

## **STREET CHILDREN IN ALBANIA: PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES FOR THEIR PROTECTION AND CARE**

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### **Abstract**

Children's rights have gained a global visibility through the universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the child and the engagement of the whole civil society in the reporting process, which makes states internationally accountable for the best protection of children's rights. A street child is a situation where a child suffers and is damaged. We as parents and irresponsible's citizens, we cannot keep silent. In Albania, the majority of children in a street situation needs to generate income to support themselves and their families. Some of the street children (those who do not live with their families, those deprived of parental care, who live permanently in the street situation or those who have run away from their families) were engaged in different activities such as begging or working to meet their needs. Socioeconomic problems have produced as a consequence a vicious cycle influencing the income-generating activities of children in a street situation of three generations. As a result of an enduring street situation, their physical condition, health and development have been compromised. These children's are in a rare difficulty, and it is the obligation of the State to change this circle. Causes of the hard work of children relate to their social exclusion, limited opportunities for their families to generate income and poverty. In this context, it is needed better coordination among institutions dealing with this issue, to appreciate the fact that an educated child has better opportunities for employment in the future than an uneducated child. The main focus should be protecting children from all forms of violence, abuse and neglect through a coordinated and multi-sectoral intervention. An integrated approach which upholds the best interest of the child. The Law on Protection of Child Rights, No. 10347 (2010), is the frame law for child rights in Albania, that has created the basis for an effective mechanism for monitoring child rights and in particular the right to be protected from violence, abuse and neglect. But the real view in our street appeal for a strong commitment and collaboration family-school-society to achieve the best interest of the child.

**Keywords:** *Children in street situations, protecting and care*