



**DAPHNE II:**  
**Secondary Education Schools**  
**and Education in Values**

**THIRD REPORT**

## **Introduction**

The Republic of Cyprus became an independent state in 1960. In 1974 Turkey invaded Cyprus and occupied 36.2% of its sovereign territory. Since then the island is divided by a ceasefire line under the control of the United Nations (U.N.), which divides Nicosia, the capital, and the country in two parts. Although the north is occupied by Turkish troops the Republic of Cyprus is internationally recognized as the only legal state in Cyprus. According to Protocol 10 of the Accession Treaty Cyprus as a whole entered the European Union (EU) on 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2004 whereas the *acquis* is suspended in the northern part of the island, which is not under the control of the government of the Republic of Cyprus until a solution to the Cyprus problem can be reached. The Republic of Cyprus has a full presidential system of government. The official languages of the state are Greek and Turkish. The population was 837.300 in January 2005 (the number of Turkish settlers living in the north are not included in this count) of which 77.8% are Greek Cypriots (including the minorities of Catholics, Maronites and Armenians), 10.5% are Turkish Cypriots and 11.7% are foreigners. The majority of Greek Cypriots are Orthodox Christians while the majority of Turkish Cypriots are Muslims. Cyprus's economy is mainly based on the provision of services and on the tourist sector.

## **Gender-based violence in Cyprus**

### Legislative framework

#### A. Domestic violence

The Violence in the Family (Prevention and Protection of Victims) Law, 1994(L. 47(I)/1994) condemns any act of violence within the family and raises substantially the penalties in cases of family violence. In order to protect the victims it empowers the Court to issue restraining orders prohibiting the aggressor from entering or staying in the marital home. Furthermore the Law clarifies that rape can be committed within marriage, it contains provisions for speedy trial, it provides for the appointment of Family Counselors and for the setting up of an Advisory Committee to monitor the implementation of the Law. Also it provides for the setting up of a

Multidisciplinary Group of Experts to give the necessary assistance to children and young victims.

The L. 47(I) of 1994 was restructured and substantially improved by the Violence in the Family (Prevention and Protection of Victims) Laws of 2000 (L. 119(I)/2000) and of 2004 (212(I)/2004). Some important innovations referred to:

- Provisions for the taking of statements by the use of audiovisual electronic means in order to produce evidence without any need to re-examine the witness in chief who would be nevertheless available for cross-examination,
- The setting up of a fund to meet certain immediate needs of victims
- The establishment of a shelter for victims of family violence. Any person who harasses a person residing in a shelter commits an aggravated offence and is sentenced to up to 5 years of imprisonment. If the harassment or intimidation occurs somewhere else the punishment is up to 3 years of imprisonment
- The making the spouse a compellable witness if the victim is another member of the family.

Furthermore the new laws list offences of the Criminal Code which, when committed within the family, are prescribed with increased penalties. The law also provides for restraining orders to be issued in specific cases against a person accused of violence ordering that person not to enter or stay in the marital home.

Regarding witness protection, under the Law 119(I) 2000 a victim may in confidence report a crime to a family counselor who will then take all the measures and steps for bringing the case before the Court. The above law is complemented by a special law on witness protection which was enacted in 2001 (L. 95(I)/2001).

## B. Trafficking in Human Beings

The Combating of Trafficking in Persons and Sexual Exploitation of Minors Law enacted in 2000 (L. 3(I)/2000) criminalizes the trafficking and sexual exploitation of adults and children and the use of children in pornography. Furthermore the production, display, showing or transmission of such productions could be extraditable and could also form predicated offences for the purposes of confiscation of the illicit proceeds under the Anti-Money Laundering Law (L. 61(I)/96).

According to Law 3(I)/2000 the Director of the Department of Social Welfare is appointed as the Guardian of Victims of Sexual Exploitation and he/she is responsible for the provision of humanitarian support and assistance to the victims. The Guardian is also responsible for channeling complaints to the competent authorities for investigation. Under L. 3(I)/2000 the victim is entitled to compensation that would be determined by the Court in relevance with the specific circumstances of each case. Furthermore the Protection of Witnesses Law (L. 95(I)/2001) which corresponds to EU resolutions on the fight against organized crime empowers the Court to protect vulnerable witnesses from any kind of threat or intimidation. Victims of the crimes included in L. 3(I)/2000 are considered vulnerable according to the Witnesses Law.

Another law which penalizes trafficking and provides for increased sentences in the case of minor victims is the law (L. 11(III)/2003), which ratifies the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Supplementary Protocols. This law also includes provisions which refer to participation in organized criminal groups, coverage and corruption.

Another relevant law is the Aliens and Immigration Law, Cap. 105 and Regulations, which inter alia includes provisions for residence and employment permits for foreign nationals, provisions for violation of residence and employment conditions and for the registration of foreign nationals in the Aliens Register.

#### C. Sexual harassment

The Equal Treatment of Men and Women in Employment and Vocational Training Law, 2002 (L. 205(I)/2002) includes in the definition of 'discrimination based on sex' any action or omission which constitutes or entails unfavorable treatment based on sex, including sexual harassment at the workplace. The employers have the duty to protect their employees, trainees or candidates for employment, vocational education or training from any act of their superiors or colleagues and also to take all appropriate measures against sexual harassment and ensure that it does not re-occur.

#### D. Genital mutilation

Genital mutilation is criminalized with the Criminal Code (Amendment) Law 2003 (L. 48(I)/2003).

#### E. Rape

Rape, including marital rape is punishable by law with a maximum sentence of life in prison. As noted above the law L. 47(I)/1994 clarifies that rape can be committed within marriage.

F. There is no specific law covering victims of Honor-Related Violence in Cyprus. Related legislation is the 119(1)/2000 Law on Domestic Violence which nevertheless does not refer or define specifically Honor-Related Crimes.

#### Statistical data about gender-based violence

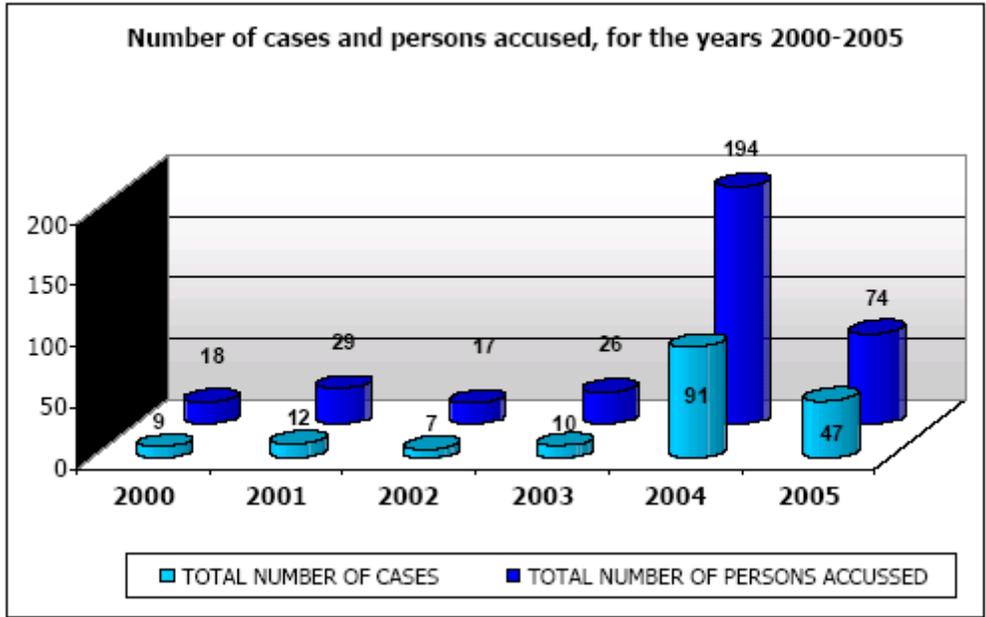
- From 1999 to 2003, 1402 reports on family violence have been made to the Office of the Attorney-General of the Republic while it's very clear that the number of cases is rapidly increasing each year (77 in 1999, 258 in 2000, 381 in 2001, 499 in 2002 and 669 in 2003). Very few cases have resulted in convictions but there are no statistics available regarding the number of spousal abuse convictions.
- According to a recent investigation of the Cypriot Ombudsman about 2000 foreign women enter the island every year as 'artistes' or in other words as 'cabaret artists'. There is nevertheless a general lack of adequate and systematic statistical data which would provide a clear picture of the current situation. According to the U.S. Department of State report on trafficking in persons Cyprus is currently on the TIER 2 Watch List. This list includes governments that do not fully comply with the minimum standards set forth in the Trafficking Victims Act of 2000 and have failed to show evidence of increasing efforts to address the problem of serious trafficking for sexual exploitation in their country.
- Cyprus is primarily a destination country for victims of sexual exploitation that usually come from countries of the former Soviet Union and the Philippines. In 2004, 66 victims were recognized by the Police most of them coming from

Ukraine and Moldavia. Among the 42 victims that were recognized in 2005 most women come from the same countries. In 2006 the Police recognized 81 victims of sexual exploitation most of them again originating from Ukraine and Moldavia. Most persons accused for trafficking are citizens of the Republic of Cyprus.

- According to the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) Shadow Report (2006) in 1982 there were 51 cabarets, 57 in 1990 and 108 in 2002. The Government also allows the operation of establishments considered 'high-risk' for illegal trafficking and the issuing of visas for the purpose of working in such 'high-risk' establishments. The government issued 4.000 new 'artiste' visas in 2005 which amounts to a 13% decrease from the previous year. Although the issuing of 'artiste' visas was slightly decreased in 2005, the latter failed to correspond to its commitment in completely abolishing this visa category.
- According to statistics of the NGO Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family, the latter received 1084 calls in 2006. Among these 349 concerned new incidents while 194 involved old cases. In 477 cases the perpetrator was male and in 292 cases the perpetrator was the husband of the victim. In 464 cases the victim was a woman.

### Tables

The figure below indicates the increase of cases that were investigated or are still under investigation by the Police, for the years 2000-2005. These statistical information relate to the following offences of sexual exploitation, procuring, living on earnings of prostitution, suppression of brothels, procuring defilement of a woman by threats and indecent act.



\*Source: National Plan of Action for the Coordination of Actions on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Exploitation of Children 2005.

## E. CRIME

**Table E1. Persons Convicted by Sex in the years 1980, 1990, 1995, 1999 and 2000**

	1980	1990	1995	1999	2000
Women	42 (9,3%)	55 (8,7%)	53 (8,4%)	70 (7,6%)	61 (7,2%)
Men	411	577	575	849	791
Total	453	632	628	919	852

**Table E2. Number of Victims of Serious Assault by Sex in the years 1990, 1995, 1999 and 2000**

	1990	1995	1999	2000
Women	7 (9,3%)	16 (10,1%)	29 (20,1%)	23 (20,9%)
Men	68	142	115	87
Total	75	158	144	110

**Table E3. Number of Victims of Sexual Assault by Sex in the years 1990, 1995, 1999 and 2000**

	1990	1995	1999	2000
Women	8 (100%)	17 (100%)	16 (88,9%)	36 (83,7%)
Men	0	0	2	7
Total	8	17	18	43

**Table E4. Clear up rates for Rape and Attempted Rape<sup>8</sup> in the years 1980, 1990, 1995, 1999 and 2000**

	1980	1990	1995	1999	2000
%	100,0	200,0	133,0	143,0	146,2

<sup>8</sup> Clear up rates are the number of cases solved by the police as a % of the total number of cases known to the police for the year in question, regardless of whether the case came to the attention of the police in that year or in previous years. Clear up rates thus exceed 100% in some cases.

\*Source: CEDAW-Combined third and fifth periodic reports 2004.

### Measures taken by the country to prevent and combat gender-based violence

#### Domestic violence

- Appointment of 10 Family Counselors (trained Welfare Officers) in 2001 by the Social Welfare Services following a provision included in Part III of the Law 119(I)/2000. Their role is to support and counsel the family members experiencing domestic violence.
- An Advisory Committee on Family Violence has been established under Law 119(I)/2000, with competence to monitor the effectiveness of related services and the application of the relevant legislation, to run public awareness and educational seminars and to promote research and services that will deal with

all aspects of violence in the family. The Committee also has the responsibility to advise the Government on all issues that need to be considered for the better handling of cases of domestic violence and for anything further related to the services which are provided. The Committee's members have knowledge and experience on issues relating to violence in the family and are selected from public and private sectors. Public sector appointees are selected by the Ministry of Health, Social Welfare Services, Legal Service and the Police. The Committee is very closely cooperating with the Ministry of Justice and Public Order. The Ministry participates in the Committee via its representative who occupies the position of Vice-President in the Committee. Private sector appointees are selected by associations/organizations involved in combating family violence.

- The Ministry of Justice provides funding and support to the shelter for battered women, which is operated by the NGO Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family.
- A Manual of Interdepartmental Procedures concerning family violence was drafted by the Advisory Committee and approved on 16/05/2002 by the Council of Ministers for immediate implementation. The Manual was distributed to the Social Welfare Services, the Police Force, the Health Services, the Law Office of the Republic and relevant NGOs.
- Since December 2002 the Police operate a Central Bureau for Handling Issues of Prevention and Combating of Violence in the Family and of Child Abuse. It also operates a 24 hour Police Headquarter helpline for victims.
- The National Machinery for Women's Rights (NMWR), which is the instrument of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order responsible for the protection of women's rights, has carried out a series of training programs/seminars for members of the Police force and the Police Academy relating to issues of domestic violence. The aim of the seminars is to train police officers in how to handle effectively incidents of domestic violence and provide the best possible protection for the victims. A training seminar on domestic violence was also organized for judges and lawyers in October 2002.
- The NMWR encourages and promotes research relating to gender issues and in 1999 has subsidized a project called Women and Violence in the Family (conducted by the Advisory Committee for Domestic Violence). It has also contributed to the awareness campaign regarding international laws and

instruments in the field of women's rights and circulated publications like a booklet on Violence in the family law and a translation of the Beijing Platform for Action in Greek.

The following measures are included in the National Plan of Action for the Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Prevention of Criminality 2005-2010 and relate to the prevention and combating of domestic violence:

- Creation of Centers for Parental Guidance in all the provincial areas of Cyprus. These Centers will provide educational programs to the parents concerning their parental role, family planning, handling and resolution of various issues within the family. They will more specifically deal with interpersonal relationships among members of the same family.
- Development of programs which aim to support new forms of family types within the Cypriot society for example single-parent families, families that are created between two divorced persons, and families which are created by marriages with foreigners who live in Cyprus.
- An expert will be recalled to examine the sufficiency of the services provided by the Social Welfare Services to families that face difficulties which endanger the psychological, social and physical growth of their children.
- Social Welfare Officers that deal with programs for support of families and child protection in order to avoid or handle delinquency will continue to receive special training in new methods on family counseling and new ways for handling young offenders.
- Employment of psychologists in Social Welfare Services who will be located in the District Welfare offices in order to provide psychological evaluation and treatment to families and children and furthermore to handle a variety of issues like domestic violence and trafficking in human beings.
- Creation of a network in order to locate as soon as possible families or children in need of help and support. The detection of the above will be made at local level in order to achieve a direct response from the welfare services. Permanent predetermined groups must be created that will function according to a Plan of Action.

- Creation of a specialized bureau within the Police Service that will deal exclusively with issues relating to domestic violence and sexual maltreatment of minors.

#### Trafficking in Human Beings

- A Group of Experts has been set up in 2001 after a decision of the Council of Ministers in order to deal with actions that need to be taken on combating trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation of minors. (Although a National Plan of Action has been created by this group it has not yet been implemented).
- The Law Office of the Republic has drafted a new legislation in relation to Aliens and Migration issues which includes provisions on temporary residency permits issued to third-country nationals who are victims of human trafficking or have been subjects of an action to facilitate illegal immigration and who cooperate with the authorities.
- In April 2004 an Office against Trafficking in Persons was established at the Police Headquarters with the aim to collect, process and evaluate information relating to trafficking and to coordinate action in combating this phenomenon.
- Upon arrival to the Republic of Cyprus members of the Aliens and Migration Service hand out leaflets to all aliens coming to Cyprus for employment, including artistes (cabaret artists) with necessary information regarding their rights and contact numbers to call in case of need. The leaflets are available in several languages.
- Police Officers make frequent visits to entertainment establishments in order to check on the living and employment conditions of female migrant workers.
- For prevention purposes the number of visas issued by the competent authorities for the purpose of working in places that are considered high risk is limited.
- The National Plan of Action for the Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Prevention of Criminality 2005-2010 provides for the empowerment of the personnel of the Office for Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings which is located in the Office for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings at the Police Headquarters.

### Non-governmental actions to combat gender violence

- The Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family provides shelter for up to eight weeks to women (with their children) who have been victims of domestic violence. The shelter which is based in Nicosia can accommodate up to 12 people, including children. The Association also maintains a legal assistance fund for the support of the victims. Furthermore the Association maintains a hotline through which victims are provided with psychological support and any emergent assistance that they might need. In addition the Association organizes educational seminars in order to train volunteers in issues relating to domestic violence and campaigns for raising public awareness on these issues. Educational seminars are also provided by the Association to members of the Police Academy and to other relevant institutions and organizations.
- The Lion's Foundation for the reinstatement of the unprotected child offers shelter in Nicosia but only to young people referred by the Social Services. It is able to temporarily accommodate eight children until a foster family can be found.
- A shelter for female immigrants who have been victims of trafficking operates in Limassol under the unregistered NGO 'You are not merchandise' Hotline.
- The Center for the Study of Childhood and Adolescence is participating in a project focusing on family violence funded by the Cyprus-Slovenia Bilateral Cooperation Program. The project will compare the situation of family violence, including violence against children in Cyprus and Slovenia. Furthermore the Center in collaboration with the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Cyprus College organized a public lecture on Worldwide Efforts to End Human Trafficking and Child Sex Tourism.
- The NGO Cyprus Family Planning Association (CFPA) among other activities engages in public awareness campaigns in order to promote human rights in the area of sexual and reproductive health and in cooperation with the Ministry of Health it organized educational seminars for alien cabaret artists

on the prevention of sexually transmitted infections, including AIDS, in their mother language. It also maintains a hotline through which counseling services are provided in relation to issues regarding family planning, marriage and sexual and reproductive health. Furthermore the CFPA offers clinical services at a minimal cost available to all women in Cyprus. Young women of 16-25 years of age who are members of CFPA's youth group can be provided with clinical services free of charge. In addition the CFPA will organize during 2007 a program including seminars and workshops on issues of sexual harassment and maltreatment at the workplace.

- The NGO Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) participates in a number of European projects which aim to investigate and promote women's rights in the Mediterranean region. MIGS has recently completed a research project entitled 'Mapping the Realities of Trafficking in Women in Cyprus' funded by the National Machinery for Women's Rights. The main aim of the project was to raise awareness of the phenomenon of trafficking in women for sexual exploitation as well as to inform on the living conditions of trafficked women in Cyprus. MIGS has further published public awareness-raising leaflets and posters on trafficking in women also funded by the National Machinery on Women's Rights. MIGS participated as a partner in a two-year project titled 'Prevention of violence against girls and women in patriarchal families'. The main aim of the project was the prevention of violence against girls, women and boys in patriarchal families.
- The NGO Apanemi helps victims of violence receive healthcare services and legal support at a low cost.

### **Violence among adolescents in Cyprus**

#### Educative system and education in values

In regard with education in values the Ministry of Education and Culture in Cyprus has undertaken a number of initiatives within the framework of the European Year for Democratic Citizenship 2004-2005:

- Secondary education schools organized conferences on the topic 'Basic principles and values that must govern the lives of our youths, as citizens of Cyprus, Europe and the world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century'.
- An information campaign was conducted with the aim of promoting the notion of a multicultural Europe and through various activities it promoted the development of human relations, inter-communal cooperation, combating racism and xenophobia and developing active citizenship.
- Various government officials visited schools and made presentations to the pupils on human rights issues.
- In July 2005 the Parliament voted for amendments on the regulations for schools which allow for more freedom and rights to pupils abiding by the World Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention for Children's Rights.
- The textbooks on Civics for the third forms for the Gymnasium and Lyceum respectively have been reviewed and enriched with texts on human rights.

Another initiative regarding education in values is provided by the development of the project Active Citizenship – Global Awareness in secondary schools which begun in February 2005. The project which is implemented through the lesson of English language develops innovative initiatives to promote didactics as a means of communication and education for self-action and autonomous learning. Its aim is to help students become aware and understand problems at home and in the world in general and eliminate feelings of racial hatred and chauvinism. The project which started from the website Schoolnet of the Council of Europe involved 14 schools internationally. Through this project pupils learned about problems faced by various countries and communicated with their peers for exchanging views and discussing problems. Furthermore pupils became members of world organizations and participated in various world activities such as 'The Spring Day in Europe'.

Moreover a significant number of secondary schools are also participating every year in various School Exchange Programs and to international seminars organized by the Council of Europe. The basic aim of these programs is the promotion of cooperation and understanding among schools from various countries in order to infuse the students with the principles of peaceful co-existence, tolerance and anti-racism. One of these programs is the 'International Students Conference' which is organized by the educational institution The Hague International Model United Nations in Hague.

The Conference is conducted according to the model of the United Nations Organization.

The Ministry of Education and Culture also developed the program 'Action-Creativity-Social Contribution' which is implemented in a number of lyceums. The participation to the program of students from these lyceums is compulsory. The aims of this program include among other things the closer contact of students with society and the contribution of services not only towards the school community but also towards local and international community as well. Also the program aims at enhancing the values and of tolerance and principles of democracy to the students. This program is implemented through various activities in which the students can participate like sport activities, creative activities and excursions.

The Republic of Cyprus also participates in the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPNet Schools). This network was established in Cyprus during the school year 1969-1970 and since then it developed various activities, organized seminars, participated in events organized by other ASPNet schools and made various publications. The most basic activity of the Cypriot ASP network is the organization of the Annual Conference of the ASPNet Schools which is conducted every spring. In Cyprus there are today 15 ASPNet Schools, 5 from primary education and 10 from secondary education. Their basic aim is to enhance and promote the values and ideals of Unesco, that is love, friendship, peace and cooperation among students. Furthermore in secondary schools in Cyprus pupils can choose to be included in the Unesco society, which undertakes various activities like the organization of discussions and exchange of views between students on issues like gender equality and the Cyprus problem.

### Bullying

The Ministry of Education and Culture has no specific definition concerning bullying. According to the Educational Psychological Service bullying is considered to be a kind of behavior aiming at causing fear and intimidation towards another person. In the Regulations for the functioning of schools bullying is grouped under the category of offences (which relates to acts of a criminal nature). The other offences included in this category are offensive behavior, sexual harassment, physical violence with or

without using an instrument and physical violence of a sexual nature. The pedagogical measures which must be undertaken in cases of bullying are included in Regulation 17 (2) and aim at the progress of the pupil and at the enhancement of his sense of responsibility and self-discipline. These pedagogical measures (1-6, 8-13) are the following:

1. Pedagogical dialogue
2. Remark on the behavior of the pupil
3. Reprobation
4. A common written agreement between the pupil and a professor in which the pupil is bound not to repeat the offence and to act according to school regulations
5. Reprobation by informing the parent in writing about the offence
6. Expulsion from the class and reference of the case to the school's management

And

8. Performance of school work useful for the community which aims at the use of the pupil's abilities in favor of the school community.
9. Expulsion for two days
10. The pupil changes classroom after a written notice which is made known to the parents
11. Changing of classroom only for one time
12. Expulsion for 1-4 days
13. Expulsion for 1-6 days

#### Research into the issues of violence among adolescents and juvenile delinquency

In general there are but a few studies that deal specifically with the issue of violence among adolescents and juvenile delinquency in Cyprus. The first important scientific research on these issues was conducted in 1986 by the Association of Psychologists of Cyprus and was named 'Positions and suggestions for the prevention and handling of juvenile delinquency'. Another more extended study on these subjects 'The phenomenon of juvenile delinquency in Cypriot society' was completed in 1994. According to this study Cyprus did not present at the time a significant problem regarding juvenile delinquency. This study was based on official statistical data of the period 1976-1992 but this statistical information were limited so they could easily be

overthrown. Furthermore another reservation acknowledged by the researchers on this study was that the number of cases referred for trial and the number of the persons convicted were dependable on current perceptions of the police and the penitentiary system.

In contrast with the previous study another research study completed in 1999 and conducted by Nicos Beresies and Andreas Paulakis with the cooperation of KENTHEA (Center of Information on Drugs and Treatment of Addicted Persons) and the Youth Organization of Cyprus reached very different conclusions. This study named 'Criminality and Young People: Problems and Considerations' analyzed statistical data until the year 1996 and concluded that delinquent behavior is on the rise among young people in Cyprus and this phenomenon becomes more intense with the addition of minor delinquency. Furthermore another study conducted by the Youth Organization of Cyprus with the subject 'Television Violence: Influences-Responsibilities-Solutions' completed in 2001 summarizes the profile of the underage transgressor: a. It is a boy since during the period 1985-1997, 90% of the persons involved in criminal acts were boys, b. at the age 14-15, since 70% of those involved in criminal acts for the ages 12-15 are minors of the age 14-15 and c. he mostly causes damage to foreign property, since 70% were involved in criminal acts relating to this kind of crime.

Another research study organized by the Educational Psychological Service of the Ministry of Education and Culture was completed in 2000. This study is named 'Pan-Cyprian study on self-report juvenile delinquency of the students of gymnasiums and lyceums in Cyprus' and it is part of a wider research project dealing with indiscipline in schools and forms of juvenile delinquency. The measurement of self-report delinquency is important in order to have a full picture of the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency. This research project was the first in the history of Cypriot education that tried to depict the levels of juvenile delinquency across the whole of the Republic of Cyprus.

The questions were based on five categories of delinquent behavior and among them was violence against a person. The results of the research showed that the levels of juvenile delinquency in Cyprus are considerably low and that when this phenomenon appears it relates with delinquent behavior of a non serious nature. Nevertheless among the types of delinquent behavior that received the higher mean in this study

was violence against a person. Another important conclusion reached in regard with the factors that are connected with juvenile delinquency is that the gender of the student and his/hers school performance appear to be statistically the most important factors that affect juvenile delinquency.

As far as the gender factor is concerned the research showed that statistically there was a big difference between boys and girls and that boys had a much more higher participation in all the delinquent behaviors that were under examination. Only in the case of purchase of sleeping pills for personal use do girls have a higher level of delinquency than boys do. The study does not however explain why this difference between boys and girls appears to be so.

In relation to the factor of school performance what was concluded was that the lower the performance of the student at school was the higher the degree of his/her delinquent behavior was going to be. The failure to achieve good results at school is a very important factor that contributes to a low self-esteem and a tendency for delinquent behavior. Also the research showed that the participation of the students in one category of violations usually results in their participation in other categories too.

Another important conclusion relates to the distinction between rural and urban students. The results of this study indicated that students who live in cities statistically show a significant higher degree in regard to serious violations that concern the use of legal and illegal substances: smoking at school, drinking alcohol when they go out at night, purchase of drugs (hashish) and of sleeping pills. They also have a higher level of delinquency in cases of serious violations of the category 'violence against a person': attacking a person during a fight and causing serious injury. Furthermore students who live in cities have a higher level of delinquency in serious violations of the category 'attack against property' like braking of glass or a window of a shop or destroying school property.

Another research study conducted by the Educational Psychological Service and completed in 2002 is titled 'Research for the identification of children's learning problems and their behavior in primary schools of the Republic of Cyprus'. Despite the title the study also examined these matters in 11 gymnasiums across Cyprus.

The results were that most of the students with a negative self-image do not have a negative school performance. On the other hand most students with a positive self-image do well at school and an important percentage of these students have very high levels of school performance. Furthermore in regard with the percentage of students that concern the school with their behavior in the gymnasiums under examination 6% of the students appear to have a serious and frequent problem with behaving appropriately at school. Another important percentage of students often appear to trouble the school with their behavior but not in matters of a serious nature.

The most recent study on juvenile delinquency was prepared for the Ministry of Justice and Public Order by the Center for Research and Development at Intercollege Cyprus. This study was completed in 2004 and is named 'Research on Juvenile Delinquency'. For the purposes of this report I will present here some relevant findings on the level and reasons of juvenile delinquency relating to students of the ages 14-18. However it must be mentioned that the above study also covers the ages 19-21. The sample used was 1000 students. The general conclusion of the study, which is based on questionnaires of self-report which were handed to the students as well as in-depth interviews with both students and professors, is that the problem of juvenile delinquency is not very serious in the Republic of Cyprus. The level of involvement in delinquent actions is generally low while higher levels of involvement are related to minor forms of violations.

Nevertheless the study indicates that in the criminal category of violent behaviors even small percentages of participation must be a cause for concern. The study showed that 36.7% of the students have made use of mild violence against others (e.g. violence that does not provide the need for the victim to seek medical treatment), 23.8% of the students made the threat of using violence against others and 13.2% carried with them a dangerous object. The most serious cases in which the victim was in need of medical treatment showed very low levels of involvement of the students. Another category which illustrates high levels of participation by the students is the destruction of property.

The highest percentage of violations regarding the students is found in inappropriate visual material (81% watch violence on television, 70.7% watch shows of a sexual

nature and 56.9% consumes various types of pornographic material). Furthermore in relation to sexual behaviors 8.9% of the students said that they paid for sex at least one time while 26.9% said that they had sex without giving or receiving payment.

In relation to the reasons responsible for juvenile delinquency the study identified the delinquent behavior of friends as the most important and systemic reason relating to the delinquent behavior of a person. This is a very well-established conclusion in the sociology of deviant behavior. According to the study in matters of violence and in relation to malevolent damages the role of association with persons of the same age has become evident. For example in the above cases the violations appear as a group-effort or in the framework of a social acceptance which allows the student to gain emotional and societal benefits. The study goes on to note that within the school environment a deviant behavior can function as a substitute for the low self-image.

Other important reasons identified by this study are related to the methodology of handling deviant students used in schools. The results of the questionnaires showed that the negative behavior of professors towards deviant students leads to even more deviant behaviors. In the interviews the professors themselves acknowledged their incapacity to handle appropriately such cases and they pointed out that there is need for special training of the educators on how to handle students with deviant behaviors. The study further noted that low self-esteem caused by failure to perform at school is interconnected with juvenile delinquency.

The deviant behavior of the parents as well as domestic violence constituted other factors that enhance the possibility of deviant behavior by the children. Moreover the study indicated that gender is one of the most important features which is interconnected with deviant behavior. As other criminological studies have shown boys indicate higher levels of delinquent behavior than girls do.

### Statistics

According to the statistics on juvenile delinquency obtained by the Police for the year 2006:

- The number of cases (of criminal nature) in which minors were involved has been relatively the same between the years 2000-2005. The number of cases was 344 in 2000, 371 in 2003 and 335 in 2005. What is noticeable is that the number of serious crimes among minors has been decreased gradually within the period 2000-2005. While in 2000 the number of cases concerning serious crimes was 268, in 2001 it was 235, 252 in 2002, 199 in 2003, 128 in 2004 and 168 in 2005. On the contrary the number of cases in which minors were involved and related to minor-offences has seen a gradual increase with the number of cases being 76 in 2000, 96 in 2001, 143 in 2002, 172 in 2003, 161 in 2004 and rising up to 167 in 2005.
- There is a significant difference between the number of crimes (of criminal nature) involving boys and the number of girls being involved in similar cases. While the number of boys was 574 in 2003 the number of girls was 44 and in 2005 the number of boys was 454 while the number of girls was again 44. These statistics also show that most crimes involve boys of the ages between 14-16 while a smaller number of crimes involves boys of the ages 7-13. For example in 2003 the number of boys aged 7-13 involved in these cases was 158 while in 2005 it decreased to 99. For boys aged 14-16 the number was 460 in 2003 and 399 in 2005.
- Another important difference is between the urban and rural environments. The number of boys living in cities and involved in various offences is much higher than the number of boys coming from rural areas. During the period 2000-2005 60-65% of the cases involved boys living in cities.

#### Measures carried out by the country to prevent and combat violence among adolescents

The Department of the Ministry of Education and Culture which specifically deals with issues relating to violence among adolescents (including gender-based violence) is the Educational Psychological Service (EPS). The latter is an interdepartmental service answerable to the Director General of the Ministry.

In general the work of the Service consists of:

- Individual referrals from schools and from the District Committees according to the Education and Training of Children with Special Needs Law of 1999. The educational psychologist provides consultation to the parents and educators, undertakes the assessment and evaluation of individual students and develops the necessary interventions to the school system. During the school-year 2004-2005, the EPS worked with 3175 individual cases of school children.
- Development and implementation of preventive and supportive programs in schools according to need.

During the past academic year there has been an increase in the number of activities concerning interventions in schools, with the target group consisting not only of the students who already face some problems but with the school population in general. The subject of the above interventions has to do with the worries and problems that adolescents face today and were provided in the form of lectures, seminars and workshops.

Furthermore the EPS in order to achieve its objectives is constantly involved in research programs, seminars and also cooperates with partners in the educational system and social groups and institutions within the community. More specifically in relation to prevention of violence at school and juvenile delinquency, the educational psychologists develop programs for the prevention of violence and juvenile delinquency in cooperation with schools, Municipal and Community authorities and other local authorities.

The following measures are included within the National Plan of Action for the Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Prevention of Criminality 2005-2010 and deal specifically with juvenile delinquency and violence:

- A study is undertaken for the creating the institution of the Street Social Worker. This person will make frequent visits to the places where young people spend their free time (discos, bars, night clubs) in order to integrate in their social environment and work for the prevention of delinquent behavior or to provide support to delinquent young people.

- Due to the increasing numbers of delinquent behavior from minors the Welfare Services will also consider implementing the institution of Big Brother/Big Sister for children 6-18 years old that might be considered vulnerable or that face various problems in their family/at school. Trained people will be authorized to work with the young person in order to help him develop his/her sense of self-respect and to develop positively the relationships within his/her family.
- The execution of a scientific study which will examine the relationship between violence experienced by children and juvenile delinquency.
- Educational seminars provided to professors of secondary education in order to be trained in issues relating to the psychology of adolescents, management of disputes and health treatment.
- The Educational Psychological Service (EPS) and the Pedagogical Institution will be responsible for developing educational and preventive seminars in various schools available to the personnel of the whole school.
- The gradual enforcement of the EPS in order to achieve the European standards that is one psychologist per 1000 students.
- The authorization of Welfare Officers at schools in order to prevent delinquent behaviors and social exclusion of the students who cause such violations.
- The inclusion in the schools' curricula of a program which will aim at the prevention of violence and delinquent behaviors. It will also aim to prevent the use of any addictive substances as well as any form of discrimination based on nationality, gender, religion etc.
- Centre for prevention policies in Limasol. The Center is active since 2005 and it aims at informing and educating the parents on issues relating to the psycho-social development of children and their needs. Another objective is to help face the difficulties attached to the different phases in the life of young couples.
- The Ministry of Education and Culture will promote the participation of educational psychologists and other experts to the formation and writing of educational textbooks used in schools.
- An ongoing program for the creation of school libraries that will also act as information centers and they will be run by both students and professors. The involvement of the students in this activity contributes in the prevention of violence and delinquent behavior.

- Creation of a space at school which will be dedicated to the creative activities and entertainment of the students and which will enable the strengthening of the social bond between students and professors. This method is already being implemented in various countries of the European Union following the suggestions of Experts on juvenile delinquency.
- Development and empowerment of the initiative Zones of Educational Priority and their expansion in all school networks in need. The aim of this initiative is to prevent any form of addiction, dangerous behavior and violence. They are currently 3 such zones and another one will be completed in 2007.
- Young people will be able to receive psychological support and counseling by the psychologists of the Youth Organization of Cyprus. The latter's counseling services are included in a program called 'PROTASI', which primarily aims to provide psychological support to students who abandoned school. Counseling is also provided to the parents concerned.
- The Social Welfare Services are responsible for the creation of a Specialized Center for the housing of adolescents with problems of delinquent behavior in order to provide them with appropriate treatment and help in their social inclusion.
- Creation of a special bureau within the Police Service that will deal exclusively with young offenders.

### **Gender-based violence among adolescents in Cyprus**

#### Specific education in values

-The Department of Secondary Education in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and Public Order and the Cyprus Gender and Equality Observation undertook during the period 2005-2006 to implement the European program 'Youth against Drugs'. The Department also participates in the European program 'Gender Equality and Responsibility for Both Sexes'.

-In addition some lyceums in Cyprus are participating in the educational program 'Parliament for Adolescents' which takes place in Athens and is organized by the Greek Parliament with the participation of the Ministries for Education of Greece and Cyprus. The program aims to provide the students with an initial experience in

decision-making on social issues and to familiarize them with the rules, practices and values of democracy.

-The Ministry of Education and Culture has introduced an integrated program in secondary schools in order to raise awareness among pupils regarding issues of health conduct. Among other issues aiming at the development of the personality and critical thinking of the students are seminars providing information against the use of addictive substances and a pilot program focusing on behavior between sexes and guidance on healthy sexual conduct. The latter has been experimentally implemented in six gymnasiums.

### Statistics

There are no statistics available for gender-based violence among adolescents in Cyprus.

### Research and measures taken by the country to prevent and combat gender-based violence among adolescents

Unfortunately in Cyprus there are still no research studies available that particularly deal with gender-based violence among adolescents. One conclusion that can be extracted from the consideration of the statistics and research available is that even if gender-based violence occurs among adolescents in Cyprus it did not draw the attention of either the academic community or the authorities in order for them to get more involved in this issue. One possible reason for this absence can be that the cases relating to gender-based violence in Cyprus among adolescents are rare or minimal or largely under-reported. Therefore the data gathered below relate to relationships between the two sexes but they are not specifically concerned with gender-based violence. Furthermore some of the measures included in the National Action Plan which target juvenile delinquency, can also prevent gender-based violence since they deal specifically with the psychology of adolescents and aim to support the latter in order for any form of violence to be avoided. Nevertheless the measures mentioned in the previous chapter are not gender-specific. The following organizations engage in research and activism regarding issues on gender relationships and young people:

The NGO Cyprus Family Planning Association (CFPA) has formed in 1996 the 'Youth for Youth' group, which consists of the young volunteers of the Association. This group works mainly towards increasing awareness of the Cypriot youth on issues regarding sexual and reproductive health. Through educational activities (workshops and seminars) which are provided to different youth groups from various organizations, secondary schools, colleges and companies it aims to train young people in relation to safer sex and healthy communication in interpersonal relationships. The young volunteers of CFPA are trained and qualified to provide counseling services to other young people who may need such services through the hotline maintained by the Association. As mentioned above issues covered by the counseling services of CFPA include sexual and reproductive health, family planning, marriage and relationships as well as any other issue concerning young people in general.

The CFPA participates in various research programs like:

- The SAFE (Sexual Awareness for Europe) Network which constitutes a European Cooperation with the aim to promote the sexual and reproductive rights of young people. In Cyprus the research undertaken was named 'Evaluation of the Sexual Conduct in Cyprus. What kind of information do young people receive and from where do they receive them?'
- The ASTRA 2006 research program: 'Knowledge and Needs of Young People in Issues of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights'. The participants were young people 16-24 years of age. The aim of this research study was to investigate the knowledge and attitudes of young people towards issues regarding sexuality and sexual health in order to identify existing needs and take measures for their fulfillment.

The Youth Organization of Cyprus is a semi-governmental organization established in 1994 under the Law 33(I)/94. The aim of the Organization is to express the concerns of the young generation of Cyprus and forward these through state channels. Furthermore its aims are to develop programs and services in order to support young people, to provide counseling to the state in issues relating to youth and to create the appropriate circumstances that will support the various activities of young

people. The Organization has contributed to various research studies that relate to issues concerning young people and violent behaviors.

The NGO Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) has also engaged in research relating to violence and gender relationships among young people. Currently MIGS is coordinating a transnational project entitled 'Date Rape Cases Among Young Women and the Development of Good Practices for Support and Prevention' funded by the Daphne II Program of the European Commission. The aim of this project is to investigate the incidence of date rape among female students 18-24 years of age and to make policy recommendations as well as to promote awareness of the problem to relevant target groups.

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