

WHAT DO CHILDREN SAY?

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JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN
JUVENILE CRIME AND JUVENILE JUSTICE PRACTICE IN KOSOVO
Launch of the Report and Campaign

What do children in conflict with the law say about their experiences while in detention or serving different sentences imposed by the judge according to the Juvenile Justice Code of Kosovo?

A 20 year old girl was 17 when she committed a crime. The Judge decided to give her a measure called Community Service Order. She had her measure implemented in a Library in Kosovo. This is the way she describes her experience:

I am very happy with the type of measure that was imposed to me, and I easily performed the community service. I hope I will gain practical working skills for my future. This sentence has had a very positive influence on me. I have gained working skills, reading skills, I learned how to love children. I also think I have fulfilled an obligation towards the society. The Probation Officers visited me once per week, whereas I went there whenever I needed to go. Despite the fact that I finished with the measure, I still maintain contacts with the Probation Officers in case I need their advice. I also maintain contacts with the director of the Library where I finished the measure. I didn't have any problem and I think I will be integrated well in the society now. I hope this year I'll be able to go to the University and get registered at the Department of Criminology.

A 17 year old boy tells how the Mediation measure helped him reconcile with the victim, after he had been involved in a quarrel:

After the mediation we made peace and now I don't have to visit Probation Service anymore, the procedure has ended. Because of my willingness to meet with you I have missed one working day for today, but it was a pleasure to meet and talk to you and at the same time prove to you that we have reconciled with the injured party and everything is ok now.

A 17 year old boy speaks about his experience while in Detention:

The guardians did not read my rights; they only gave me a piece of paper and told me not to write on the walls. I had no toilet in my room, so we had to call the guardians every time we needed to go to the toilet, and we were warned not to do it often. There was no water. There is a window in the room. No one has ever visited me apart from my family.

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An 18 year old boy who was imprisoned talks about the frequency of visits by the authorities:

The judge and the prosecutor never visited me until now, however I have had a 2 minutes visit by the Probation Services which asked me some questions like: How are you? Have your rights been read to you? Is your family visiting you? Nothing else. The judge and the prosecutor have never visited me. It would be very nice of them to come and visit us and see our improvements.

A 16 year old boy was given a measure Intensive Supervision by parent:

The Probation Officers cannot offer any help besides talking. I am very happy with the measure that has been imposed on me, but as you can see, I don't have very good living conditions. I wish I could have a computer or undertake any courses or trainings in order to learn something.