



**The role of legislation and NGO practices in  
Bulgaria for breaking the cycle of violence  
against girls and boys in Bulgaria. Focus on  
protection of children in the context of GBV**

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# The role of legislation

- Legislation for child protection- result of the united efforts of parliamentarians and NGOs
- Implementation of legislation and services for children, including against child abuse- to the great extent with the partnership with civil society, with services delegated to civil society.
- Legislation for protection against GBV- driven to the great extent by women's NGOs, pro-active in all processes of legal reform in the field.



# The role of legislation

- Law on Protection against domestic violence since 2005- result of the joint work of NGOs and parliamentarians, a breakthrough in Bulgarian legislation for protection of human rights in the private realm, further closing the public/private divide.
- The law protects also children against different forms of domestic violence with possibility for the court to issue orders for protection, incl. emergency orders for protection.
- The law explicitly protects the child witness of violence and provides for possibility of the court to order temporary custody of the child with the non- violent parent.



# The role of legislation

- The Alliance for protection against GBV tries to ensure the coherence, interaction and balance in the implementation of legislation for child protection and against DV and GBV- at times a difficult balance for the institutions to strike.
- The signing of the Istanbul Convention in April 2016- opened new opportunities for legislative reform in the field.
- The BGRF and the Alliance – involved in the process of elaboration of legislative changes within the Ministry of Justice.



# The role of legislation

- A new package of draft changes in civil and penal law was prepared recently- ensures better protection of children against DV and GBV.
- Further developments of legislation are expected- for better protection of children witnesses of violence, in line with the Istanbul Convention.
- The Alliance – increasingly recognized by the institutions- ex. Agreement of the Alliance with the State Agency for Child Protection for joint action for protection of children in relation to GBV.
- Protection of children against violence- important topic in the Alliance educational programme- the BS Academy for Prevention of violence.



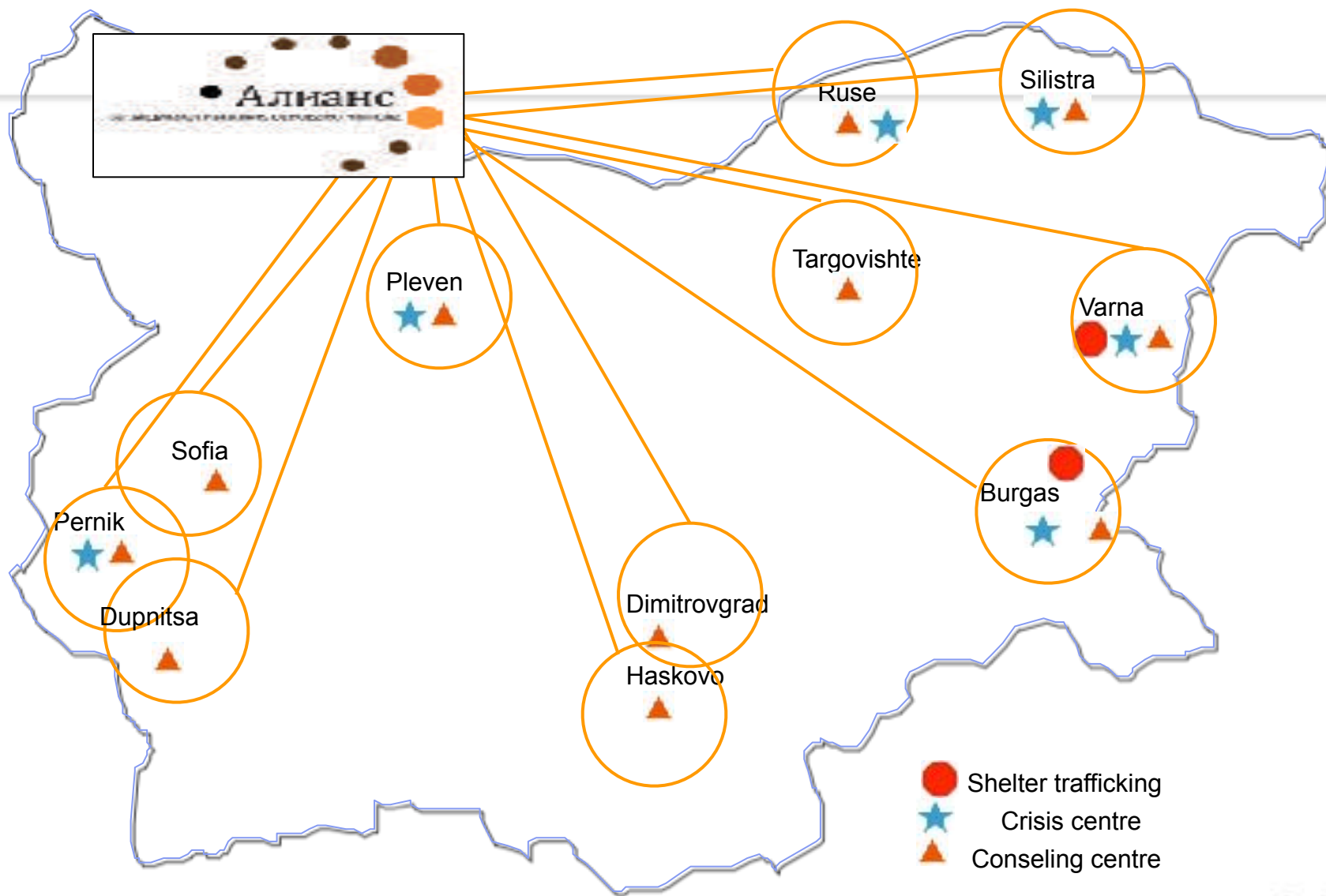
# The role of legislation

- The Alliance implemented pilot research on protection of children against DV and GBV- a project under the Bilateral fund of Norwegian grants, with potential for further exchange and development
- Involvement with legal reform and services for children- combined with reporting to the Treaty bodies and mechanisms and
- Bringing successful international cases for protection of children against DV and sexual violence- ex. *Bevacqua and S. v. Bulgaria* before the ECtHR and *V.P.P. v. Bulgaria* under the OP CEDAW.
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# Black Sea Academy



# Organizations and social services in framework of the Alliance





# Basic Services

- 12 Consultative centers, 8 Crisis centers, 3 Shelters for temporary accommodation of victims of trafficking in human beings





## APAGBV LAST THREE YEARS RESULTS

- More than 13,000 victims of domestic violence received assistance and support from NGOs, members of the Alliance
- Over 4000 children and young people have participated in prevention programs against violence on the grounds of sex
- More than 950 victims were accommodated in 8 crisis center in Bulgaria

# Alliance for Protection Against GBV

**Innovative Practices for children provided in framework of the APAGBV**

**SARC**  
Sexual Assault  
Referral Center-  
Association  
Demetra - Burgas

**CCC**  
Child Contact  
Center -  
Open door center &  
Association  
Demetra - Sofia

**PPEM**  
Program for  
Prevention Early  
Marriages -  
Open door center -  
Pleven



**SARC**  
**Sexual Assault Referral**  
**Center**

**Innovative integrated service for victims of sexual violence- provides complex of activities in one place like:**

- Crises interventions by psychologists
- Investigation interviews by police
- Forensic examination
- Referring to accommodation services where need



**PPEMP**  
**Program for Prevention**  
**of Early Marriages**

- **The program towards to increase of awareness of parents, children and institutions about the bad consequences from early marriages**
- Providing individual and group consultative work for children and families
- Training for professionals from institutions for recognition and intervention steps
- RMM – Regional Multi- institutional Mechanism for action in the cases of early marriages



**CCC**  
**Child Contact Center**

**CCC towards to prevention and protection of violence against children in separated and conflict families through:**

- Offering of contact- related services to meet each individual family circumstance
- Contact services provided include indirect contact and handovers, supported contact, supervised contact and provide court reports on assessments of contact issues about the parental skills and children's needs