

# BULGARIA: Child Specific Training



AGCI began serving Bulgarian children in 1991 and has since united more than 550 children with their adoptive families. Bulgaria became a signatory to the Hague Convention after changing adoption laws and the appointment of the Vice Minister who is an adoption advocate. With support from the European Union, orphanages are being renovated and staff are being trained with the goal of one caretaker to every six children. Education, physical therapy, and foster care options are available today to the orphans of Bulgaria.

AGCI was the first U.S. agency to complete a Bulgarian adoption under the Hague Convention. AGCI is pleased to continue to advocate for and serve the estimated 10,000 orphaned children of Bulgaria.

## **FACTORS LEADING CHILDREN INTO CARE:**

- Poverty, lack of resources
- Neglect, abuse, lack of medical care
- Medical issues and/or special needs
- Discrimination of Romani children

## **HOW CHILDREN OFTEN ENTER CARE:**

- Consent or Relinquishment
- Abandonment

## **COMMONLY FOUND MEDICAL NEEDS & ISSUES:**

- Cerebral Palsy
- Speech and/or language delays
- Hearing impairment
- Limb deformities
- Delays due to out of home care/institutionalization
- Heart Conditions (ASD, VSD)
- Missing Limbs
- Hearing Impairment
- Visual Impairment
- Premature
- Respiratory distress
- Blood disorder
- Hydrocephaly
- Microcephaly
- Kidney disease
- Epilepsy
- Hypospadias
- Fetal alcohol syndrome (FASD)

### **Website**

<https://www.allgodchildren.org/medical-conditions/>

### **Medical Issues**

<https://www.unicef.org/bulgaria/en/situation-children-bulgaria>

### **CDC Info**

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2024/family/international-adoption>

### **AVAILABLE CHILDREN:**

Orphans from 15 months to 14 years old are available for adoption. This includes sibling groups. Wait times for referral may be expedited for families open to adopting a child with special needs, a sibling group or an older child. Each month we receive information from Bulgaria about waiting children for whom we can advocate.

### **LANGUAGE:**

Bulgarian, an Indo-European language is the official language of Bulgaria and is spoken by a majority of the country's population. The two main minority languages spoken in Bulgaria are Turkish and Romani.

### **FREQUENT MEDICAL & PHYSIOLOGICAL ISSUES:**

<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/ffde/8978191b68e1967f2d195b35b9b563ea6OcO.pdf>

<https://www.who.int/andorra/publications/m/item/regions-for-health-network--region-profiles-2022---varna-region--bulgaria>

### **CULTURAL DIVERSITY OF THE POPULATION:**

<https://www.frua.org/bulgaria.html>

#### **Romani Culture**

<https://www.bulgarianpartners.org/the-people/the-roma-community/>

<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/bulgaria/#people-and-society>

### **ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS, GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:**

<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/bulgaria/>

**HEALTH INFORMATION FOR TRAVELERS:**

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/bulgaria>

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE – BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS:**

Information on Adoption and Hague Convention Countries, Visa Process

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel.html>

**HAGUE CONVENTION TEXT:**

[https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/Intercountry-Adoption/adopt\\_ref/hague-convention-text.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/Intercountry-Adoption/adopt_ref/hague-convention-text.html)

**ADOPTION STATISTICS:**

[https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/Intercountry-Adoption/adopt\\_ref/adoption-statistics1.html?wcmmode=disabled](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/Intercountry-Adoption/adopt_ref/adoption-statistics1.html?wcmmode=disabled)

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH FACTSHEETS:**

<https://data.who.int/countries/100>