's Office application for physical inspire against unknown offender/s. The victim in this case is an eight-year-old girl which was wounded by a wondering bullet in her leg. Luckily, the bullet hit a concrete wall before and after ricocheting had hit the girl. Because of this circumstance, the shot did not critically endanger the girl's health, but the consequences from the suffered fear are not neglect able.

As a source for this information, we have used the article in the daily Newspaper "Dnevnik" from 7th July 2006.

***Un-allowed exhibitioner behavior of an older men over minor girls”.**

Anonymous caller reported on our SOS helpline exhibitionist behavior of her neighbor R.S on minor girls in the building. The caller also expressed concern because of the possibility that R.S may also perform his pathological behavior in front of his minor neeses with which allegedly he stayed at home while their parents are at work.

On 13.07.2006 the Legal Service reported this case in the Police Station – Cair so that the police can investigate this case and take appropriate actions.

On 21.07.2006 we have received an answer from the police that they take measures and actions to confirm the authenticity of the anonymous call. On their premises was held an informational conversation R.S and was acknowledged that R.S lives with his wife, his son, his daughter-in-law, and three minor neeses. His is a retired person and has supported his family with his pension. R.S was known in his neighbourhood as an old decent man. Still, PD-Cair stated in their response that they will take measures and if they notice certain socio-pathological appearance they will informal us respectively. After their findings, the Legal Service closed this case until the next call or additional response from Police Station - Cair.

***Case of neglected child.**

. The case was reported by the uncle of the minor (15-years-old). He reported that the minor is living with his mother in atypical living conditions, and there are serious indications that the mother is working as a prostitute, and is not paying attention to the child's psychosocial development which doesn't go to high school and has unhealthy social life. We reported this case in the Center for Social Work, where a process for supervision for parental right has begun. *The CSW investigated the case it continued to follow it. According to them, positive results in the minor are noticeable.*

***Kidnapping**

On 01.09.2006.a parent (mother S.S) called our SOS helpline to report that the father has kidnapped their 8-year-old son. After the divorce, the parents live separately, while the custody of the child has the mother. She reported that after the father had taken the child, month and a half has passed.

We have reported this case in the respective Center for Social Work.

***Physical violence on a child**

On 13.09.2006 we have been informed of a case of physical violence over the minor N.F (10-years-old.). The case was reported by the father, according to whom, the mother has abused their son and he refuses to live with her.

The case was reported in the Center for Social Work –Skopje, department for Marriage and Family. Although we report this case for the second time, we still haven't received their response, so we continue on this case.

***Physical violence over children by their Gym Professor in a Home for Children.**

The Case was reported in MIA, and we have reported it to the Ombudsman and the CSW. CSW pleaded out of jurisdiction since the children are not their users. There is a process in progress for another CSW.

***Disgruntled students report the HR policy of the Director in their school.**

On 16.10.2006 a group of students sent a letter to our Embassy stating that they are not satisfied with the Human Resources Policy of the Director in their School. Namely, the children find that some of the teachers don't have the appropriate education and that they teach using old methods and materials.

We have reported this case to the Public Attorney's Office. On 06.11.2006 the PA office reported this case to the State Labor Inspectorate for supervision of the methods used during the employment of the teachers in that school. The actions are still taking place.

*** Case of prostitution of minors by an older person**

The case has been reported in the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

***Neglected child**

On 20.11.2006 we had a case reported for neglected 20-year-old girl suffering atrophy of muscles. The case was reported by her brother, who explained that his sister lives with their father who was aggressive and irresponsible man. He didn't care about the daughter, is not taking her for her regular medical exams, is not feeding her and is not concerned about their social development. The girl is not going to high school and has neglected social life.

At the moment, the Legal Service is looking for the most appropriate solution according to the Laws for Health Insurance and the Law for Social Protection, in order to find the best possible solution co-working with the respective Organs for Social Protection.

*** Physical abuse of a minor**

The father on 24.11.2006 reported physical violence over his son, and we are in the preparation of a suit to the District Attorney.

***Physical abuse over a minor**

The mother on 24.11.2006 reported physical assault by their neighbors (45-years-old and 22-years old) over her son R.A (12-years-old.). We are preparing to file.

PSYCHOSIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CARE FOR THE CHILDREN WITHOUT PARENTS AFTER THEY LEAVE THE HOME "11 OKTOMVRI"

The first Children's Embassy in the World- Megjashi in December 2005 started with implementation of the project "Psycho-social and educational support to the children without parents, after they leave the Home 11 Oktomvri".

The Fund for Social Investments, Project for development of the municipalities, determined list of priorities of the city Skopje, among which our project proposal was chosen. Participants in the selection process were also the World Bank, the Ministry of Labor and the Coordinator of the City of Skopje, Mrs. Liljana Popovska.

In the past 2005 the preparatory activities for this project have taken place. In the period of 11 months, from December 2005 till November 2006, The First Children's Embassy in the World- Megjashi continuously achieved the predicted activities with members of the target group.

In the period July - November, the educational workshops for Computers, English and Cooking took place. The youth from the target group were working in two workgroups, formed based on the level of knowledge of the language or the computer skills.

The workshops for psycho-social support for the youth were held for specific issues, and often they looked like educational workshop, while the counseling was done in the form of individual sessions with the ones that had need for it.

Within the frames of this project, four cinema visits and two theatre visits were performed.

On July 14th 2006, we held a meeting in the Ministry of Labor and Social Politics. The meeting was an extraordinary meeting with the PDO (Project for Development of the Municipalities), where the participants were the signatories of the Agreement for Cooperation for the project "Psycho-social and educational support for the children which leave the orphanage 11 Oktomvri" and the Ministry of Finance of Republic of Macedonia. FCEW-Megjashi and PDO were the initiators for this meeting whose aim was to point out for the alarming condition with the youth in the target group in which Megjashi detected serious forms of deviant vehement and certain psycho - physical conditions which overcome the possibilities for direct intervention

from the Civic Organizations. On the meeting with the Minister Stevce Jakimovski was discussed about the condition with the youth, for the individual cases as well as for the future steps which have to be taken.

The last (fourth) seminar had the role of introduction of the relevant institutions (Ministry of Labor and Social Politics, Centers for Social Welfare; the City of Skopje), the civic organizations as well as the general public, with the results of the project's implementation. On this pulpous the seminar was a preparation for a Forum Theatre in which the youth chose some of their real-life stories, events that made significant impact on them, and with enormous selflessness and confidence have shared them with us and with the public, while speaking about their pain.

The seminar took place in Skopje, from 21st to 24th September in Hotel Continental, while on 25. 09. 2006 the forum theatre for the public was held.

On the Forum theatre we have intuited: Project for Development of Municipalities; Ministry of Labor and Social Politics; Center for Social Work; City of Skopje; Children's Home "11th October "; Ministry of Finance; civic organizations; SOS Children's Village; part of the guests were invited by the youth participating in the forum theatre – their friends, foster parents and other.

The event was noted by the media and in the following period, in few Macedonian newspapers were published articles in which they openly spoke about the destinies of this youth while they stayed at the foster families or at the orphanage, for their suffering, but also for the positive-example stories and which have to serve as a model for fostering children without parents or parental care.

In the period while we have worked on the encouragement of the youth, they formed their own civic organization which is a result and big indicator for taking over responsibility for independent life and continuing the psycho-social support of the children that leave the orphanage or the foster-families, with which we would like to continue the mission of providing support of this marginalized target group.

But, the formation of the NGO doesn't mean only registering the association. It also means work that demands human and material resources. What can be said about this group of youth is that they really need help and support for organizational work-only the wishes and the initiatives are simply not enough but instead there have to be capacities for handling certain tasks.

The newly formed association "Better Life" received enormous support from the First Children's Embassy in the World- Megjashi. During the registration process, the youth were every day in our organization working on their Statue, receiving Legal advice for every step needed for registration of organization, received office equipment among which a computer and before all, they received moral support for forming an civic organization which will work on help and support for the youth the leaves the orphanages or the foster families. For three youth from this group, which are also part of the newly formed organization, Megjashi has provided training for

Project Cycle Argument together with the other employees and volunteers, in November 2006.

Besides the activities meant with the plan for implementation of the project, FCEW Megjashi welcomed the youth from the target group in resolving some of their daily issues. As an example, in April we helped Mari Bircovska when she was moving to a different habitat, Ance Stojanovska in her corresponds and legal matter for obtaining her citizenship (she still doesn't possess Macedonian Citizenship).

To one of the youth from the group, we have provided a donation of 100 EUR. The donation was given by women who called in our embassy and expressed her wish to give a small donation to a child without parents. Because the amount was not big if divided among all of the youth, the decision was that it should be given to the one which needed it most. Since Irfan got married recently and is expecting to become a father, and lives only on the social aid, we have decided that he and his family should receive this donation.

Also another youth (Tereza Hristovska) which had a wish to learn the Italian Language, we provided a volunteer from the First Children's Embassy in the World – Megjashi to teach her once per week, hour and a half. For another youth from the target group (Erdogan Kamberi) which had a wish to finish IV degree of high school, we have provided a donation which will enable him this. He already enrolled in the Wood Processing High School and so far passed three exams.

The youth were encouraged to keep in touch and still to receive counseling and support from the team of the First Children's Embassy in the World- Megjashi after micro project finishes.

Children's Workshops

The Children's Workshops are one of the first activities of the Embassy Megjashi. They are working more than 13 years and represent an opportunity for the children from different ethnicity and low economical status, to make friends and develop their creativity and fantasy through the use of appropriate materials. All workshops were led by volunteers:

- Computer Workshop: Jovan Mazganski, Irena Pejic;
- English Language: Kristina Krstevska, Aleksandra Velkova, Dragana Mitovska, Strilka Roguseva
- Albanian Language: Frosina Pandurska;
- German Language: Slavica Josifovska;
- Human values education: Lidija Baltovska;
- Astronomy: Borce Milceski;
- Art: Magdalena Pavlovska, Marija Ilieska, Slagjana Kirovska;
- Origami: Julijan Kasovski;

- Mathematics: Irena Srbinoska;
- for Good Health: Goce Talevski;
- Pen Pals: Borce Stojanovski;
- Ecology: Jovan Mazganski;
- Sports: Andrijana Kolevska;

The total number of children visiting the workshops is 165, while each group consists of 10 - 15 children, age 4-15, in equal proportions boys and girls.

The total number of workshops is 27, and is realized by volunteers.

We have also organized the following activities:

On December 2nd we have organized educational-recreational picnic on mountain Vodno in which participated children, parents, employees and volunteer of the First Children's Embassy in the World- Megjashi. The picnic had:

- Roller-blade competition;
- Short lecture on ecology problems and need actions to minimize them;
- Tree-planting event and
- Presence on the event for fire distinguishing, organized by the Red-Cross Macedonia.

On December 17th we organized a visit to the Planetarium, for the members of the Children's Workshops, their parents and the volunteers of Megjashi.

On December 19th the children from the English Language Workshop visited the American Corner-Skopje for their Story-Telling Day.

On December 27th we have organized a New Year's Party and Masquerade for all children from the Workshop, in the presence of their parents. The Party took place in the playground Fantasia. We express our gratitude for the owner, Helena Roza, which donated the premises for three parties from 15 till 21h.

Also, the refreshments for the party were donated by Lozar - Bitola, and the Lottery, was donated by Mrs. Lidija Baltovska. Great thanks for their selfless engagement.

In the period October – December were financed by the Australian Embassy Belgrade.

The Children's Workshops were coordinated by Tanja Janevska

Global Campaign for Education 2006 "Inclusion of all the children in the Education"

The last week of April (24.04-30.04) we have devoted to the Global Action Week 2006, whose topic this year was "Let's include all the children in education". On global level, The GAW is organized by the international network **Global Campaign for Education**.

"From 24 – 30th April, civil society, made up of child rights activists, teacher unions and NGOs showed they really care about ensuring every child gets a quality education, delivered by a quality teacher. United in their asks, across the world, in

112 countries, millions of children and campaigners held mock court hearings, taught lessons, marched streets, painted pictures, made posters, met officials, voted for teachers and added their voice to the campaign. "Among the celebrities who were involved in this campaign was the famous actress **Angelina Jolie**. Macedonia was also part of this global event. The Campaign started with March on the City Square. Thanks to Accent Media, 10 billboards with the message "Every child needs a teacher! – *If you can read this, Thank a teacher!*" were placed in the center of the city to announce the beginning of the campaign.

On 26th April 450 students from Skopje, together with their teachers were marching on the City Square. They were marching with transparent and messages for inclusion of all the children in the education. The same event took place in other cities in Macedonia as well, with total participation of over 2000 children on national level.

On 27th April, we organized a meeting with the Deputy Minister for finances, Mr. Maksut Ali. On this meeting the children and the teachers were asking increasing of the budget for education- only for inclusion of the children who don't go to elementary school, which is guaranteed by the Constitution of Republic of Macedonia and the Convention for Children's Rights. The same day, children and teachers had a meeting with the members of the Parliament from the Commission for education, science and sport. On this meeting, the children asked for: all the children who don't go to school (18.000) to start their education and a meal to be organized for them, new classes for this children and more teachers to be employed, while the Centers for Social Works to ask a form the social aid beneficiaries written confirmation from school that their child goes to school. Support for the Global Action Week 2006 we have received from: **President of Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Branko Crvenkovski, the Mayor of City Skopje Mr. Trifun Kostovski, Ministry of Finance, the Parliament of Republic of Macedonia, the City of Skopje, Municipality Veles, Municipality Bogovinje, Municipality Mogila, Municipality Rosoman, Municipality Stip, Municipality Negotino, Elementary School "Zivko Brajkovski" - Butel, Elementary School "K.P. Misirkov" - Radovis, Elementary School "Lazo Trpovski" - Skopje, Elementary School "11th October" - Skopje, Elementary School "Trajko Andressv" -Veles, Elementary School "Rajko Zinzifov" Dolno Orizari, Veles, Special Elementary School "Idnina" -Skopje, Elementary School "Goce Delcev" - Stip, NGO "Doverba" - Kumanovo, PHURT - Delcevo, Children's Home - 11th October - Skopje, Elementary School "Vasil Glavinov" – Veles, Elementary School "Blaze Koneski" - Veles, Elementary School "Sv. Kiril i Metodij" - Veles, El. S. "Blagoj Kirkov" - Veles, Elementary School "JXK - Dginot" - Veles, Elementary School "Stojan Burcevski - Butridan" - Veles, DPTU Milk Restaurant (Bakery) "VEGERA" - Skopje helped us with supplying the snacks during the march in Skopje, AD "Pivara" Skopje-supported the campaign and donated 20 packets of juices for children participating in the march, **Ms. Violeta Tomovska – singer, Stefan Pleskonik- child Ambassador of the FCEW- Megjashi, Beni Sakiri– singer, The children from the television show-"Nase Maalo Ms. Kristina Dickinson – Human rights activist.****

For more information on this action in other countries, visit the web site of the international network Global Campaign for Education:
www.campaignforeducation.org

Petition against the legalization of the Party Brotherly Love, Freedom and Diversity

On July 19th immediately after the news the Court in the Netherlands legalized the Party "Brotherly love, freedom and diversity", the Embassy Megjashi sent and appeal for signing of the petition.

Reaction regarding the legalization of the political party "Brotherly love, freedom and diversity" by the Court in the Netherlands

The First Children's Embassy in the World- Megjashi, as an international NGO for protection of children's rights, reckons that the legalization of a Party which represents pedophile's interests implicates danger to the safety of the society, and especially to the safety of the children.

The Embassy Megjashi considers that the program goals of this Party which support lowering the legal age for sexual intercourse, legalization of child pornography, even legal display and promotion of violent pornography contradicts to the spirit of the Convention for children's rights.

Namely, the signatories of the Convention are obligated to stand for international action of the countries and the other international organizations on behalf harmonious development of child's personality, growth in a family environment, with love and understanding.

Also, the plead of the Party for enabling children on the age of sixteen to prostitute themselves and to appear in pornographic movies contradicts with the Convention for prohibition of worst forms of child's labor abuse, No. 182 brought on the convention of the International Labor Organization. It was ratified by the Netherlands on 14.02.2002.

The Convention was so far ratified by 161 countries, and Republic of Macedonia has ratified it on 30.05.2002 as a result of the lobbying of the First Children's Embassy in the World- Megjashi as well. In this Convention under article 3, **the use, production and involving children in prostitution due to production of pornography is defined as one of the most dangerous forms of abuse of child's labor.**

The First Children's Embassy in the World- Megjashi supports the Dutch organization for protection of children - Foundation Profit for the World's Children and their action of gathering signatures on petition for ban of this Party.

We would like to emphasize that the registration of this Party contradicts

article 3 from the Convention of children's rights, which states: In all activities regarding the children, children's interest are of primary importance, no matter whether they are administered by the public or the private Institutions for social welfare, the Courts, the administrative bodies or the legal institutions.

Therefore, we think that the Government of Netherlands should keep their "doors closed" facing manipulation of children's rights and should not allow legalization of one of the most dangerous acts on the children's rights (sexual abuse/ Pedophilia), which is directly connected with abuse, and has very little to do with sexual freedom!

Transparency in our Work

The First Children's Embassy in the World- Megjashi published its 2005 Annual Report "**We are the Future**". It covers information on the activities in 2005 and the independent revising opinion of KPMG. The annual report can be seen on our web page. The release of the annual report was supported by **MCMS**, Foundation Open Society Macedonia (**FIOOM**), and Center for Civic Initiative (**CGI**) Prilep.

International Conference of the children's SOS help lines, organized by Child Helpline International and Briss –Sweden

From 1st to 4th October, in Stockholm was held the third International Conference of the SOS child help lines from all over the world, organized by the Swedish Queen Silvia.

Among the representatives of the SOS help lines, on this conference also participated representatives of the International Union of Telecommunications which are the mostly sponsoring the SOS help lines.

Through workshops, in this conference among the other were promoted innovations in the work of the SOS help lines such as: support/talk over SMS, over e-mail, over web-chat, as well as special interactive portals "From children for children", where the children ask a question for a problem and talk with the operator over e-mail.

On this conference also participated our SOS helpline 0800 1 22 22, represented by Mrs. Gordana Pirkovska-Zmijanac – Program Manager in the Embassy Megjashi. Our Help line received a special certificate that is striving to achieve the world standards of the work of SOS help lines.

"It is praising how the modern technologies are helping the work of the SOS help lines. It is a challenge our SOS help line to start working this way. " said Mrs. Gordana after she returned.

MEGJASHI MEMBER OF THE CIVIC PLATFORM MACEDONIA

At 16 of March 2004 the Macedonian Civic Platform (MCP) was founded. Megjashi was one of the organizations - founders and a member of its committee. The platform is open place for exchange of thoughts, ideas, experiences, formulating suggestions and mutual cooperation for supporting the activities of civil organizations whose aim is to build civil society in Macedonia. There are 31 members in this organization.

The activities aimed for the work program of MCP are focused on:

Improvement of communication, coordination and cooperation in the civil sector, development of the home support system, creating a civil sector working according to highest ethical standards of responsibilities and transparency.

Within the frames of the MCP program, Megjashi is coordinator of the "program for dialogue and cooperation with the civil organizations, the government, the business sector, the media and the public".

During the period 2006/2007 the MCP program is co-financed by the European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR).

Civic Platform Macedonia

The Civic Platform Macedonia (CPM) was formed on March 16th 2004. The Platform is an open space for thinking, democratic discussions on ideas, formulation of suggestions, free exchange of experiences and mutual connections for actions of the civic organizations dedicated on building the democratic society in Macedonia.

The Platform will impel capacity building of the civic organizations for mobilization of domestic support for their objectives. With mobilization of domestic support and assets, the dependence of international financing sources will be minimized. The Platform will impel welcoming environment for domestic mobilization of support and support with assets.

This will mean identity building, image and communication with the public, which will strengthen the trust.

This will mean sector working with highest ethical standards on responsibility and transparency.

This will mean ability for documentation of results and the efficiency of the civic organizations.

The First Children's Embassy in the World – Megjashi is one of the Founders – Organizations of CPM and member of the CPM Comity.

For the period 2006/2007, the program of CPM is co-financed by the European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR).

The Activities in CPM's program are focused towards: communication improvement, coordination and cooperation of the civic sector; development of domestic support system; establishing partner relations with the state sector, the business sector and the international organizations.

Within the frames of the CPM program, the First Children's Embassy in the World- Megjashi is coordinator of the **Component 4** - or "Dialogue and cooperation with the civic organizations, the Government, the Business Sector, the Media and broader Public".

Beside the coordination, Megjashi is implementing organization on few projects in this program, out of which, two have started:

In the middle of September 2006, we have started the implementation of the project "**Promotion of positive examples**" which has the goal of improving the visibility of the results from the work of the Civic Organization through publishing of their most successful activities. To the civic organizations (CO) was sent a call for participation in the publications through applying with activities that are positive example for the work of the CO. The dead-line for the applications was 30th November, and we have received more than 30 applications from the civic organizations with description of activities which they find to be good example that influenced change in the community and which has to be published and available to the public.

For the selection of best practices a Commission was formed. The Commission met in December 2006 and selected the best practices which will be included in the first edition.

The editing of the edition has begun, and for the Editor, the Program Board of CPM chose Goran Velickovski.

From October 1st 2006 has started the implementation of the project "**Promotion of Volunteerism**" whose goal is to promote and motivate the broader civic participation and support of the civic organizations through strengthening of the volunteerism.

Within of the project, a Guide for Volunteers will be prepared, which will explain in steps the way of becoming a volunteer, what does it mean, which are the ways for volunteering in CO.

Draft Version of the Guide is already prepared, and in the following period its content will be purified after which the next phase is printing and distribution.

The guide will be printed in 15.000 copies, 12.000 of which will be on Macedonian language and 3.000 of which on Albanian Language. In the period February – April, 4 promotions of the Volunteer Guide will be held on 4 different Universities in Republic of Macedonia.

New fundraising activity in cooperation with the NOVA International High School

Since recently, The Embassy Megjashi started the production of decorative figures/magnets– as a part of our fundraising activities. The figures which are made out of special plastic and plaster were painted by hand by Megjashi's volunteers, NOVA high school students and some Dutch members of the International Women's Association. So far, more than 500 pieces of these magnets were made with which sales we have raised 16.000,00 denars. One part of the raised money we have invested in the production of cash-boxes and with rest we have bought working materials for the free children's workshops in the Embassy Megjashi. These decorative magnets at the moment can only be bought on the special events organized by the Embassy Megjashi or directly at our premises on Kosta Novakovic str. 22a.

Since each stage of the production process of the magnets is hand-made, everything is done very slowly, but starting from September, the preparation will be included as a regular project in the program of the NOVA high school.

The internally displaced persons living in Megjashi's Shelter Centre have returned to their homes after 5 years

The four families living in Megjashi's Shelter Centre have finally returned to their homes after a period of five years. The families have been living in Shelter in order to avoid the horror resulting from the conflict in the year 2001, on which they were immediate witnesses in their initiative Arachinovo. Eight of the displaced persons were children, three of which born in the Shelter Centre. During the summer the families moved to their new homes in Skopje and Kumanovo and are gradually adjusting to the local life. Ivana and Sanela enrolled in high schools, AndriJana and Marija entered new primary schools, and Jovana enrolled a primary school for the first time, while Ace, Nikola and Marija will start to go to school from next year. We wish them luck!

PARTICIPATIONS

The volunteers of the First Children's Embassy in the World- Megjashi, in this past period had the opportunities to participate on more seminars and trainings :

- **Irena Nosaceva**, volunteer of the SOS helpline for children and youth was registered as a participant on the International seminar in Brashov, Romania. The Seminar, which took place from 22nd to 26th May 2006 had the subject "From multicultural to intercultural communities", organized by the Council Europe.

- The International Youth Camp was held in 23 - 30. 07. 2006 in Backi Monoshtor, Sombor.
On this Camp participated youth from ex-Yugoslavia: Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Slovenia and Serbia. As representatives of our Embassy were our volunteers: **Mirhan Sulimanovski, Snezana Postolovska, Azrina Dupljak, Magdalena Pavlovska and Tatjana Nasevska.**

- **Study Visit of Miramida Groznjan, Istra**
From 4 – 11 September in Croatia, study visit was organized by MIRamiDa, Gorznjan. The participants were professors (3 of which were members of our organization) from high multiethnic schools involved in work with civil organizations from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Macedonia. The purpose of the meeting was cultural exchange, to establish the initial contacts as a possibility for future cooperation and to obtain new knowledge and skills that would help their future work. Visits of two primary schools, as well as workshops in the field of facing the past (led by John and Diana Lampen, Goran Bozicevic and Ana Bituljanu) were organized. We thank: the hosts, Balkan Civil Society Development Network and Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC) for their support.

- In December 2006, **Tatjana Palcevska – Accountant**, participated in Training for Accountants.

DONATIONS

The Embassy Megjashi since its beginning is implementing and developing social activities.

The engagements of the social service of the First Children's Embassy in the World – Megjashi are focused towards humanitarian aid in food, clothes, shoes, and hygiene for 15 endangered families and 4 families from our shelter center.

Gratitude for the Donors:

Macedonian Telecommunications, Stopanska Bank, Rosana, Prografika, Ramstore, Pexim Computers, Nextsense, Viva, Jogo Merkur, Avizo, Fuga, Trodat and Lozar.