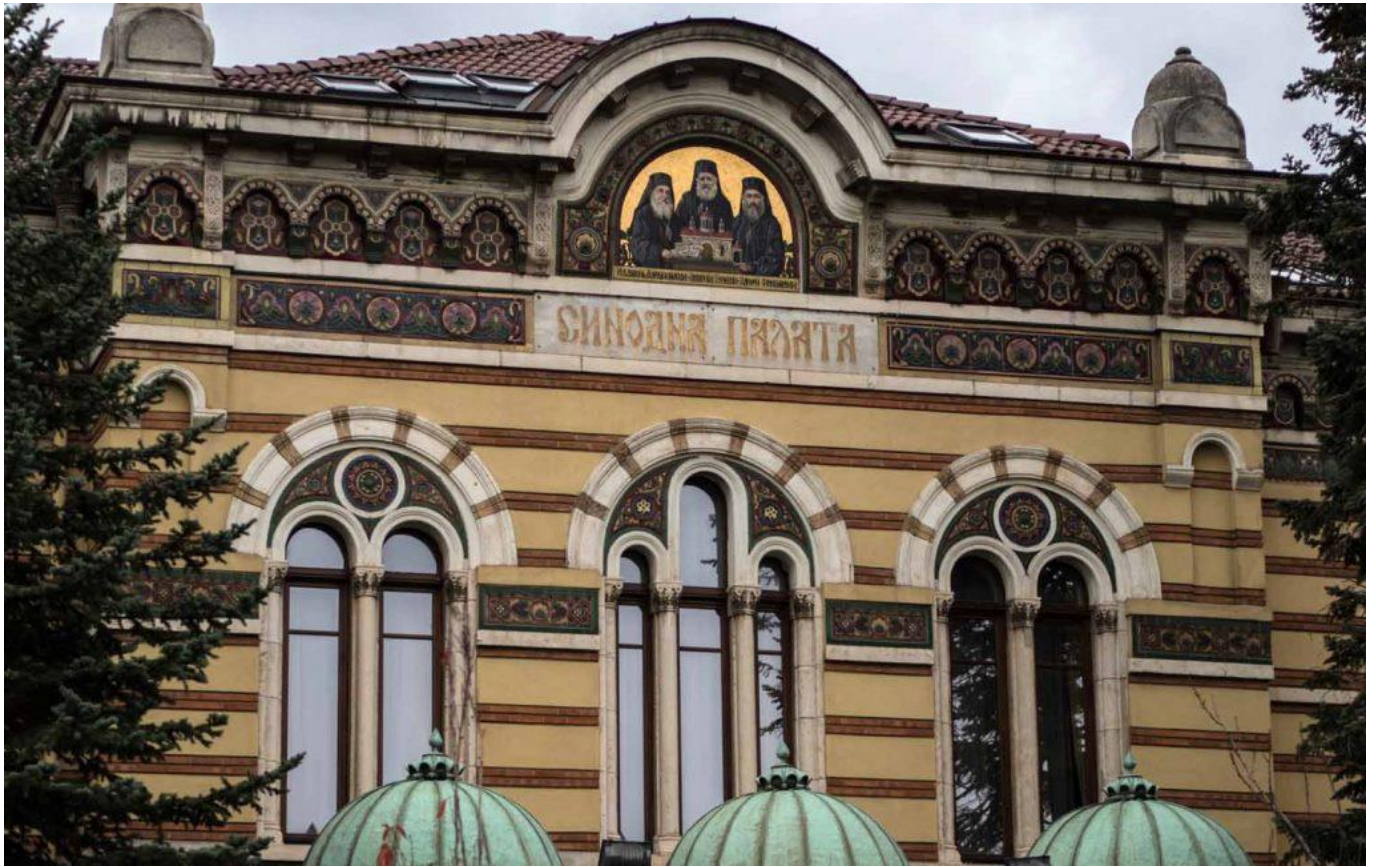


Bulgarian Church dismay over draft provisions considered for family law



The Bulgarian Orthodox Church's Holy Synod this week expressed its grave concerns over a set of draft provisions considered for inclusion into the country's family law code, including ones governing the protection of minors.

The Holy Synod charged that over the past few years Christian values in the country have been replaced by legal concepts that foreign to the Bulgarian spirit, and which ignore popular sentiment and traditions. The Holy Synod of the Bulgarian Church said this trend clashes with the foundation of the Orthodox faith in the country.

Many of the draft provisions essentially reject the spiritual link between the child and his or her parents, the statement reads.