



YOUTH INITIATIVE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
NISMA E TË RINJVE PËR TË DREJTAT E NJERIUT
INICIJATIVA MLADIH ZA LJUDSKA PRAVA



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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INTRODUCTION

WHO WE ARE

Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR) was initially established as a regional non-governmental organization in 2003, which was later transformed into a regional network of YIHR in Kosovo, Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, and Croatia.

For over 15 years, Youth Initiative for Human Rights - Kosovo (YIHR KS) has successfully worked in protecting and promoting human rights and democratic values not only in Kosovo but also in the region.

Specifically, YIHR KS is focused on the process of dealing with the past, protection, and promotion of human rights, and empowering the role of youth at the local and regional levels.

Since the role, the impact, and the context of YIHR KS is changing continuously, the core mission of YIHR KS remains relevant today.

VISION

A free, equal, and just society where all people can realize their full potential.

MISSION

YIHR KS promotes, protects, and advocates for human rights, dealing with the past, rule of law, and civic values as the core foundations of a free, responsible and progressive society.

INTRODUCTION

Keeping in mind the hardships we all experienced the past year with the COVID-19 pandemic, YIHR KS empathizes with everyone who has suffered from the losses and effects of such an unfortunate situation all around the world. We are grateful more than ever for the frontliners' work and their contribution to maintaining this situation under control.

It was of immense significance to us as a civil society that in such circumstances we strengthened our focus on youth, human rights, and dealing with the past.

Although our work was limited due to the pandemic, still with great persistence and commitment we managed to adapt to the new situation so that we could keep our work going. Every youngster had the opportunity to keep learning and engage with the topics of human rights, rule of law, and dealing with the past through our online workshops, webinars, youth exchange program, etc.

We deeply appreciate the support of activists, young people, donors, and other partners throughout these difficult times. We pledge to continue to go above and beyond our mission no matter the circumstances, to keep reaching out to the youth in the most innovative and engaging ways, all that while taking precautionary measures to support the wellbeing of everyone involved.



OUR PROGRAMS



Dealing with the Past Program

YIHR KS will continue to contribute by creating and maintaining platforms for dealing with the past as well as peace-building initiatives throughout the region. This program will focus on supporting initiatives and raising awareness among people, especially youth, about the recent past in Kosovo in particular and in the Balkans more broadly. We aim to build up and preserve collective memory and contribute to the peace-building processes.



Human Rights and Rule of Law Program

YIHR KS remains a leading organization in the field of human rights in Kosovo. Since 2004, YIHR KS has been working on monitoring, documenting, and reporting on human rights violations, implementation of laws, and functioning of human rights protection mechanisms. Thus, YIHR KS aims to continue being an active defender and promoter of Human Rights in Kosovo as well as in the region.



Youth Empowerment Program

YIHR KS believes in the power of young people as responsible and active citizens in building a responsible and prosperous society. Hence, the main focus of this program is two-fold. First, it is to empower young people in becoming active participants in social and political life at the local, national, regional, and global level through education. Second, we aim to strengthen youth capacities in engaging, protecting, and advocating for human rights for all in the process of dealing with the past.

PROGRAM BASED ACTIVITIES

HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW PROGRAM

Project YOUTH FOR JUSTICE

“Youth for Justice” is a project supported by the United States Department of State/INL that was implemented in the regions of Pristina, Gjakova, Peja, Ferizaj during 2020. The aim of this project is to empower young people to be active in the justice sector in Kosovo.

The project “Youth for Justice” so far has engaged more than 2000 young people from various communities in twelve municipalities. During this time, we have covered several important issues for Kosovar society such as raising awareness of the right information for citizens, establishing and maintaining a dialogue process between judicial institutions and citizens, and building professional capacities for young lawyers.

Legal Education Program:

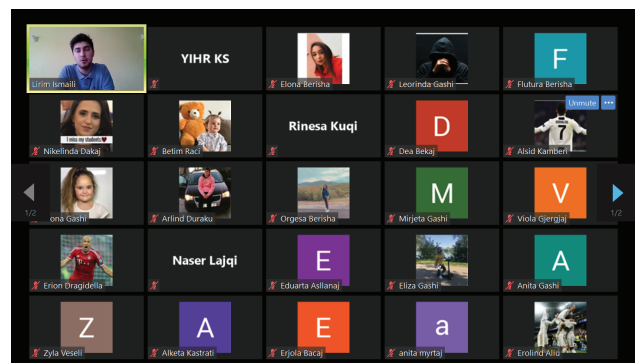
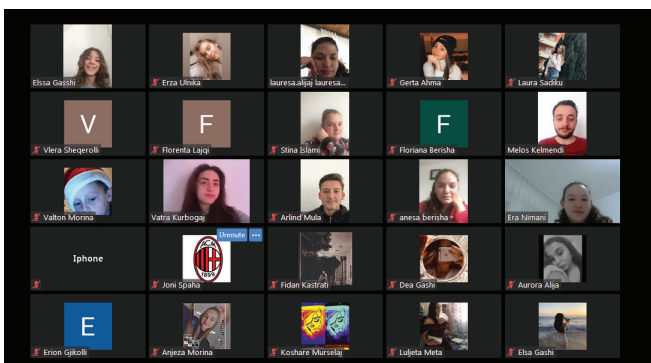
The Legal Education Program is currently being used as part of the YIHR KS legal education program with high school and university students from different parts of Kosovo. The legal terminology of the program was adapted to all high school and university students, and an expert was selected to review the program from a pedagogical perspective. We received feedback from high school students, who found the program understandable and vastly informative. In order to test the young people’s knowledge on the topics covered in the Legal Education Program, our project has included a short evaluation test at the end of the program.

My Rights platform:

My Rights platform provides easily accessible information and tools to all young people and other citizens about judicial institutions, access to justice, human rights, and relevant information regarding the justice sector in Kosovo. To make the platform more accessible for citizens, the project will develop the platform into an Android and iOS application. The platform has also served as a tool where citizens have reported cases of breach of law, found answers on various questions regarding legal procedures and other procedures within Kosovo institutions. Our team has addressed all the reports to the relevant institutions and has kept contact with these institutions to be aware of the measures that are being taken.

Justice Lectures:

With the aim to provide young people with information on the concepts of justice such as human rights, access to justice, justice system institutions, accountability mechanisms, and reform, the project has delivered a total of 55 justice lectures to high school and university students in the targeted regions of Prishtina, Peja, Gjakova, and Ferizaj with a total of 1,038 participants. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the project has virtualized most of the justice lectures and in the period from April - December has organized 49 online justice lectures, while 6 lectures were held in person with high schools and universities, where more than 1,000 students have attended and have been informed about human rights and justice institutions in Kosovo. So far, YIHR KS has delivered 43 justice lectures in high schools and 10 lectures in universities in the respective regions.



Memorandums of understanding with public universities:

YIHR KS has signed memorandums of understanding with universities in the targeted regions, namely University “Haxhi Zeka” in Peja, University “Fehmi Agani” in Gjakova, and “University of Applied Sciences” in Ferizaj. The cooperation was extended in organizing justice lectures in universities and high schools, and engaging young people from the respective municipalities in the activities of Youth for Justice.

Training of Law Students:

YIHR KS organized the Training of Law Students activity where 20 law students from different regions were trained on the issues of human rights and access to justice, and were provided with information on relevant judicial institutions. The three-day activity was conducted by a professional lawyer that prepared the participants to deliver justice lectures in high schools and universities and provided them with information about the structure of the judicial institutions in Kosovo. The activity also consisted of learning about the constitutionally guaranteed human rights, and some of the landmark cases of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo and the European Court of Human Rights. On the last day of the activity, the students were trained on delivering a presentation on the legal education material.



Establish Local Partnerships:

To expand cooperation with organizations whose mission is in line with the purpose of the Youth for Justice project, YIHR KS signed memorandums of understanding with “Syri i Vizionit” in Peja, “INPO” in Ferizaj, and “Rinia Aktive e Gjakoves” in Gjakova. We contracted a local coordinator from each organization to be engaged in organizing justice lectures within the Youth for Justice project, to support grassroots organizations and to cooperate in the implementation of activities

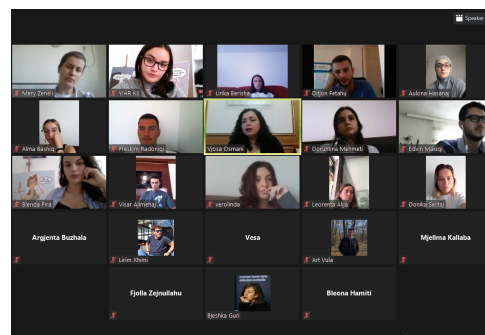
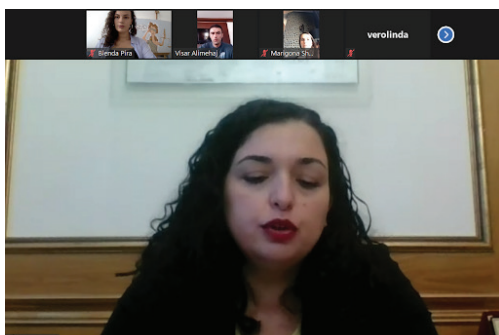
Online Courses:

YIHR KS has organized 8 Online Courses on the topic "The right to access to public documents, accountability and transparency of public institutions". With a professional trainer on the subject, the project reached 165 participants. Intending to inform a wider part of the population with the right of access to public documents, the legal framework, how to submit a request for access to public documents, and also how the exercise of this right affects the accountability and transparency of public institution, an informative video on the topic was recorded and published on My Rights platform and at YIHR KS's page.



Alternative School for Human Rights:

The Alternative School for Human Rights 2020 gathered a group of 26 young students from different regions, universities and ethnicities. The activity took place online from July 20 – 30, 2020. A total of 12 meetings, consisting of 5 lectures and 7 guest speakers were held with a focus on the topic of human rights and legislation of Kosovo, youth participation in decision-making processes in Kosovo, gender equality issues, the rights of non-majority communities in Kosovo, and peacebuilding processes in Kosovo. The Alternative School provided the possibility for students to increase their knowledge on these topics, meet civil society activists and discuss the practices of various topics related to human rights in Kosovo.



Local Mock Trials:

Local Mock Trial activity was organized in the region of Prishtina, Gjakova, Peja, and Ferizaj where young people participated in a three-day training and learned about key roles in a court hearing including the role of a judge, a prosecutor, and a lawyer. During this activity, more than 100 participants had the opportunity to learn more about the judicial system, the procedures, and the role of different sectors of the judicial institutions. The activity provided the possibility for participants to get acquainted with the applicable legislation in Kosovo and to simulate the role of a lawyer, a judge and a prosecutor in a court session.



Short video campaigns on promoting access to justice:

In order to promote access to justice and to reach a wider audience through social media, YIHR KS developed 3 short video campaigns. The first 2 videos convey the message on the right to dignity, the right to marriage, and the rights of the LGBTI+ community. The video shared within Human Rights Week treats the right of gatherings and tends to spread hope during the COVID-19 pandemic. The videos were shared on YIHR KS social media and were broadcasted on Kosovo television channels.

Justice Murals:

Six justice murals were used as an innovative, creative and sustainable way to convey to young people messages on the importance of their rights, access to justice, and to encourage the youth to demand justice. The murals were created in six high schools in the region of Prishtina, Gjakova, Peja, and Ferizaj and were placed at a location with higher visibility from students and other citizens. These murals are contributing in making schools better, more creative, and attractive environments for students.



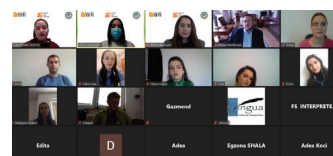
Picturing Justice:

In order to enhance critical thinking among young people in Kosovo about human rights and judicial institutions, YIHR KS organized the Picturing Justice competition. High school and university students had the chance to apply with their original artwork to reflect the justice system and human rights in Kosovo in a creative way. Based on their concepts, creativity, and originality, three artworks were selected and prizes were awarded to the winners.



Internship Program:

The Internship Program has engaged 30 law students from private and public universities with Kosovo basic courts in the region of Prishtina, Peja, Gjakova, and Ferizaj. 20 interns started their six-month internship in June 2020, while 10 interns in October 2020. The Internship Program aimed to build on the professional capacities of the students in order for them to be able to contribute to enhancing access to justice. The interns have been involved in working in various departments at the Basic Court of Prishtina, Basic Court of Gjakova, Basic Court of Peja, and Basic Court of Ferizaj, while also participating in court hearings and drafting various legal documents. Many interns have reported at the My Rights platform regarding cases of law violation, while our project has addressed these reports to the relevant institutions. 20 interns have already completed their six-month internship and in an online ceremony on December 17, 2020 were certificated for their participation in the Internship Program.



Open Court Day:

During March 2020, YIHR KS organized a visit at the Basic Court of Prishtina with 27 high school students from the municipality of Fushe Kosova. For most of the students, it was the first time they had been to a courtroom. After visiting the building of the court, the students gathered in a courtroom to discuss with a panel consisting of the judge Fatime Dermaku, the prosecutor Ilirjana Qollaku, and lawyer Merita Stublla Emimi who shared with the students about their profession and the challenges of the justice system in Kosovo. Students were interested in court proceedings, free legal aid, juvenile delinquency, and many other topics.



Court Monitoring Program:

Under the framework of the Court Monitoring Program during October 2020, 40 law students were engaged as court hearing monitors in the Basic Court in Prishtina, Basic Court in Gjakova, Basic Court in Peja, and Basic Court in Ferizaj. The aim of the program was to increase the knowledge and critical thinking skills of the students and increase the transparency and accountability of judicial institutions. The Court Monitoring Program was preceded by a training in which young people gained knowledge about monitoring the judicial system, accessing the justice system, preparing reports, and requesting access to public documents. In addition to a total of 400 monitored sessions, each participating student in this program filed a request for access to public documents for certain cases they had an interest in.

Mock Trial:

The project from November 21 – 23, 2020 gathered 30 law students and recent law graduates from public and private universities all across Kosovo in the National Mock Trial activity. The three-day activity provided participants with information on issues related to the justice sector such as rights, access to justice, accountability mechanisms, and justice institutions. On the last day of the National Mock Trial, the participants performed their assigned roles of judge, prosecutor, and lawyer in a simulated court session.



Project

PROTECTING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS DURING AND AFTER COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Protecting economic and social rights during and after COVID-19 pandemic is a project supported by UNMIK which started in October 2020 and remains ongoing.

The prime purpose of this project is to empower participants to stand up for the human rights of their peers from different communities, as such contributing to broader trust-building and reconciliation efforts through interactive and innovative human rights activities, including economic and social rights.



Project

IMPROVING ACCESS TO JUSTICE AT THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL

Improving Access to Justice at the municipal level is a 12-month project supported by the United States Department of State/INL that **aims to improve access to justice at the local level by activating and including young people and grassroots organizations as promoters of rule of law and democracy.** Regarding the cooperation with grassroots organizations, YIHR KS has established a sub-granting scheme by selecting 5 local NGOs who will implement various activities within the scope of the project.

Training of municipal officials:

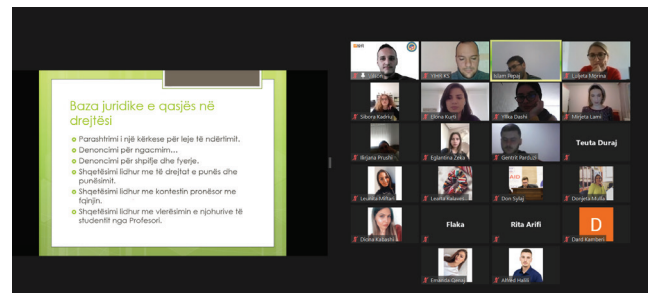
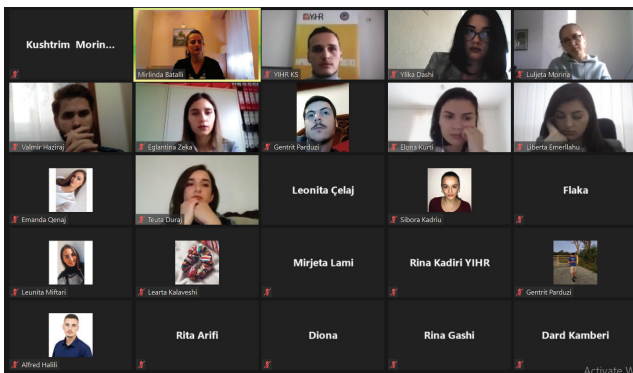
The training of Municipal Administration Officials is the first activity within the project in terms of implementation. This training aimed to increase efficiency, transparency, accountability, and professionalism of legal services within the municipal administrations through professional support for the civil servants of the municipalities from the 7 biggest regions in Kosovo.

This activity was implemented in October 2020, organized solely and exclusively by the YIHR KS team, and lasted 4 working days. There were 20 beneficiaries from the mentioned regions that deepened their knowledge and enhanced their skills from this activity.



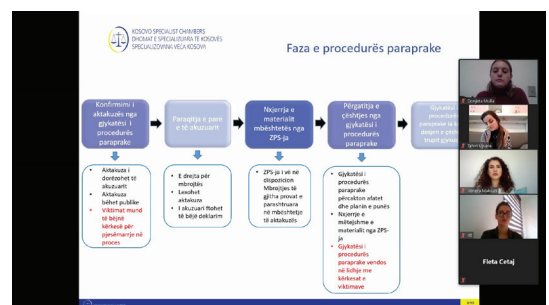
Constitutional and Administrative Clinic:

The Constitutional and Administrative Law Clinic is being implemented in coordination with the Research Institute for Legal Studies - Faculty of Law, University of Prishtina. This activity aims to strengthen the professional capacities of future young lawyers through weekly practical lectures with local experts in the field of administrative law and constitutional law. 25 undergraduate and graduate students and recent law graduates have been attending these virtual lectures since November. In 2020, 8 out of 16 lectures were held. The activity started with basic concepts of administrative law to then continue with the initial decision - making processes at the local level, hierarchical review, and finally with the judicial review of the local administration decisions.



Project KOSOVO SPECIALIST CHAMBERS

YIHR KS organized 9 lectures with more than 190 young people from all around Kosovo in order to provide them with thorough information about the mandate and competencies of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers so as to debunk all the myths around it. All the lectures were facilitated by the YIHR KS team in the presence of the representatives of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers from Hague. The lectures were held with high school and university students of different regions of Kosovo. During the lectures special interest was shown in the mandate and competencies of the Chambers, meaning that there is a significant need for such activities in the future.



Project

PERSONAL: ROMA, EGYPTIAN, AND ASHKALI

The Personal: Roma, Egyptian, and Ashkali project was implemented in partnership with KultPlus from May until December 2020, and was supported by the European Union in Kosovo. **The main goal of the project was to increase reporting on human rights violations for non-majority communities (Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian) in the mass media.** With the rapid growth of reporting for these communities, a tremendous advance has been achieved in reporting, a change of perspectives for marginalized groups in Kosovo and across, as well as accessibility of these three communities in public discourse and media.

Storytelling Workshop:

The storytelling workshop was held with more than 17 women and young women from Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities from different municipalities of Kosovo in October 2020. The workshop provided the participants with the opportunity to learn more about storytelling techniques, to get empowered, to share their stories and speak about experiences that have influenced their life. The participants raised the issues of their suffering during the last war in Kosovo, the early marriages, the poverty, and traditions. They were confident to share their stories for journalistic articles, two of which are published in the Virtual Museum of Refugees platform and one story published by KultPlus.



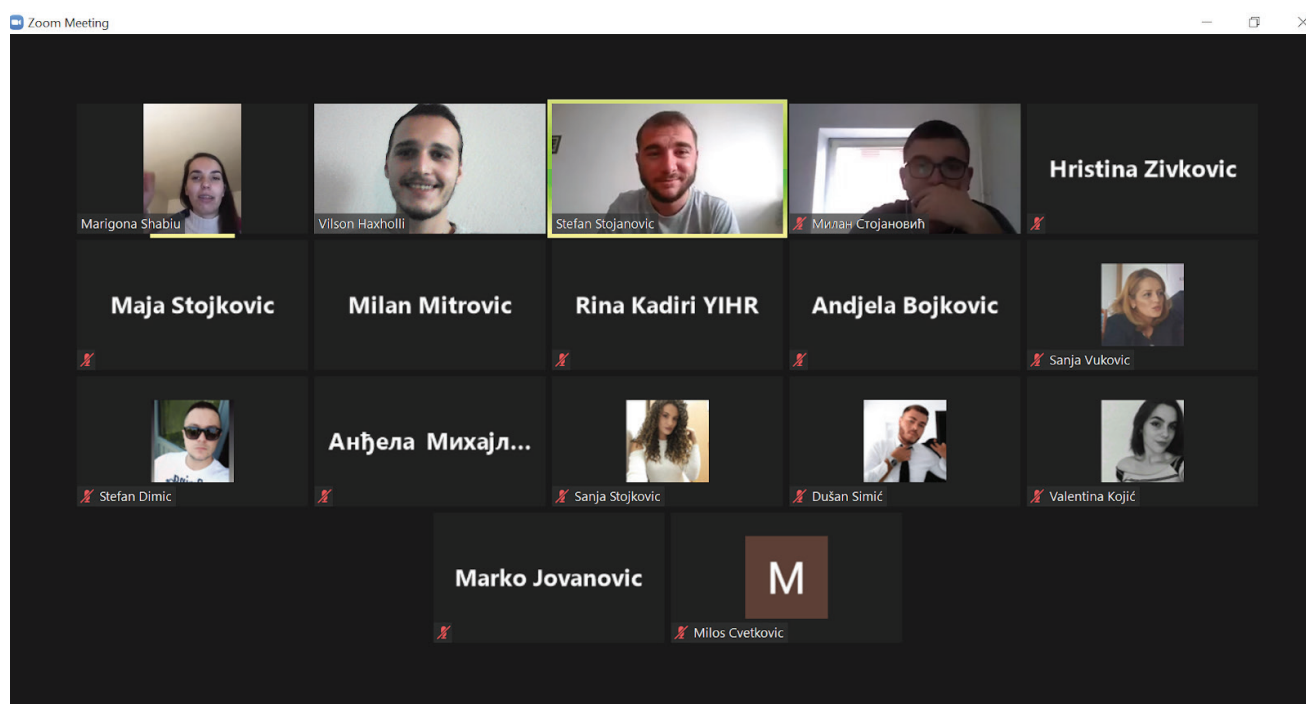
Project

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES, YOUTH, AND WOMEN FOR AN EFFECTIVE RULE OF LAW AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN KOSOVO

This is a five-month educational project developed by YIHR KS in cooperation with the NGO Social Knowledge for Real Accountability and Transparency - SOKRAT and supported by UNDP Kosovo.

Webinars: Youth as Human Rights Defenders:

In December 2020 we held two interactive webinars with 34 youngsters from the Serb community intending to inform them about human rights and specifically non-majority communities' rights in Kosovo. Through group discussion, these webinars have helped the participants gain information on their rights and further develop their knowledge and insights on how to make society as inclusive as possible. Furthermore, through the webinars the youngsters had the chance to improve their critical thinking skills and to become active citizens in defending human rights.



The Political Youth Network (PYN) is an international network of youth organizations that operate as part of 31 political parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, and Serbia. This youth network was established by the Founding Conference in Zagreb, held on March 29 and 30, 2014.

During 2020, PYN organized a training on the topic of public speaking and public appearance. The training took place via the ZOOM platform on September 24 and was conducted by The HORKA Public Relations Agency from Croatia.



DEALING WITH THE PAST PROGRAM

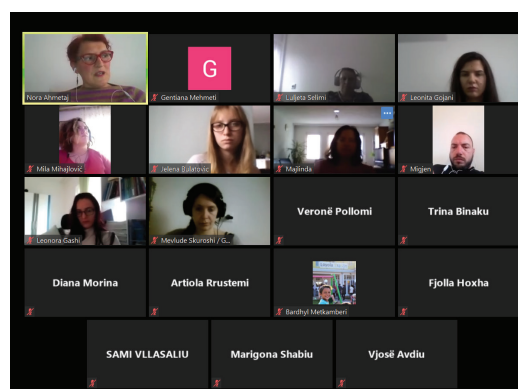
Project KOSOVO YOUTH DIALOGUE

Kosovo Youth Dialogue is a 30-month project with **the main goal of empowering young people to actively participate in dealing with the past and reconciliation processes in Kosovo by encouraging inter-ethnic communication, interaction, and cooperation, addressing common interests, building confidence, and promoting mutual understanding and positive attitudes.**

Capacity building training for NGOs representatives:

The training was held in April 2020. Marijana Toma was the trainer as one of the most prominent experts on transitional justice and dealing with the past in the Balkans. Together with the trainer, we compiled an interactive 5-day agenda that encompassed a methodology on how to better deliver the training online so that the 20 participants could grasp the importance of dealing with the issues of dealing with the past and transitional justice. We hosted prominent Transitional Justice activists in Kosovo as guest speakers. Apart from the lectures with Marijana Toma, we had two group exercises, one where the participants brainstormed in groups about project ideas for dealing with the past and the other that included Simulating Truth Commissions.

My Rights platform provides easily accessible information and tools to all young people and other citizens about judicial institutions, access to justice, human rights, and relevant information regarding the justice sector in Kosovo. To make the platform more accessible for citizens, the project will develop the platform into an Android and iOS application. The platform has also served as a tool where citizens have reported cases of breach of law, found answers on various questions regarding legal procedures and other procedures within Kosovo institutions. Our team has addressed all the reports to the relevant institutions and has kept contact with these institutions to be aware of the measures that are being taken.



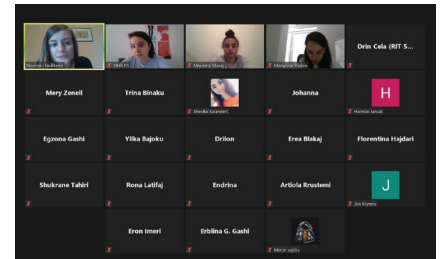
Small Grants Scheme:

Following the first open call for the Small Grant Scheme that was published during June of 2020, YIHR KS with the support of USAID, provided 3 grants to 3 partner NGOs that work jointly towards enhancing cooperation and communication between youth from different backgrounds in Kosovo, with a particular focus on youth from the Albanian and Serbian communities. The sub-grantees were chosen based on a selection of eligibility criteria, and an administrative background check which were described in the Request for Applications (RFA). The RFA provided detailed information in regards to the application process for the Small Grant Scheme. By initiating partnerships between local NGOs, the Small Grant Scheme aims to enhance cooperation between NGOs operating in Kosovo through the implementation of joint projects. The distributed grants equal an amount of \$10,000, where partner organizations use the aforementioned budget to implement three to six month old projects within Kosovo. Five (5) info sessions were organized for any interested parties who wanted to learn more about the Small Grant Scheme, and the application process prior to the selection of the sub-grantees. The open call for the second cycle of the Small Grant Scheme was published during December 2020, and the selection process is currently ongoing.

Youth Exchange Program:

YIHR KS held 3 Youth Exchange Programs during 2020. The first one was held online due to the situation of COVID and the two others in person.

During the first Youth Exchange Program 30 youngsters participated, during the second 22, and the third 31 participants of Albanian and Serbian community were chosen to participate in this program. The young people were equipped with knowledge about issues of dealing with the past and reconciliation. The young people also had the chance to visit different memorials from the last war in Kosovo and discuss collective memory. In addition they had the chance to work in 4 thematic groups and therefore engage in theatre plays, photography, video production, and storytelling. Each group had a professional mentor to guide and assist the groups in their projects. Their task was to use these art forms as a medium for dialogue and cooperation with each other, as well as a way to jointly oppose the nationalist narratives that exist in our societies and at the same time promote reconciliation. Upon completion of the exchange, participants will have the opportunity to exhibit their work to the general public during 2021.



Kosovo Childhood Museum:

YIHR KS plans to establish the Kosovo Childhood Museum in 2021. The main goal of this initiative is to enhance collective memory about the last war in Kosovo as a way of dealing with the past as well as developing a critical approach towards nationalist narratives through research and documentation of wartime experiences and stories.

The works towards realization of this museum have already started in 2020; through sharing of the open call for interviews we have received numerous contacts for those interested in sharing their stories, personal belongings, or other audio-visual evidence related to the recent war in Kosovo, which could potentially be displayed in the Kosovo Childhood Museum.

Project

OUTREACH CAMPAIGN OF DEALING WITH THE PAST PRINCIPLES

This project is implemented by an informal coalition of non - governmental organizations that deal with issues of Dealing with the Past and Transitional Justice in Kosovo such as Humanitarian Law Center - Kosovo (HLCK), Kosovo Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims (KRCT), Integra, Alternative Dispute Resolution Center (ADRC), New Social Initiative (NSI) and Youth Initiative for Human Rights - Kosovo (YIHR KS). **The main goal of this project is to promote a considerate and critical approach to the past that helps achieve healing, peace, and reconciliation in order to protect the dignity of all victims and survivors as well as prevent harmful discourse and actions related to the legacy of the war in Kosovo.** This joint program is a product of continuous work between the above - mentioned organizations in compiling the Dealing with the Past Principles. The Principles on Dealing with the Past is a civic initiative promoted by a group of practitioners and civil society organizations in the field of Dealing with the Past.

The group embarked on a joint initiative to chart and endorse a set of principles that will inform and guide political and public actors on how to engage with victims, survivors, painful pasts, and historical narratives. The group also continuously consulted with different stakeholders such as victims associations, families of victims, and other CSOs to ensure that the principles are inclusive and validated. The initiative aims to serve as a reference document to which anyone violating its principles should be held morally accountable as well as a reference for a joint civil society response whenever there is wrongdoing from public and political actors. Dealing with the Past Principles will be published in January 2021. The project is supported by FDFA and UNDP Kosovo.



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

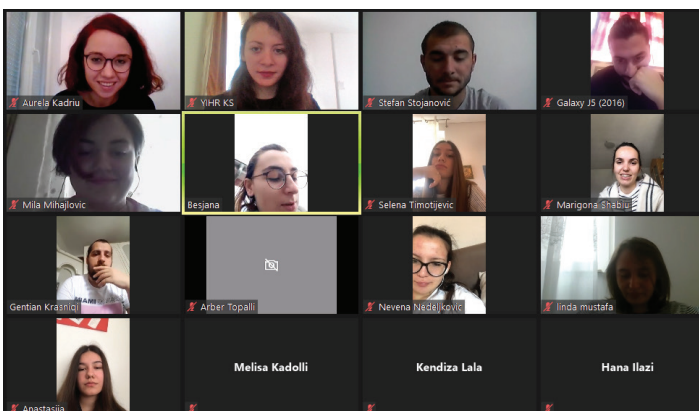
Project

FOSTERING NEW APPROACHES TO YOUTH RECONCILIATION

YIHR KS with the project **Fostering New Approaches to Youth Reconciliation** promotes reconciliation and builds trust amongst the country's youth. YIHR KS organized interactive storytelling workshops that invited a diverse group of young people to identify and document wartime experiences, which are now included on the Virtual Museum of Refugees platform. YIHR KS supplemented the program with public promotions of The Virtual Museum of Refugees and commemorative events to encourage new approaches to building trust and challenging nationalist stereotypes regarding Kosovo's recent past. This project is supported by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

Storytelling Workshops:

YIHR KS held three storytelling workshops with **34 participants in total**. Two trainers engaged participants in identifying, documenting, and presenting personal, family, and community stories of wartime refugee experiences. To conclude the workshop, trainers engaged participants in using digital tools to present their stories online. Each digital narrative contained photographs, interview transcriptions, and audio-recordings. The interviews were uploaded at the YIHR KS Virtual Museum of Refugees platform.



The Virtual Museum of Refugees Online Campaign:

YIHR KS created the promotion video for the museum where bits of stories of the people who have given their interviews are narrated. We intended to make the video inclusive and representative. That is why special focus was directed towards gender balance of the people appearing in the video and sharing their stories. Moreover, we have also included in the video a person who belongs to the transgender community. The video has also been promoted on six (6) local and national televisions. Additionally, to ensure reach, two articles were written and published by well-known portals regarding the content of the Virtual Museum of Refugees. The articles describe the museum and what it stands for, and they also contain the promoting video of the Museum. Together with the video, we have kicked off the online campaign where 5 passages taken from 5 interviews were promoted. These passages serve as teasers for the Virtual Museum of Refugees.



Project

COMMON GROUND COMMON FUTURE

Common Ground, Common Future is a partnership between Storytelling Centre (The Netherlands), OsloMet University of Applied Sciences (Norway), CSI (Cyprus), Asociatia Psiterra (Romania), and Youth Initiative for Human Rights - Kosovo (YIHR KS), and is made possible with the support of the EU, under the framework of Erasmus+ Program. The objective of this strategic partnership is to develop counter-strategies, to explore strategies that make people aware of how narratives can be manipulated, and how to use their own and authentic narratives to oppose these principles of manipulation and hostile communication. A compendium was created based on research of existing and current approaches and methods connected to conflicts, conflict solving, how they have been or are applied in diverse contexts, and their effects.



Project

YOUTH ARTIVISTS FOR CHANGE

Youth Artists for Change is a project focused on empowering young filmmakers, storytellers, artists, and activists in producing films and performances on human rights/LGBTQ rights and gender equality issues. The project aims to promote the use of arts in addressing human rights issues. We aim to train youth artists and activists in filmmaking, storytelling, and activism skills and enable them to work on their art projects. This project brings together 17 organizations from Kosovo, Serbia, Macedonia, Albania, and The Netherlands in the field of LGBTQ/human rights, advocacy, youth work, and Arts & Culture, including existing film festivals (The International Human Rights Film Festival Albania, PriFest Film Festival Kosovo and Skopje Film Festival).

Storytelling Workshop:

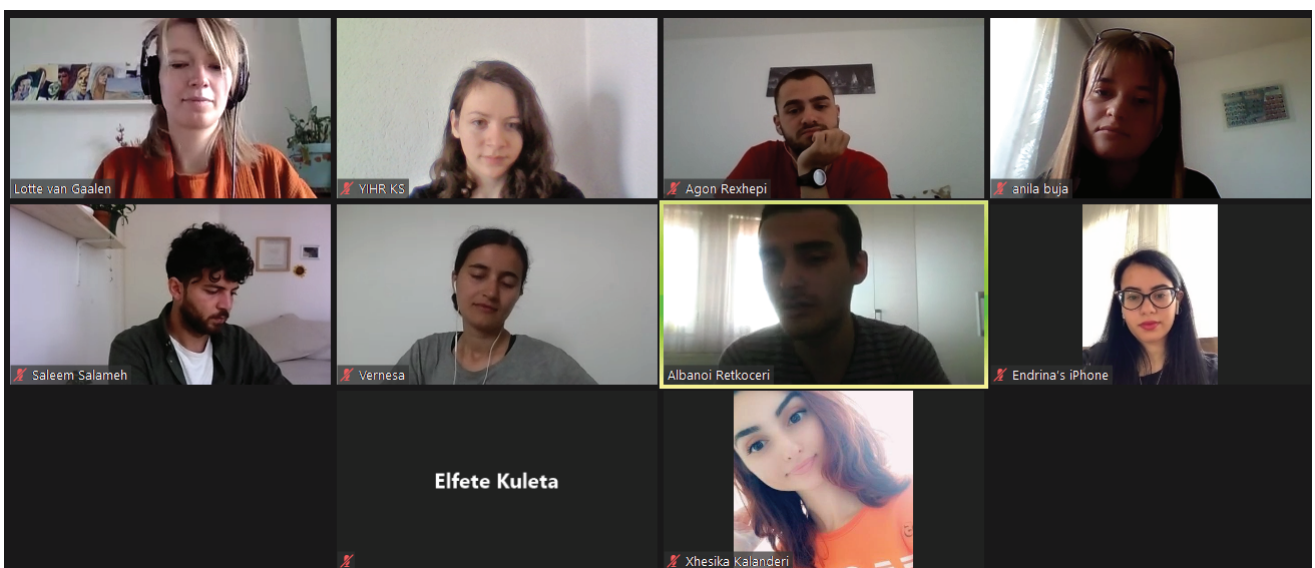
This workshop was delivered online by international trainers from the Storytelling Centre (The Netherlands) and trained young people to become storytellers. Throughout the training, 9 participants gained knowledge on how we can use storytelling as a tool to advance awareness of human rights/LG-BTQ rights and gender equality issues. Participants showed great interest in the discussions throughout the training and learned about best practices of Storytelling.

Radio and Podcast Workshop:

The workshop was conducted online by two very prominent international trainers in this field. Throughout the training, participants gained first-hand knowledge and practice on radio-podcasting. 8 youngsters participated in the workshop during June, and produced several radio/podcast stories based on their personal stories. Overall, the participants were very pleased with the training, as it was different from other training that they have had the chance to take part in, especially the ones they experience in formal education.

Artivism Training:

During this training, 4 participants had the opportunity to learn more about the importance of intertwining art and activism and the power that art has in advocating for human rights. Each participant produced a work of art that advocates for human rights, LGBTI rights, and women's rights, planned to be exhibited together with all the artworks that were created during the project.



This project aims to increase the quality of education by enhancing cooperation among all education stakeholders through the daily use of non-violent tools. Activities within this project were carried out in cooperation with 20 champion elementary schools around Kosovo, selected by GIZ CDBE.

Two-day training of elementary schools psychologists:

Part of this project was the storytelling training for the psychologists and pedagogues of these schools. Through this training, we passed on the storytelling method as a useful method in working with teenagers. 15 psychologists and pedagogues were trained with the purpose of becoming change-making actors within their school communities and supporting the students in their daily work.



Lectures with students on human rights education:

These one-day lectures informed 89 students on aspects of human rights, relevant and appropriate for the elementary school level age group. YIHR KS has extensive experience with human rights advocacy, monitoring, and cooperating with judicial institutions in Kosovo and believes that students must gain information on their rights and responsibilities from an early age. Taking this into consideration, during these lectures we also informed them on the activities of the project, the methodology used throughout the project and the focus of YIHR KS' work in general.

Storytelling Camps:

The camps gathered student representatives of all champion schools. In these camps, the students went through a detailed program on bullying and other social issues, problem-solving and critical thinking by using the storytelling method. YIHR KS held five of these three-day camps during the period of September-November 2020. A total of 89 students representing Champion Schools participated in these camps.



STREET ACTIONS

NATIONAL DAY OF THE CONSTITUTION (APRIL)

To mark the Constitution Day on April 9, 2020, street actions were organized in Prishtina, Peja, Gjakova, and Ferizaj. With activities such as "where to complain if our rights are violated", "grab one little note and tell us about it", as well as exhibitions of violations of the constitution by public institutions and public personalities, we aimed to increase the critical thinking among young people and inform them about their constitutional rights.

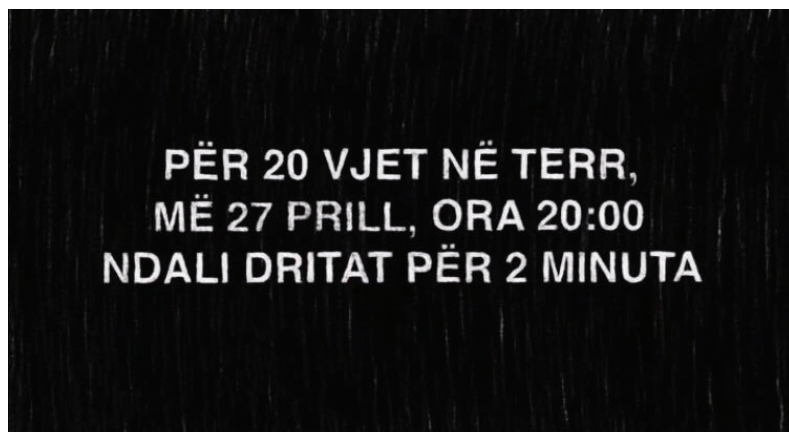
The project further directed an online campaign where four short articles compiled by the project have been published on our social media and on My Rights platform. In addition, an infographic has also been designed to explain the ways through which citizens can complain about the violations of their rights in different instances within the courts.

To spark a debate on human rights and their protection under state institutions among citizens, we organized a live talk with the former Ombudsman Hilmi Jashari and the human rights lawyer Rina Kika. In this live talk, the discussion involved topics of human rights, their implementation in practice, and the plight of marginalized groups in Kosovo such as the LGBTI+ community, women, and people with disabilities in relation to human rights.

IN THE DARKNESS OF THE MISSING PEOPLE - TURN OFF THE LIGHTS FOR 2 MINUTES (APRIL)

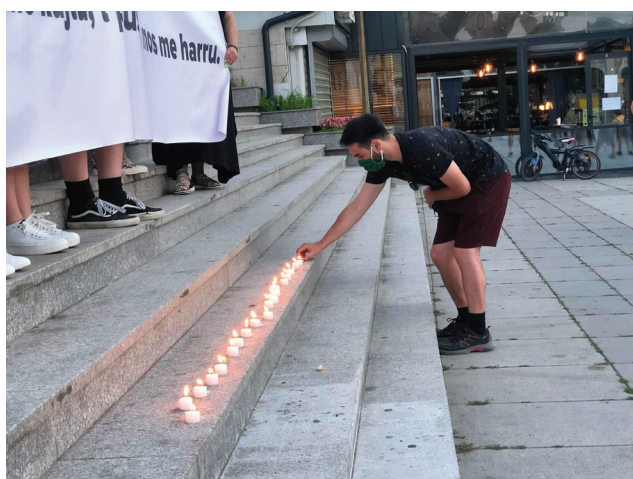
On a national online event on April 27, 2020, YIHR KS marked the National Day of Missing People in cooperation with Kosovo Missing Persons, Integra, Humanitarian Law Center Kosovo, and forum ZFD - Kosovo Program. With the theme "In the darkness of missing people - turn off the lights for 2 minutes" the event aimed to emphasize the institutional ignorance towards the families of missing people and the missing people issue in general, to intensify the topic in the public discourse, and to empathize with the families of the missing people. The event had extraordinary media coverage and positive reactions from the public and institutions. The municipality of Pristina, the National Library, and the National Museum have joined the action by turning off their lights. The event had an enormous reach of 152,600 people on Facebook, while around 4,000 thousand people responded to the event.

PHOTOS FROM IN THE DARKNESS OF THE MISSING PEOPLE - TURN OFF THE LIGHTS FOR 2 MINUTES (APRIL)



25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SREBRENICA GENOCIDE (JULY)

Together with the Humanitarian Law Center, the and the Bosnian Cultural Information Center, and in coordination with SENSE - Center for Transitional Justice, we commemorated the 8,372 victims of the Srebrenica genocide and expressed solidarity with the victims and the whole society of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Many citizens joined the multimedia exhibition "Genocide in eight acts" and the lighting of candles.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES (AUGUST)

On August 30, 2020 YIHR KS organized a street action in "Skenderbeu" Square in Pristina to mark the International Day of Enforced Disappearances. During the street action, a tunnel named The Path of Waiting was installed in "Skenderbeu" Square. The installation consisted of two walls with printed numbers of 21 years divided into 242 months. The months and years were designed to be printed in chronological order starting from the month that the last war in Kosovo officially ended, June 1999, to the month that the street action took place, August 2020. Each month and year printed on the walls represented the passing of time from the last war in Kosovo, and at the same time aimed to visualize the length of the time that the families of the missing persons had to wait in angst without knowing the whereabouts of their family members. Also, old and used shoes were placed along the tunnel in order to induce feelings of empathy and shared humanity to the people that crossed the tunnel, while also viewing all the years and months that have passed from the enforced disappearance of 1,644 persons who are still missing.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE - 'BLIND-FOLDED IN "PEACE" (SEPTEMBER)

Together with activists, we marked the 'International Day of Peace' through a street action 'Blind-folded in "Peace"' to remind Kosovo's society and the government that sustainable peace will not be achieved if we continue to turn a blind eye on issues related to our past. Each participant of the street action held a banner with writings about the past ignored facts. Therefore, through symbolic actions, YIHR KS is determined to keep the topic current until it is treated with due seriousness.



HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK 2020 (DECEMBER)

To mark Human Rights Week, in the framework of this project, two panel discussions took place at the National Library of Kosovo. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the panelists held the discussions in person whilst the public attended online. The first panel on the theme “The Pandemic of Human Rights” was held on December 7th and consisted of five prominent human rights activists that talked about the implications of human rights for marginalized groups as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic with an emphasis on economic and social rights. The second panel was held on December 8th on the theme of “Solidarity and Activism during the Pandemic” consisting of four activists and organized in the spirit of solidarity for the people during the pandemic.

Moreover, YIHR KS led an online campaign and shared key messages on social media in three languages: English, Albanian, and Serbian with a focus on economic and social rights during the pandemic.



Për Barazi n'pandemi
For Equality in the Pandemic
Za ravnopravnost u pandemiji

#YIHRKS

Nëse t'shkelet naj e drejtë - RAPORTOJE!
If your rights are violated - REPORT!
Ako su tvoja prava povređena - PRIJAVI!

edrejtajem.org

SCAN ME

Raporto dhunën në familje
Report domestic violence
Prijavi nasilje u porodici

080011112

INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY (DECEMBER 9)

In order to accomplish the goal of strengthening the capacities of grassroots organizations in their efforts to promote and demand rule of law and democracy at the local level, there were 6 street actions in 6 biggest regions organized by YIHR KS and partner NGOs of the project on the International Day of Anti-Corruption.

In Pristina, on December 9, 2020 YIHR KS marked the International Anti-Corruption Day with the symbolic action 'What does the corrupt state eat?'. The action was organized with the display of anti-corruption awareness banners. In Gjakova, the Active Youth of Gjakova together with its volunteers organized a road action distributing information leaflets to the citizens to make them aware of the consequences of corruption and to encourage them to report this phenomenon. A mural will also be built for this campaign.

In Ferizaj, the Initiative for Progress - INPO and the youth of the municipality of Ferizaj distributed banners that gave messages to fight corruption and that young people have no future in a corrupt state, thus conveying the message that corruption should be removed from all government sectors and that it is the duty of all to fight it.

In Peja, Syri i Vizionit held a road action with the motto #nocorruption with the aim to raise awareness of citizens from Peja about the consequences of corruption.

In Prizren, EC Ma Ndryshe implemented a public performance, through which awareness messages were sent against corruption as a serious crime. Several cartoons were displayed on this topic, while citizens had the opportunity to write their messages for various institutions on the respective post-cards.

In Mitrovica, Community Building Mitrovica organized a street action where activists placed stickers on the squares of Mitrovica in order to raise public awareness of how corruption affects daily lives of citizens and to encourage them to combat it through active citizenship.





INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HUMAN RIGHTS (DECEMBER 10)

On December 10, 2020 YIHR KS marked the International Day of Human Rights, by organizing an alternative way of street action through a metal structure that showed sensibilization messages about human rights, solidarity, activism, hope, and our common fight for a just and equal society. In addition to that, contact numbers of institutions responsible for addressing different breaches of human rights were shown. Furthermore, YIHR KS in collaboration with other organizations in different regions of Kosovo held similar street actions in Pejë, Gjakovë and Ferizaj.

Within the Human Rights week, on December 10, 2020 a street action was organized in Prishtina, Peja, Gjakova, and Ferizaj with the theme “For Equality in Pandemic” with the goal of informing and increasing the awareness of the youth and the general population on human rights, rule of law, access to justice, and to engage them in these topics. On December 10th, 2020, the project organized a street action within the Human Rights Week in Prishtina, Peja, Gjakova, and Ferizaj under the theme ‘For Equality in the Pandemic’ to inform and increase awareness of youth and the general population about human rights, rule of law, access to justice, and to engage young people from local communities.



PROTESTS

PROTEST AGAINST VIOLENCE

YIHR KS held a protest in front of the office of lawyer Tomë Gashi to strongly oppose the abusive behavior of lawyer Tomë Gashi against a person in "Mother Teresa" square in Prishtina. We also opposed the statement that lawyer Tomë Gashi gave on his social network Facebook, saying: "The protest organized today by the YIHR KS should serve to sensitize the public and respective institutions, for child trafficking and "bosses" bargains with beggars in Prishtina". The statement deviated from the purpose of the protest, which strongly condemns the act committed by the lawyer himself. The abusive behavior of lawyer Tomë Gashi violated the fundamental right to dignity. As such, we demanded such acts be punished by the competent authorities. YIHR KS team immediately reported the case to the Disciplinary Office of the Kosovo Bar Association and we are awaiting their decision on the matter.



AGAINST THE DRAFT LAW ON KLA WAR VALUES

On October 8, we held a peaceful protest in front of the assembly against the draft law on KLA war values. We demanded from the deputies of the Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK) specifically, the proposer of the draft law, Mr. Gazmend Bytyqi, to withdraw the draft law for the protection of the values of the KLA war. The draft law was not in accordance with the rights and freedoms defined in the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo. This draft law violates freedom of expression and undermines efforts to achieve justice for all victims and survivors of all ethnic groups. YIHR KS has continuously opposed this initiative during 2020 and will continue to do so until it is withdrawn from the legislative agenda.



AGAINST HOMOPHOBIC STATEMENTS

Together with Civil society organizations, Center for Freedom and Equality (CEL), Center for the Development of Social Groups (CSGD), and Kosovo Center for Gender Studies (KCGS) we held a symbolic protest action on October 19 in front of the offices of the political party Lëvizja Vetëvendosje. The action was held in order to demand accountability from Vetëvendosje structures about the homophobic statements its representatives made on the social network Facebook, referring specifically to the statement of Mr. Eman Rrahmani and Leonora Shabani-Bajraktari. As activists, we saw a responsibility to react by raising the voice against such statements so that they do not occur again.



On October 22, civil society organizations CEL, CSGD, YIHR KS, KCGS, and Civil Rights Defenders (CRD) made a press release about the statement of Mr. Mërgim Lushtaku in the Assembly of Kosovo. The former believe such statements are completely unacceptable and such action only increases intolerance, hatred and mistrust among people, because the offense and intolerance of a certain social group adds no value to our society. The organizations organized an action at the PDK headquarters to demand answers by PDK if they stand by such statements. Five activists participated by holding banners with various messages as well as LGBTI flags.



*All safety measures against COVID-19 have been observed and undertaken throughout each activity of 2020 including distance and masks hereby fully adhering to the Government restrictions in place.



ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Mirëdita, dobar dan! Festival (May - June)

Mirëdita, dobar dan! is a festival organized annually in Belgrade which aims to present Kosovo's active cultural scene in Belgrade, to achieve an exchange of artistic ideas, and to create a tradition of collaboration through the meeting of Kosovo and Serbia cultural representatives. The festival is accompanied by many activities such as performances, concerts, films, and artistic evenings. Just as in prior years, a group of young people organized protests in front of the venues to express their indignation for the festival, specifically the cooperation between Serbs and Albanians and the cultural exchange, but the situation was under control and there were no incidents.



PRIDE WEEK (October)

As part of the Pride Week Working Group, under anti-covid measures we organized the Pride Parade 2020. Under the slogan "I Do," Pride Parade was held with cars on the streets of Pristina, as a manifestation of the presence of LGBTI people in Kosovo, as well as a form of addressing challenges, demands, and needs of these people. . With the support of INL, YIHR KS implemented the creation of a short video in honor of Pride Week. The video aimed to inform the public that the right to marriage is guaranteed by the Constitution. Also, it sensitized the public on the topic of young women being forced to marry the opposite gender by their families, therefore, showing how the LGBTI people still deal with a lack of acceptance and understanding from their family and society as a whole.



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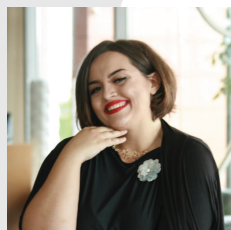
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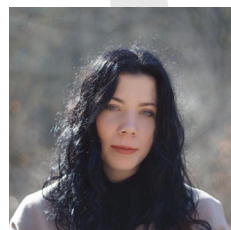
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