

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES: TARGETED VIOLENCE AND HOSTILITY

The project *Children with disabilities: targeted violence and hostility* is part of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights' (FRA) overall work on the fundamental rights of people with disabilities, as part of the EU's monitoring framework for the UN [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (CRPD). It follows [previous FRA research¹](#), which showed that targeted violence and hostility related to disability (both criminal and non-criminal acts) pose serious barriers to realisation of the rights of people with disabilities, as enshrined in the CRPD.

Objectives: The project aims at collecting and analysing existing evidence on targeted violence and abuse against children with disabilities (including hate crime) across the 28 EU Member States. It also looks at Member States' responses to such violence. Specifically, the project collected data on legislative and policy instruments, as well as services to address violence and hostility against children with disabilities, focusing in particular on good practices that can be shared.

Research methodology: Desk research on available secondary data through FRA's national research network in all 28 Member States, complemented by a limited number of semi-structured interviews in 13 countries.

Desk research:

- ⇒ How is the issue of identity-based violence and hostility against children with disabilities recognised across Member States – what are the legal frameworks at the national level, if any?
- ⇒ Is there evidence on the situation and how is it collected and reported – e.g. in form of studies, complaint statistics and official statistics?
- ⇒ In which way is the issue of identity-based violence and hostility against children with disabilities responded to by public authorities – are there any specialised programmes, good practices? Have national human rights bodies or non-governmental organisations (NGOs) developed targeted responses?
- ⇒ Information on relevant national case law over the last 10 years on the issue of violence against children with disabilities, and if available, specifically on hate crime against children with disabilities.

Fieldwork research:

In addition to the desk research covering all Member States, FRA's data collection is complemented by fieldwork covering 13 EU countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom. The choice of countries reflects a range of geographical regions and various data collection mechanisms pertaining to violence, and in particular to hate crime against people with disabilities.

¹ See FRA (2012), [Choice and control: the right to independent living](#), Luxembourg, Publications Office of the European Union.

The fieldwork consisted of 10 semi-structured face-to-face interviews with selected stakeholders.

Participant groups:

- Designated bodies of the national frameworks for the implementation of the CRPD (Art. 33 (1) national focal points and Art. 33 (2) independent mechanisms).
- Public authorities; health professionals, professionals working in the educational sector; service providers for children with disabilities.
- Representative organisations (e.g. national umbrella organisations representing people with disabilities; parents' organisations; victim support organisations; NGOs working on child rights).
- Human rights protection bodies (e.g. National Human Rights Institutions; Equality bodies; Ombudsperson, in particular Children Ombudspersons).

The objective of the interviews was to provide FRA with in-depth understanding of the issue of targeted violence and hostility against children with disabilities, and to collect primary country specific data on policies, programmes and good practices.

Expected outputs (last quarter 2014): Comparative and summary report.

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