

PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY REPORT

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OANA BÎZGAN

Romanian MP
Young Global Leader

- July 2018-





- # In 2016, I made the decision to get directly involved in the change to reshape Romania's future. I clearly understand that any change starts with us all and that this requires time, work and resilience.
- # I strongly believe in Romania's potential to be a more democratic society, a place where social justice and human rights are respected. I believe in a society with #0ToleranceForViolence and a country that will help us all grow at our full potential in a predictable system.

I am Oana Bîzgan, Member of the Romanian Parliament and I want to build a better future for each of us.

Since May 2018, I am honored to be the first Romanian female politician to be selected by World Economic Forum to be part of the Young Global Leaders Community. My goal is to address specific problems that Romania is facing right now on equal opportunities, gender equality, economic or public health issues and make them part of the YGL agenda.

Parliamentary activity

...in numbers



50 speeches



45 questions and interpellations



32 political declarations



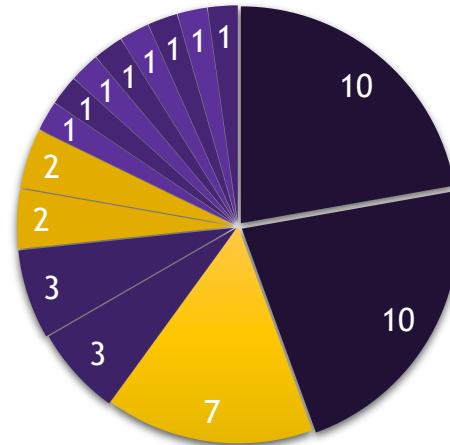
8 draft bills initiated



55 signed legislative proposals

rights
abuses harassment
violence
human
equality
opportunities
victims

Questioned institutions



I used every chance I had to speak in the Parliament about the priorities that will help us build a better life for everyone. From economic policies to ending domestic violence practices, only together we can make a difference and prove that it's possible to make a change.

- M of Internal Aff.
- M of Nat. Education
- M of Labour, Soc. Just.
- MRDPA
- M of P. Finance
- M of Justice
- M of Health
- M of Business Env., Commerce and Entrepr.
- Permanent Electoral Authority
- National Audiovisual Council
- NCCD
- Government
- M of Foreign Aff.
- M of Energy
- State Secretariat for Religious Affairs

Amendments

Law for the 2017 state budget

Additional funds to fight domestic violence

Additional RON 17,800 for the National Interest Program meant to set-up new centers for the domestic violence victims. Expanding and creating more facilities and social services for the assistance of victims and assaulters and to promote equal opportunity for participation of women in the political and public life

Emergency Ordinance 23 (OUG 23)

Change of art.11 of the Law nr. 248/2013 on the Organization and Functioning of the Economic and Social Council (PLx. 185/2017) to ensure that human rights organisations, including women, children and young people's rights organizations are fair represented in the plenum of the Council

Establishment of primary health care centers

Allocate RON 950,000 for initiating the necessary research and construction projects for a total of 242 new Primary Health Care Centers

Health Units Rehabilitation

Allocate RON 150,000 for the technical valuation of all hospitals in Romania (406), in order to execute the consolidation to earthquakes

Draft Law on Prevention

Letter to Secretary of State from the Ministry for Business Environment, Commerce and Entrepreneurship - to eliminate the article on the exoneration of the first court hearing of sexual harassment in the workplace

Amendments

Law no. 217/2003 on fighting and preventing family domestic violence

Harmonization of country legislation with the Istanbul Convention

Introduce the Gender Equality subject in the school curriculum

Art.10 - (1) The Minister Of National Education must introduce in the national school curriculum elements to train on the following subjects:

- # equal opportunities for women and men
- # mutual respect
- # fight against gender stereotypes
- # conflict management through non-violent communication
- # gender violence and the right to personal integrity

Allocate money for the victims of domestic violence by the General Council of Bucharest

d) local counties budgets, as well as the administratives units of Bucharest and the General Council of Bucharest; local authorities have the responsibility to estimate and to allocate an adequate budget for the domestic violence centers and the activities addressing this issue.

Real time protection for the victims of domestic violence



In 2017, more than 20,000 cases of domestic violence were reported.



15.584 women (76%)



4.029 men (20,5%)



538 girls



466 boys

LAW

Street Harassment



Day by day, women in Romania are assaulted and humiliated by harassment in schools, universities, at work, on the street, in public transportation and in public institutions.

Politicians, celebrities and other Romanian female public figures have joined the #MeToo Campaign.

Current situation in Romania:

- # 8 out of 10 women don't feel safe walking on the street at night
- # 4 out of 10 women don't feel safe even during the day
- # 7 out of 10 women don't expect anyone else to help them if they are getting harassed

My draft bill proposed to address street harassment immediately:

To adopt the legal sanctions for street harassment and to implement tougher penalties for any form of abuse.

Tougher penalties won't be enough to end the street harassment practices. The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Romania and the General Police Inspectorate will be the competent authorities to ensure the street harassment law enforcement, Simultaneously, they will strengthen the policies and regulations on police interventions in cases of violence against women.

#METOO



Draft Bill

Psychological Harassment in the Workplace

Bill: Implement tougher penalties for any form of abuse in the workplace (emotional, psychological and moral)

- # Romanian employees experience one of highest work related stress in the European Union
- # Romania has one of the highest rate of depressions which could be caused by a stressing work environment

24.8%

of Romanians say they are exposed to several factors that can affect their physical and mental health

5.8%

of Romanians are exposed to psychological harassment, physical violence, intimidation, pressure or exploitation in the workplace.

Types of workplace harassment:

- # offending, intimidating or hostile behavior
- # inappropriate comments
- # unwanted actions or gestures from an employer, supervisor or co-worker

... all of that could create a hostile work environment, reduce productivity, increase the levels of anxiety and compromise the professional future of the employees.

Studies show that women are most exposed to psychological harassment in the workplace. Romanian men experience the highest rate of stress in the workplace in Europe.

The Romanian Senate rejected the Bill, even though the Parliamentary Committees have issued a favorable report. Currently, the bill is submitted for debate to the General Assembly.

Draft Bill

The sex offenders registry

A system designed to allow authorities to identify and keep track of the activities of anyone who was convicted, cautioned or was released from prison for a sexual offence - whether that be against children or adults. This includes offences ranging from indecent exposure, rape and sexual exploitation of children.

Police data shows that there are over five rapes cases reported every day in Romania.

Recidivism rate: 70%

More than 55% of Romanians think that nonconsensual sexual intercourse is acceptable in some circumstances.

European countries that have a sex offenders registry: France, Portugal, Spain, Ireland, Cyprus, Germany.

- # People who are registered in offender databases will be required to notify the police when they change their place of residence or if they are spending more than 15 days away from home.
- # Before applying for a job in certain fields such as health care, education, public security, social assistance, defence, national security or justice, employer should verify if the candidate is a registered sex offender.
- # For example, a pedophile couldn't be hired in a school or some other institution where he will be exposed to work with children. The sex offenders registry could help to prevent future cases of abuse.

The bill is submitted for debate to the Romanian Senate Committees.

Draft Bill

Increase the age of children that are institutionalized into residential centers from 3 years to 7 years old

- # **Bill: Increase the age of children that are institutionalized into residential centers (orphanages) from 3 years to 7 years old**
- # Romania has one of the highest rates of children in residential care in Europe
- # The institutionalization has **irreversible effects on child development and on their general behavior**
- # Children who are raised in institutions develop lower outcomes in cognition, language, IQ, personal, social and adaptive behavior.



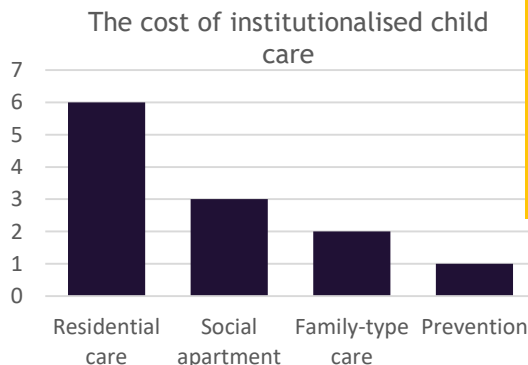
More than 57,000 children are placed in Romania's Child Special Protection System

20,291 of children are in residential services

150 residential centers

5,7% are „adoptable”

1% were adopted in 2017



UNICEF, together with the World Bank, supports the National Authority for the Protection of Child Rights and Adoption

Romania is committed to closing down over 150 traditional institutional care facilities by 2020

The bill is submitted for the final vote to the General Assembly and is expected to be enforced in January, 2019

Draft Bill

Children without IDs: equal access to education

- # **Bill: Changing** the national education law no.1/2011 to allow children without identity documents to register for school.

Current legislative amendments:

- # Schools will be obliged to enroll in the general compulsory education children that are willing to study but don't have an ID.
- # School staff should report to police and local social services these cases in order to get the children the necessary help to get a valid ID.

2016: More than 160 000 people don't have an ID in Romania

- # Children without IDs are left without essential public services and benefits. They become ideal targets for kidnapping, violence, human trafficking, illiteracy, illness and social exclusion.

The right to education is legally guaranteed for all by the Constitution and by a number of international normative instruments and treaties signed by Romania and elaborated by the United Nations.

According to NSI, there are **3,264,000 children aged 0 - 14**. The number of children without an ID or an identification personal number in Romania remains officially unknown.

The bill is submitted for vote to the General Assembly. The Education Committee has issued a favorable report.

Draft Bill

Children without an ID: equal access to health care

- # **Bill: equal access to health care services** for children under 18 years of age and for vulnerable populations without identity documents.

Long-term effects:

- # This legislative proposal will help the authorities to identify people without IDs that have the Constitutional right to free of charge healthcare and report them to the police and social care in order to facilitate the access to ID cards.
- # This should be enforced by the National Health Insurance House protocol no later than 30.01.2019.

The right to access health care services is guaranteed by the Romanian Constitution.

When children don't have a birth certificate, they "don't exist" before the law so they are left outside the protection system.

According to UNICEF, around the world, **nearly 25% of all children under the age of 5 are not registered**, they don't have a birth certificate or any form of ID, so they don't exist before the law. They are more likely to face major challenges in accessing health care, education and social assistance.

The bill is submitted for the vote in the Romanian Senate. The Health Committee has issued a favorable report.

Draft Bill

The Civil Partnership: Equality Before the Law

Every person of legal age should have the same opportunities with regards to their choice of partnership option and the Romanian authorities have the legal and moral duty to offer the necessary protection by law.

- # 22 EU countries have already enforced the law on civil partnership.
- # EU countries that currently don't offer the option of civil partnerships are: Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia.

„Citizens are equal before the law and public authorities, without any privilege or discrimination”

Romanian Constitution, art. 16, alin (1)

In 2018, Romania - an EU country is still limiting fundamental human rights by connecting them to the institution of marriage. This leads to a discrimination of men and women who can't or choose not to get married.

The 2011 Census:

745,534 Romanians live in consensual unions, which represents almost 17% of all unmarried citizens in Romania



There are **191.501** unmarried couples with at least one child

The Bill is submitted for debate in the Romanian Senate and was sent to the responsible Parliamentary Committees.

Draft Bill

Reference social indicator (RSI)

- # **Bill:** annual indexation of RSI at 100% of the inflation rate as an indicator reflecting **the average annual increase in prices**. This indexing model is already foreseen in the case of pensions, respectively in Law 263/2010. If inflation is negative, the ISR is not indexed and remains at the value of the previous year.
- # By introducing this automatic indexing system, **the inflation rate as a neutral economic indicator**, the state will be able to fulfil the responsibility to **ensure minimum social standards** for all citizens, irrespective of other aspects, including political and electoral criteria.



The RSI value is 500 RON and it has not changed since 2008

European Social Security Code

...recommends setting the level of various social in order to give the beneficiary access to the daily basket of goods.

RSI - unit expressed in lei which is used to calculate various financial social insurance benefits in Romania, including family support allowance, unemployment benefit, heating allowance.

Removing arbitrary factor from the RSI indexing method will bring social and economic stability through the predictability of the necessary budget and the social effects produced by its application.

The bill is submitted for debate in the Senate. The Parliamentary Committees have issued a favorable report and proposed the amendments. Next, the Senate Plenum will debate and vote.

#OANA BÎZGAN
Romanian MP

I want every single day as a MP and a Young Global Leader to matter. Come join me!

Change starts with us, right now!

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