

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK AND CRIMINAL OPERATIONAL ASPECT OF COMBATING NEW FORMS OF COMMUNITY VIOLENCE¹

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Abstract: *The paper presents the legislative framework and the criminalistics-operational aspect of the fight against new forms of violence in Serbia. It is primarily about domestic violence, then peer violence and violence at sports events. The social response to the challenges, risks and threats posed by new forms of violence in the community first included normative-legal activity. The legal framework for the fight against new forms of violence in the community included the adoption of special laws and bylaws, which were pointed out in the paper. On that basis, the criminalistics-operational response of the police and law enforcement agencies, judicial bodies and other relevant entities was further upgraded. The paper also points out the activities of the RS Ministry of the Interior in the fight against forms of domestic violence, peer violence and violence at sports events. In the concluding remarks, proposals were made for improving the legislative framework de lege ferenda, strengthening multi-agency and multi-sectoral cooperation, and accepting the good practice of the developed countries in the context of our application for the EU accession.*

Keywords: *organized crime, legislative framework, institutional mechanisms, international cooperation, Serbia and EU.*

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INTRODUCTION

After the democratic changes at the end of 2000, the average of long-awaited reforms in all areas of social life was launched in Serbia. Among them, one of the most important was the area of interior, police reform and other services within the security sector. In a broader sense, police and intelligence service reform was part of the EU Administrative Space Project (Kavran, 2004), which highlights the lawful work of law enforcement agencies, benefits the community and controls the work of these agencies.

The issue of the new model of organization and the way the police work as the most numerous institution in the security sector was especially important. The traditional model was completely closed, centralized and inconsistent with the needs of modern society because it could not respond to new challenges, risks and threats (Nikač, 2019, 31-36). Among them, new forms of violent behaviour that cause great public anxiety, such as domestic violence, peer violence and violence at sports events, have an important place. Under the influence of the developed countries of the EU and the USA, a new model of organization and manner of the policing was adopted in the RS Ministry of the Interior (MoI), called *community policing*. Building on this model, in the function of combating crime and its most severe forms, it has been affirmed as the leading model of criminal-intelligence policing - Intelligence Led Policing (Leštanin et al, 2018, 241-254; Djurdjevic, Lestanin, 2017, 3-16).

In the fight against crime in the community, a multi-agency approach and cooperation between the police, the so-called 'line policing'³ and local police with each other, with other bodies and institutions is important. Starting from the specifics of domestic violence, peer violence and hooliganism, the cooperation of the police with external bodies and institutions such as the Social Work Centers, schools, professional sports and other associations is especially important. International police and criminal cooperation is also needed, which refers to the suppression of hooliganism at sports events in the country and abroad. The media and the community (local self-government) have a significant role in combating these forms of crime, as they should affirm the values and condemn all occurrences of violence in the community.

THE FIGHT AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

As a phenomenon, domestic violence has been known since ancient times and has long been accepted in many cultures, even considered a family matter over which the community has no and must not have influence (Nikač, 2017, 217-232). Such an approach has been around for a long time as a consequence of the ruling patriarchy and the leading role of the male gender in society. Within the family, men had power and control over women and children, economically and otherwise affected their lives, introduced prohibitions and restrictions. Corporal punishment of women and children persisted for a long time, and even marital rape in England until the 1970s (Ajduković, 2000, 11-15).

With the development of modern society, changes are taking place and domestic violence is no longer just a family matter, but an issue that is in the focus of interest of the civil public. After World War II, the situation changed in favour of expanding and further protecting of the rights of women and children, primarily at the international level by adopting important documents under the auspices of the League of Nations - UN, CE and EU.

³ Line policing is a form of police work that is directed from the central to the local levels divided into lines of police of general jurisdiction, traffic police, criminal and border police.



a) The most important document in this area is the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women - CEDAW (from 18 December 1979). Then the Optional Protocol for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was adopted (from 06 October 1999), which was ratified by the SFRY and accepted by Serbia as a successor state (Law on Ratification CEDAW, OG-International agreements 11/81). Among the most important international documents for combating domestic violence and protecting the rights of women and children are the Recommendation 19 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action and Human Rights Commission Resolution 2003/45 (Božić, Nikač, 2018, 464-473).

The 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child is an important document for the further affirmation of children's rights, the protection from domestic violence and the realization of other rights of the youngest. The former SFRY accepted and ratified the Convention by a special law, and then took over Serbia as a successor (Law on Ratification Convention on the Rights of the Child, OG-International agreements 12/93,20/97). With its decisions, the European Court of Human Rights affirmed the solutions from the Convention and took the legal position that domestic violence is a violation of fundamental human rights (Van Bueren, 2007, 121).

The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul, 2011) is the most important document that comprehensively protects the rights of women, children, the elderly and partners. The Istanbul Convention has contributed to raising awareness of this problem of modern society and highlighted social support for victims of domestic violence. Serbia has ratified the Convention and incorporated legal solutions into national legislation (Confirmation Law of the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, OG-International agreements 12-13/13).

b) At the national level, Serbia has adopted several important laws and regulations in the field of protection against domestic violence. The initial act is the Family Law OG 18/05,72/11-state laws and 06/15), which also regulates the issue of (protection from domestic violence, in Article 197 and further in Chapter IX. Domestic violence is defined as behaviour by which a family member endangers the physical integrity, mental health or tranquility of another family member (paragraph 1), while paragraph 2 lists specific forms and actions of acts of domestic violence: causing bodily harm, causing fear by threatening to kill or inflicting bodily injury on a family member or a person close to him, forcing sexual intercourse or sexual intercourse with a person under the age of 14 or with an incapacitated person, the restriction of freedom of movement or communication with third parties, insult and other insolent, reckless and malicious behaviour. The following are measures to protect family members from violence, such as: moving out of a family apartment or house regardless of the legal basis of ownership or rent, ban on approaching a family member (distance), ban on access to the place of residence or work of a family member, ban on further harassment of a family member (Article 198). The duration of measures for protection against domestic violence is a maximum of one year, which includes time spent in detention or during deprivation of liberty.

The Criminal Code (OG br.85/05,88/05 – corr.107/05, 72/09, 111/09, 121/12, 104/13, 108/14, 94/16 i 35/19; further: CC) provides for two criminal offenses as protection from domestic violence in Article 194, Domestic Violence and Article 114, paragraph 1, item 10 Aggravated Murder.

The basic forms of Domestic Violence issues include the use of violence, the threat of attacking life or body, insolent or reckless behavior that endangers the peace, physical integrity or mental state of a family member, for which a prison sentence of 3 months to 3 years is prescribed. The following are qualified forms of felony that include the use of weapons, dangerous tools or other means that can



cause bodily injury or serious damage to health (punishment 6 months to 5 years), then when the commission of the crime caused serious bodily injury or serious damage to health or the injured party is a minor (imprisonment from 2 to 10 years) and the most serious case when a family member died as a result of the commission of a felony (imprisonment from 3 to 15 years) and if the family member is a minor of at least 10 years. Imprisonment from 3 months to 3 years cumulatively with a fine is prescribed if the perpetrator violates the protection measures from the Family Law.

The Aggravated Murder consists of taking the life of a member of his family whom he previously abused. In this crime, it is necessary to have a history of abuse in any form. A sentence of imprisonment of at least ten years or life imprisonment is prescribed, so that this form of crime does not become outdated.

Other regulations in this area include the Prohibition of Discrimination Law (OG 22/09, 52/21) and the Gender Equality Law (OG 52/21), which affirm the equality of people in the community regardless of: gender, race, ethnicity, skin colour, language, religion, political belief, social background, property status, education, marital status, age, health status, sexual orientation. It provides for an equal right to protection in cases of domestic violence, legal and other assistance to victims and mitigation of the consequences of violence.

The Prevention of Domestic Violence Law (OG No. 94/16) was adopted with the aim of uniformly regulating the organization and conduct of state bodies and institutions in the fight against domestic violence, providing urgent and effective protection and support to victims of domestic violence. Prevention of domestic violence includes activities that reveal the potential immediate threat of domestic violence and measures to eliminate it. Physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence are cited as forms of domestic violence. The broader notion of a victim is accepted, which includes a current or former spouse or partner, a person with whom the perpetrator is in blood relations (in the direct line and side of the second degree) or a legal relative or father-in-law or adoptive parent, adoptee, foster parent or foster child or to another person with whom he lives or has lived in a joint household (Article 3).

c) The most important subjects of combating domestic violence are state bodies and organizations that have inherent competence: the police, public prosecutor's office, courts (general competencies, misdemeanor court) and Social Work Centers (Articles 7-11). Specially licensed policemen work together with the representatives of the prosecution and social services within the Groups for Coordination and Cooperation (Articles 25-26). The institutions of child and social protection, upbringing and education, health care, bodies for gender equality, local self-government and associations have a significant role (Gačević, Nikač, 2015, 75-92). The procedure for the prevention of domestic violence envisages the application of complementary norms of criminal law - the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) or the Misdemeanors Law, depending on the legal qualification of the offense (Nikač, Božić, 2018, 13-21). Policemen have an important role in the fight against domestic violence because, as a rule, they are the first in contact with the victim and the suspect, after domestic violence has been reported. The observation is followed by operational policing, which includes talking to the actors and potential witnesses, bringing the (potential) suspect to the police, assessing the risk and, if necessary, taking urgent measures. These are the measures of temporary removal of the (potential) perpetrator from the apartment and temporary ban on contact and approach to the victim of violence, which is imposed by an authorized policeman and lasts 48 hours from delivery with the possibility of court extension for up to 30 days (Article 17). The competent public prosecutor who manages the procedure is informed about everything throughout the procedure pursuant Article 5 i Article 43 of the CPC (OG 72/11, 101/11, 121/12, 32/13, 45/13, 55/14, 03/19).



THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILDREN AND PEER VIOLENCE

Violence against children and peer violence as its modality are unfortunately very present in modern society in which the race for earnings, better living conditions and career advancement is dominant, which leads to the alienation of the person and neglect of children and youth. The long-standing unfavourable social, economic and other circumstances in Serbia have exposed citizens, especially children and youth, to an increased risk of crime and violence. The current situation indicates that there has been an increase in community violence and new forms in the form of domestic, peer and violence at sports events.

Of particular concern is peer violence among children and young people, which has lasting consequences for children and young victims, both in adolescence and later in adulthood. Children appear in a dual role: a) as bullies who abuse others, and b) as victims who are injured and intimidated by acts of violence. The victims suffer the consequences in the form of poorer success in school and other manifestations, while bullies have a higher risk for the future because they continue their criminal career.

a) Serbia, like other countries in transition, has encountered this problem and the issue of a social response to the growing peer violence has been raised. According to the RS MoI, in the first period, from 2003 to 2007, about 7,300 events, occurrences and incidents were recorded that indicated a violation of the safety of students, staff and school property (www.mup.gov.rs). In mid-2005, the RS government initiated the Baseline Framework for a National Anti-Violence Strategy prepared by a multi-sectoral governmental and non-governmental sector working group. The National Strategy for Prevention and Protection of Children from Violence has been adopted (OG No. 122/08) and the Action plan for the implementation of the Strategy (11 March 2010). The development of a safe environment, the establishment of a national system of prevention and protection of children from all forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation were highlighted as general goals (Nikač et al., 2009). Furthermore, the National Strategy for Youth (OG No. 55/08) and the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy were adopted (OG No. 07/09).

The legislative framework for the protection of children from violence is based on the RS Constitution, which treats children's rights as a constitutional category and guarantees the right to free personal development. According to the Constitution, human life is inviolable (there is no death penalty), physical and mental integrity is inviolable, and no one can be held in slavery or in a position similar to slavery. All forms of trafficking in human beings as well as forced labour are prohibited, while sexual and economic exploitation of disadvantaged persons is considered forced labour. According to age and mental maturity, children enjoy human rights, they are protected from physical, psychological, economic exploitation or abuse. Children under the age of 15 cannot be employed at all, while those under the age of 18 cannot work in jobs harmful to health or morals (RS Constitution part II, OG No. 98/06).

The Fundamentals of the Education System Law (OG 88/17, 27/18-state laws, 10/19 and 06/29) prohibits physical violence and insulting the personality of children, guarantees the right of students to protection from discrimination and violence and contains penal provisions. Special emphasis is placed on the procedures for the protection of children and safety in schools from physical violence, insults to students (Article 7) and other unacceptable behaviours.

The Labor Law (OG No. 61/05, 54/09, 32/13, 75/14, 13/17-CC, 113/17 and 95/18-authentic interpretation) prescribes that an employment relationship may be established with a person who is at least 15 years old, while a person under 18 years of age may enter into an employment relationship with



the consent of a parent (adoptive parent, guardian) if health is not endangered and employment is not prohibited. Particularly difficult jobs follow and those with increased risk, working longer than full time, night work. In Articles 24-29, the elements of establishing an employment relationship and the necessary conditions are further elaborated.

Criminal legislation contains several laws that protect the rights of children and minors in a special way. The CC defines the terms children and juveniles according to age - a child is a person under 14 years of age and a juvenile is a person under 18 years of age (Article 112, paragraphs 8-10), as well as prescribes a wide range of crimes that can be committed to the detriment children and minors. The CPC prescribes the procedure for reporting on suspicion that a felony has been committed *ex officio* and provides for rules for the protection of the injured person, which is important for the protection of the interests of children and juveniles. The Law on Juvenile Delinquents and Criminal Protection of Juveniles (OG 85/05) is a special regulation passed to protect the personality of minors as injured parties and witnesses in criminal proceedings, it provides for licensed participants in the proceedings (judges, prosecutors, policeman and proxies) in cases of prosecution of perpetrators (group of 27 criminal offenses).

b) The criminalistics-operational response presupposes preventive measures to prevent violence and eliminate the causes of this phenomenon. The school is one of the most important subjects in the process of prevention of goals against children and peer violence because it is an educational institution, which has a reputation and status in the community. We add that the school followed social changes, adapted to the trends and needs of the community, social classes and people (Arsić et al, 2010, 164). Like adults and children, they seek attention, even if negative, in the form of insults, anger or punishment, which is better than neglecting and not noticing (Spasenović, 2008). The primary goal is the timely detection of problems in achieving social relations between students and providing assistance to schools, psychologists and other services.

In Serbia, the National Platform for Prevention of Violence in Schools called *I Keep You* was adopted, according to which the School Team for Protection against Discrimination, Violence, Abuse and Neglect (Protection Team) is formed, which according to the director's decision consists of the experts we have already mentioned. Based on relevant information, the Team makes an assessment of violence that includes an analysis of the intensity, degree of risk, duration and frequency, consequences, number of participants, age and characteristics of students and other elements. In relation to the level of violence and abuse, specific intervention measures and activities are taken at school, and then outside the school in cooperation with external entities. The Platform lists several forms of violence: physical, psychological, social, digital, sexual, child and student abuse, violent extremism, human trafficking, exploitation, neglect and deliberate non-compliance (www.mup.gov.rs).

After the introduction of the concept of Community policing, the Ministry of Interior launched several significant actions to prevent violence in schools and educational programs. The MoI, independently or in cooperation with others, especially with the Ministry of Education, organizations and institutions, initiated and implemented a large number of preventive projects and programs to protect children and minors from violence and crime. Among the better-known actions (projects) are: Action 'School', Central action of intensified traffic control of selective content 'School', Action of intensified control of banning the sale and dispensing of alcoholic beverages to minors, Preventive activity among school children and youth and 'Drugs is zero - life is one'. The current 'School Policeman' program, which preceded the introduction of a licensed policeman in the protection of students and schools, is especially important today. The 'School without Violence' program is the forerunner of today's programs and was launched in 2007 in cooperation with the UNICEF (Nikač, 2012). Recently, new pro-



grams and actions have been launched, such as the 'Graduation' program (2018-2021) and the subject 'Basic of Child Safet', which have been well received and helped prevent violence and other negative phenomena in schools (Nikač, Leštanin, 2019, 33-50).

The MoI further adopted a Special Protocol on the Conduct of Police Officers in the Protection of Minors from Abuse and Neglect (11 October 2006). Among other bodies in the suppression of violence against children, the public prosecutor's office, courts (general jurisdictions, misdemeanors), Social Work Centers, and the Protector of Citizens' Rights have an important role. A particularly important institutional mechanism in the protection of children's rights and the fight against violence against children is the Council for the Child Rights formed by RS Government in 2002 (Government Decision No. 560-7228 / 2002-1), while in 2018 the Decision on the formation of the Council for the Rights of the Child (OG 03/18) was adopted.

THE FIGHT AGAINST VIOLENCE AT SPORTS EVENTS

The phenomenon of violence at sports and other public events gained importance in the early 1970s in Great Britain, and then in other Western countries. The culmination of the violence took place in 1985 in Brussels at the famous 'Heisel' stadium in the final match of the European Champions Cup between Juventus and Liverpool. On that occasion, a total of 39 (Italian) fans were killed in the clashes and riots, and there was a large number of the injured. The tragedy occurred when the English fans started a conflict with the Italian at the stadium, when one of the stands gave way and collapsed, and many fans lost their lives due to the trampling. All countries and the UEFA reacted to the tragic event, while the English clubs were punished with a five-year ban from playing in European competitions. The British government has also reacted and proposed a number of changes to national criminal law aimed at sanctioning hooliganism at sporting events. Criminal law was tightened during the Thatcher government and good results were achieved in combating hooliganism, and the measures of the British government became a model for all other countries. (Otašević, 2015).

In the former Yugoslavia, sport violence culminated in the famous match between Dinamo and Red Star in 1990 at the stadium in Zagreb, when there was an eruption of nationalism and the clashes of fans that were the introduction to the civil war and the collapse of the common state. After the disappearance of the 'external enemy' and the creation of new states in this area, hooliganism was transformed, appeared in a new form and with the flare-up of old antagonisms between the domestic clubs Red Star and Partizan and their fans. There has been an even greater polarization and abuse of fans of these clubs, especially young sympathizers and often with political connotations (Nikač, Milošević, 2011, 31-37). The situation did not change significantly even after the social changes in 2000, so fan 'performances' were still present, with political and non-sports messages. In recent times, we have witnessed vulgar messages to some government officials, a significant increase in criminal activities of hooligan groups and their leaders with elements of organized crime and an increase in violence, such as the case of the Velja 'The Trouble' clan accused of the most serious crimes (http://www.tok.jt.rs/html_tok/pocetna_cir.htm). In short, violence at sporting events and public events has remained a 'vent pipe' for the accumulated social, economic and other unresolved problems in the community.

a) At the legislative level, the European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches has been adopted at the international level (Law on Ratification European Convention OG-International agreements 09/90). The Convention was adopted in order to prevent and combat violence and misconduct of spectators at football matches, sports and



other events (Article 1). The Convention provides for a number of measures to prevent and combat violence and misconduct, such as: a) the use of means for protection of public order in stadiums and surroundings, b) cooperation and exchange of information between police forces, c) the adoption of laws in accordance with the Convention to prosecute those suspected of violence or misconduct, e) the responsibility of the organizers for the organization of sports events and the behaviour of fan clubs, engagement of the police service, travel and escort of fans, e) coordination and organization of travel (Articles 3-4). Further security measures are prescribed, such as: the separation of fans, the control of ticket sales, the control of alcohol intake, pre-match precautions, the exclusion or prohibition of access to matches and stadiums to persons under the influence of alcohol or drugs, the control of bringing firecrackers and similar devices to stadiums, cooperation liaison officer for joint actions. The Convention affirms the measures to popularize sports ideals, fair play, mutual respect, activism (Articles 5-8), while a Standing Committee (Articles 9-10) has been formed for its implementation.

As part of the initiated social reforms in Serbia, the Law on Prevention of Violence and Misconduct at Sports Events was adopted in 2003 (OG 67/03,101/05-state laws, 90/07, 72/09-state laws, 111/09, 104/13-state laws, 87/18), which is the most important national legal source for the fight against hooliganism (Nikač, 2010, 233-256).

The law prescribes a number of measures for the suppression and prevention of violence at sports events, which are categorized by character as: preventive measures, measures at sports events, measures at high-risk sports events and measures of the competent state authorities (Articles 7-18).

The CC prescribes as a felony in Article 344a – a violent behavior at a sports event or public gathering, which reads:

Whoever violently assaults or physically attacks participants of a sports event or a public gathering, performs violence or damages assets of greater value upon arrival or departure from a sports event or a public gathering, brings in a sports facility or casts on the sport ground or among the spectators objects, pyrotechnic means or other explosive, flammable or harmful substances that can cause bodily injury or endanger the health of participants in sports events, damaging the sports facility, its equipment, devices and installations, their behaviour or slogans on sports events causing national, racial and religious hatred, or intolerance based on some discriminatory principle that results in physical violence with participants in sports events, shall be punished by imprisonment from one to five years and fined.

The following are qualified forms for committing the basic form of a felony in a group (imprisonment for 2-8 years), where the leader is especially punished by imprisonment for 3-12 years, if there is a riot in which a person was seriously injured or damaged property of higher value is envisaged imprisonment for 3-12 years. A special form of this felony is committed by an official or responsible person who does not take security measures when organizing a sports event or public gathering in order to prevent or stop disorder, and as a result the life or body of a large number of people or property of greater value is endangered. Imprisonment from 3 months to 3 years cumulatively with a fine is threatened. Imposing a security measure prohibiting attendance at certain sports events is mandatory.

Among other legal sources in this area, we remind you of the previously adopted National Strategy for Combating Violence and Misconduct at Sports Events from 2013 to 2018 (OG 63/13).

b) The criminalistics-operational response includes the activities of the police, judicial and other bodies in the suppression of violence and misconduct at sports and other public events.



Based on The Police Law (OG 06/16, 24/18, 87/18), the police monitor, among other things, the state of public order and peace in the community and, in this regard the state and movement of crime and other phenomena. The General Police Directorate, 'lines policing' and local police administration have the inherent authority to maintain public order, as well as stable public order and peace at sports events. Competent police services monitor the state and movement of phenomena and potential challenges, risks and threats to public order, analyze events and make security assessments for individual events, places and entities. Security assessments are also made in the regular course of events to assess the condition and movement of certain phenomena, carriers and potential damage. Based on that, the police take concrete measures and actions to protect public order, life and property of citizens as well as other universal values.

The police in the field gather initial intelligence about the perpetrators, cases, means and other elements of criminal acts related to violence at sports and public events. Members of the police maintain contacts with persons from the criminal milieu who must be registered, in accordance with the issued procedures and bylaws on operational policing. The data are further checked, recycled and the police try to valorize them in preventive and repressive actions in practice. The police cooperate with intelligence agencies, communal militia and other services in collecting data of importance for combating violence at public events. Police cooperation with public companies, club managements, fan groups and leaders and other actors is significant. General police officers in uniform are engaged in this task - uniformed officers, constables, sectoral policeman, traffic police and others, forensic operatives, detectives, operational analysts, etc.

Institutional mechanisms for combating violence on sports fields and cooperation in this area were first established at the international level. Specifically, the European Center for the Fight against Hooliganism was established with its headquarters in the Hague, and the representatives of the RS MoI are participating in its work. One of the first decisions of this body was the classification of rioters into three categories - A, B and C, while today the current classification of fans into 'risky' and 'non-risky' (the Council Resolution concerning an updated handbook with recommendations for international police cooperation and measures to prevent and control violence and disturbances in connection with football matches with an international dimension, in which at least one Member State is involved). At the national level, the most important institutional mechanism is the National Football Information Center (NFIC), which operates within the RS MoI, the General Police Directorate, and the Police Directorate. The same department exists within the PD within the the City of Belgrade PD, while within the local PD there are sections in Novi Sad, Kragujevac and Nis. In other centers, the work is performed by an officer for this area who is connected to the headquarters in Belgrade (www.mup.gov.rs). NFIC has good cooperation with other bodies in the system of the MoI and other services in the intelligence community, then with the authorized bodies in Serbia and especially with the National Council for the Prevention of Negative Phenomena in Sports.

CONCLUSION

In addition to economic, political and other social problems, the community has faced an increased crime rate and its new forms. One of the most dangerous types is crime with the elements of violence and especially newer forms that were not known in this area. These are domestic violence, violence against children and its modality peer violence, as well as violence at sports events. In response to new forms of violence in the community, our state reacted in accordance with the possibilities, using the mechanisms and procedures of a complex (bureaucratic) system.



In the area of domestic violence, the adoption of the Law on Suppression of Domestic Violence has gone further, in the implementation of which there is too much engagement of members of the police who perform tasks that exceed the capacity of the service. It is more expedient for judicial and other professional bodies to be more involved in the suppression of this form of violence, and for the state to use economic measures to eliminate the causes and consequences of domestic violence. With regard to violence against children and peer violence, we are of the opinion that progress has been made in practice and that good steps have been taken, especially by engaging the police in the implementation of programs such as e.g. 'School policeman'. We believe that multisectoral cooperation with other departments should be strengthened in order to ensure the safety of children, and we suggest greater involvement of the private security sector, whose members mainly provide security in schools. Regarding the suppression of violence at sports events and other public events, we are of the opinion that good results and cooperation of all entities have been achieved in the past period, with the emphasis on the responsibilities of clubs as organizers and participants of events. In practice, the problem is the illegal connections of individuals from state structures with people from clubs, as well as with people close to them from the criminal milieu who are involved in the infrastructure of clubs.

To recapitulate, we are of the opinion that good results have been achieved in protecting members of the community from domestic violence, peer violence and violence at sports events. It is necessary to monitor the application of the legislative framework in practice and possibly amend some of the solutions, because, for example, in the case of domestic violence, there are provisions in the Family Law and the Law on the Suppression of Domestic Violence. In the suppression of peer and violence at sports events, the good practice of our bodies and developed countries should be taken into account, of course with respect for the specifics of our community.

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