



## PRESS RELEASE

### ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN CLOSED AND PENITENTIARY INSTITUTIONS

2-4 March

Almaty

Training titled "Deviant behavior in children and adolescents: individual and group consulting" for staff of specialized closed institutions for children with deviant behavior will be held on **2-4 March 2015** in **ALMATY**. The training is conducted in the framework of PRI project on "Gradual elimination of violence against children in prisons of Central Asia" currently being implemented in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

The training will be attended by the staff of specialized closed institutions for children: deviant behavior school principals, psychologists, child supervisors, officers of penitentiary institutions for children.

To date there are 95 minors in correctional institutions and 167 in specialized schools for children with deviant behavior in custody in Kazakhstan.

"Amid political and socio-economic changes taking place in today's society, physical, mental and social health deterioration of children and minors is seen. Deviant behavior is a behavior of children and minors, which deviates from the norms of mental health or which violates social, cultural, legal and ethical norms. An effective method of providing psychological help to children and minors with deviant behavior is psychological counseling effectiveness of which depends on the consultant's communication skills,"- says Irina Nikolskaya, international expert in child psychiatry, psychotherapy and medical psychology.

"Children who have committed an offense need longer periods of therapy, at the time of which they should get ready for reintegration in the society, a challenge that requires special training of staff working with them. Moreover, we also need to ensure that psychosocial support is provided upon their return to the family, - sums up Professor Nadezhda Veniaminovna, Director of Credo NGO, - Therefore, as part of the training we offer more effective methods of working with children which are in compliance with human rights principles."

The training will be delivered by international experts - Igor Dobryakov and Irina Nikolskaya, specialists in child psychiatry, psychotherapy and medical psychology, and Yuri Gusakov - national human rights expert.

In Kazakhstan, the project is implemented by Credo NGO and Penal Reform International office (PRI) in Central Asia.

**For reference:** In Kazakhstan at the moment children-offenders are in custody of a juvenile correctional facility for boys, of the local section in women's prison, of the eight specialized schools for children with deviant behavior.

**Training Venue: Almaty, Kazhol Hotel, Gogol str., 127/1, Baikonur Conference Hall.**

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