



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

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

CONTENTS

01

Who we are / Vision / Mission

02

Our team

03

YIHR-KS in 2021

04

Events of 2021

05

Our Programs

06

Dealing with the Past Program

Kosovo Youth Dialogue

Outreach Campaign Of Dealing
With The Past Principles

Reconciliation and Conflict Transformation

To Reconcile is to Reinforce

16

17
33

Human Rights and Rule of Law Program

Building the capacities of human rights CSOs and enhancing human rights education

Kosovo Specialist Chambers outreach events

Anti-Hate Speech in Western Balkans

Improving Access to Justice at the Municipal Level

Empowering Communities, Youth and Women for an Effective Rule of Law and Access to Justice in Kosovo

Protecting economic and social rights during and after COVID-19 pandemic

34
36

Youth Empowerment Program

Fostering New Approaches to Youth Reconciliation

Champion Schools for Social Change

37
45

Additional Activities YIHR-KS

International Women's Day

National Day of Missing Persons

Pride Week

PROTEST: Justice for murdered women

Protest March - 'The killing of women must be treated as national urgency!'

Human Rights Week

Protest - 'Protect, Promote, Protest!'

ANNUAL STATISTICS 2021

150
activities
implemented

2,250
direct
beneficiaries

10 MoUs
with different
public
institutions

3
Protests

20
MoUs with
local NGOs

9 grants
awarded to
local NGOs

10 Street
Actions

DEALING WITH THE PAST PROGRAM

2
YEP Exhibitions
40 participants

2 Youth
Exchange Programs
54 participants

25
Bilateral
Meetings

1
Workshop with
Cohesion Circles
30 participants

1 workshop –
International
Youth Day
33 participants

1 World Café
with Decision Makers
29 participants

6
SGS
Subgrantees

4
Dealing with the
Past Principles
Street Actions

HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW PROGRAM

1 Training of
Law Students
20 participants

31
Justice Lectures
400+
law students

18 reports
received at
My Rights
Platform

1
Panel Discussion
60+ participants

1 Local Mock
Trial
32 participants

2 Internship
Programs
30 interns

7 Youth as Human
Rights Defenders
webinars

3 Open Court Days
87 participants

1 Access to
Public Documents
Training

7 Legal Research
and Writing
Workshops

16 Constitutional
and Administrative
Clinic Lectures held
25 participants

16 Simulations
of Assembly
Sessions



YOUTH EMPOWEREMENT PROGRAM

3 Multiplier Events
90 participants

Anti-bullying and Discrimination Virtual Campaign
20 champion schools engaged

1 Conference
84 participants

2 Essay Competitions
7 price winners

4 Living Libraries
185+ participants

2 Storytelling Workshops
40 participants

2 World Cafes
55 participants

HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK



» 01



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 17 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.

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.

» 02

OUR TEAM

OUR TEAM



**Marigona
Shabiu**



**Bjeshkë
Guri**



**Rina
Kadiri**



**Enis
Selimi**



**Trina
Binaku**



**Vilson
Haxholli**



**Fiona
Haxhiislami**



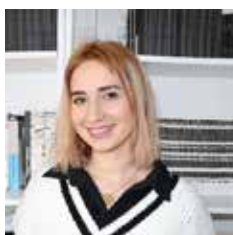
**Blerta
Mexhuani**



**Rita
Tërstena**



**Erona
Hajdari**



**Kaltrina
Fejzullahu**



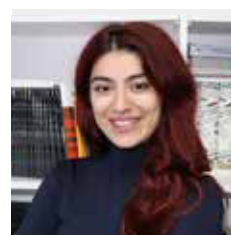
**Blendë
Pira**



**Ilir
Vitija**



**Kushtrim
Morina**



**Agnesa
Jashari**



**Albulena
Uka**



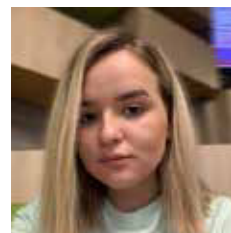
**Besmira
Selimi**



**Arnaud
Bouting**



**Yoel
Rivas**



**Anđela
Mihajlović**

» 03

**YIHR-KS IN
2021**

YIHR-KS IN 2021

Another active and successful year for YIHR KS. With more than 150 activities which directly included 2,250 youngsters as well as with very strong activism and advocacy efforts, we are very proud that we are making a substantial contribution in protecting and promoting human rights, advancing a people-to-people reconciliation, creating dealing with the past platforms and empowering youth and human rights activism in Kosovo and the Western Balkans region.

A very important achievement for us during 2021 was definitely the Quality Label by European Solidarity Corps program, which we received after a complex yet exciting process. The Quality Label will now allow us to develop volunteering programs in cooperation with other European organizations in order for young people from Kosovo to experience the richness and the diverse cultures and communities of other countries.

The Children of War Museum is one step closer to coming to life and for this, we are very grateful for the constructive cooperation we have had with the National Library of Kosovo, which will provide a suitable space for the Museum. The museum is under development and will be open to the public by the end of 2022.

In addition to empowering young people and citizens in general as human rights activists and defenders, we are very committed to supporting other CSOs, in particular local and grassroots, youth organizations. We have provided capacity-building support as well as financial support through direct grants at the amount of 95,000 USD to more than 10 CSOs throughout Kosovo.

Even though we have achieved great results, our work and activism will continue. For this we would like to thank our activists, partners, donors and all those that contributed and supported our work during 2021. The fight for equality, justice and peace must go on.



» 04

**EVENTS OF
2021**

EVENTS OF 2021

The victory of YIHR KS against Klan Kosova is confirmed by a decision of the Court of Appeals

In March 2021, after an 11-year legal battle between YIHR KS and Klan Kosova, the Court of Appeals has again given the right to YIHR KS, considering Klan Kosova's lawsuit for defamation as unfounded after YIHR KS had raised concerns that the television was favoring a particular political party through a published report.

Protest against Violence

In November 2021, the YIHR KS filing and monitoring of the case of Tomë Gashi (Lawyer) was concluded with a fee sentence imposed towards the lawyer for unethical actions and serious violations of the duties and authority of the lawyer. Although YIHR KS does not consider the sentence appropriate for the violation committed, it nevertheless shows a success story for YIHR KS which holds accountable any public figure or institution for unethical behaviors or violations of the fundamental human rights.

Regulation of Same-Sex Marriage in the Civil Code

YIHR KS continued its advocacy work on the draft Civil Code together with other CSOs to demand that the issues raised by the civil society be addressed appropriately. The long-term advocacy process is still ongoing due to the exclusive treatment of the LGBTIQ+ community and exclusion of the requirements for the use of neutral language in the regulation of marriage. YIHR KS will continue to use all legal and institutional tools and mechanisms for the harmonization of the Civil Code in accordance with the Constitution and the rights guaranteed in our constitutional and legal order.

» 05

**OUR
PROGRAMS**

OUR PROGRAMS

DEALING WITH THE PAST PROGRAM

YIHR KS continues to contribute by creating and maintaining platforms for dealing with the past as well as peace-building initiatives throughout the region. This program focuses 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, and reporting on human rights violations, advocating for the 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 just, equal and peaceful society. Hence, the main focus of this program is two-fold. First, it is to empower young people to become active participants in social and political life at the local, national, regional, and global level through formal and non-formal education. Second, it is to strengthen youth capacities in engaging, protecting, and advocating for human rights for all and in engaging in the processes of dealing with the past.



> 06-16

**DEALING
WITH THE
PAST
PROGRAM**



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.

Youth Exchange Program

Around 54 youngsters aged 16-30 from Albanian and Serbian community seized the opportunity to participate in 2 of the Youth Exchange Programs (YEP) where they had the chance to be equipped with knowledge about issues of dealing with the past and reconciliation.

Youngsters had the chance to visit different memorials from the last war in Kosovo and discuss collective memory. In addition they worked in 4 thematic groups and were engaged in theater plays, photography, video production, and storytelling to jointly create projects guided by professional mentors. 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 had the opportunity to exhibit their works to the general public through YEP Exhibitions.





Vesel Sh. Berisha 1937
 Sofije N. Berisha 1940
 Hatixhe M. Berisha 1900
 Hajdin V. Berisha 1962-
 Mhrrije R. Berisha 1975-



YEP Exhibition

Around 40 young people from the Albanian and Serbian communities in Kosovo showed their joint artistic projects at the 2 Youth Exchange Program (YEP) Exhibitions held in Prishtina and in Mitrovica.

During these exhibitions, the young people together spoke in front of the general public about their experience in YEP 4 with their fellows coming from different backgrounds and the importance of cooperating on common challenges as youngsters.



Children of War Museum

In January, YIHR KS announced the initiative of the Children of War Museum which will display the stories of the children who experienced the last war in Kosovo through their personal belongings, audio-visual evidence, toys, diaries, and other personal items. 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 museum is still in the process of establishment and it is expected to open by the end of 2022 at the National Library of Kosovo 'Pjetër Bogdani.'



Small Grants Scheme

This year, the second cycle of the Small Grants Scheme was implemented by YIHR KS with the support of USAID. This scheme provided 3 grants to 6 NGOs with the total of 60000\$.

The beneficiaries of the scheme were:

Udruženje mladih - Mlada aktivna Gračanica and Fondacioni per Informim, Media, Dialog dhe Edukim KosovaLive.

NewPerspektiva and Communication for Social Development.

Radio Vala Rinore and Human Rights Radio Network.

These NGOs 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 purpose of this scheme is to financially support NGOs working with different ethnic groups in supporting the reconciliation process in Kosovo by focusing on transitional justice issues, dealing with the past, and building peace through their projects.



World Cafe with Decision Makers

During this activity, 29 young men and women had the opportunity to talk with decision-makers, discuss ideas and concerns, and express their needs as young people to become allies with decision-makers on capacity building for young people, their contribution to the processes of reconciliation and further promoting peace among their fellows.



Project: Outreach Campaign Of Dealing With The Past Principles

Street Actions

Aware of the negative impact of harmful statements and actions on victims, survivors and the entire process of dealing with the past in Kosovo, YIHR KS organized 4 street actions Prishtinë, Ferizaj, Gjilan, and Prizren to promote the Dealing with the Past Principles throughout Kosovo, so the general public has access to such principles that aim to guide the political actors, the media, and the public on how to best deal with victims, survivors, the painful past and historical narratives of the war in Kosovo. Through glass installation and small notebooks containing the principles, YIHR KS was able to further promote the principles and discuss with citizens how this initiative aims to prevent the dominance of one-sided narratives and offer the victims and survivors the respect and justice they deserve.

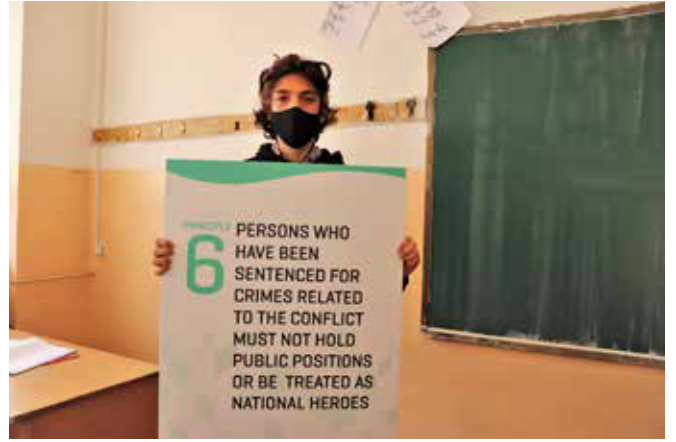




DwP Principles Kosovo Social Media Campaign

In December, YIHR KS initiated a social media campaign which showed each of 10 principles of Dealing with the Past Principles initiative through placards held by youngsters that show their understanding and support of the messages and objectives this initiative displays to the general public. YIHR KS was able to further promote the principles and discuss with citizens how this initiative aims to prevent the dominance of one-sided narratives and offer the victims and survivors the respect and justice they deserve.





Project: Reconciliation and Conflict Transformation

The purpose of the Reconciliation and Conflict Transformation (RCT) activity in Kosovo is to address current reconciliation needs between different ethnic groups in Kosovo on individual, community, and institutional levels. This project is implemented by CBM with partners NSI and YIHR KS and is supported by the American people through USAID in Kosovo.

Bilateral Meetings

During 2021, 25 meetings with stakeholders were organized, with people from different fields and backgrounds such as journalists, activists, non-governmental organizations, representatives from the government, business owners, etc. During these meetings, different topics were discussed such as the existing reconciliation needs between different ethnic groups in Kosovo on individual, community, and institutional levels and the activities that will be held as part of the project.

Workshop with Cohesion Circles

The aim of the workshops was for activists from different backgrounds and influencers of the community to mutually meet each other, discuss community events, and initiate ideas. Thirty participants from Albanian, Serbian and other non-majority communities in Kosovo gathered and discussed different issues that they had in their community and talked about solutions. Some of the ideas derived from this workshop were to plant 50 trees in the region of Mitrovica and to cooperate with schools from this region.



Save the Planet - Community Activity

As the issue of polluted environment is common for all communities, the project team agreed to mark Earth Day as the final event envisioned within the week of activism in seven Mitrovica region municipalities. The ceremony held from April 19th-22th raised awareness of citizens and community representatives from the seven municipalities about the importance of protecting the environment and clean air. This event conveyed a message of reconciliation and peace amongst the communities by bringing attention to the joint challenges and problems all communities share when it comes to the environment.

In total, the Earth Week and Save the Planet Conference had 296 direct participants, while several thousand Kosovo citizens heard about the initiative through media, social media, and community outreach activities.



International Youth Day

With a one-day workshop we marked the International Day of Youth on August 12th, which brought together 33 young people from different communities to discuss the process of reconciliation through a group discussion and various activities/games. The activities focused on encouraging the participants to talk about the challenges and discuss alternatives on the process of reconciliation in Kosovo.



Project: To Reconcile is to Reinforce

“To Reconcile is to Reinforce” project was implemented by YIHR Serbia, YIHR Bosnia and Herzegovina, YIHR Kosovo, and YIHR Montenegro with the support of the Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN) and the Swedish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (SIDA). This project’s objective was to build a safer, wider, and more effective environment for civil society organizations in the Western Balkans with vibrant civic space and strong regional connections.

Meetings with NGOs, IGOs, and state institutions

YIHR KS with all the other implementing organizations have been researching examples of good practices of collaborative work between CSOs and state institutions within memory culture in the targeted countries. Over 12 meetings with stakeholders have been held to identify commemorative practices and issues in collaborative work between organizations and state institutions. YIHR KS has held 6 meetings in total: Two with local CSOs — namely New Social Initiative (NSI) and INTEGRA; One with IGO — OSCE; Three with state institutions — namely Commission for Human Rights, Gender Equality and Missing Persons, Ombudsperson Institution of Kosovo (OIK) and The Agency for Managing Memorial Complexes.

Analyzing and monitoring commemorative practices in the region

YIHR KS, as well as the other offices, have conducted analysis on current and past practices in commemoration in the Western Balkan region. YIHR KS together with YIHR offices in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro have monitored commemorative practices in their respective countries from January 2021 to October 2021. The result of these analyses and monitoring was the Cross-Regional Report for Commemorative Practices, and the Handbook of proposed public commemoration policies and best practices in the Western Balkans.

Advocacy Campaign

Throughout the year, YIHR KS held a campaign on social media aimed at building trust of the public and improving civic dialogue. In total, YIHR KS posted about 45 massacres that happened in Kosovo during the 1998-2000 period. Through these posts, YIHR KS has remembered all victims of war and conflict indiscriminately of their nationality, gender, or religion.



Community Development

YIHR Serbia, YIHR Bosnia and Herzegovina, YIHR Kosovo, and YIHR Montenegro held one regional consultation meeting, one regional workshop, and a joint online closing conference to foster regional cooperation.

The regional consultation meeting was held in Montenegro, where the participants talked about existing regional practices aimed at identifying gaps and obstacles influencing regional cooperation and good neighborly relations. The workshop with regional CSOs was held in Belgrade. This workshop focused on fostering regional cooperation and promoting civic space.

The closing event for this project was the online conference aimed at key CSOs, state institutions, IGOs, and EU institutions for collecting feedback for improving WB CSOs' operating environment. During this conference YIHR Serbia and YIHR Kosovo presented the findings of the cross regional report on commemorations, as well as the handbook of proposed public commemoration policies and best practices in the Western Balkans. Thirty-five participants joined this conference and gave their feedback.

17-33

**HUMAN RIGHTS
AND RULE OF
LAW PROGRAM**

HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW PROGRAM

**Project: Building the capacities
of human rights CSOs and
enhancing human rights education.**

This project is supported by UNMIK/OHCHR and it aims to reach people around all Kosovo with a focus on North Mitrovica, Vitina/Vitia, and Hani i Elezit/Đeneral Janković. This project seeks to provide a platform for cross-community dialogue between diverse representatives from human rights CSOs through regular coordination and consultation meetings as well as joint human rights advocacy statements and démarches with Kosovo institutions; to build the human rights monitoring and reporting capacities of CSOs, especially on the COVID-19 pandemic's human rights implications; to facilitate the production, dissemination, and promotion of the third joint annual civil society human rights report; and to enhance human rights education, in particular on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Human Rights Network (HRN)

On Human Rights Day - December 10, 2021, a network of seven organizations was established known as Human Rights Network (HRN). This network is working together on further advancing human rights for all in Kosovo. The members of HRN are: Youth Initiative for Human Rights - Kosovo (YIHR KS), Association of Paraplegics and Paralyzed Children of Kosovo (HANDIKOS), Center for Equality and Liberty (CEL), Kosovo Law Institute (KLI), Kosova Women's Network (KWN), New Social Initiative (NSI) and, Voice of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians (VoRAE).

As civil society organizations in Kosovo, the member organizations stand at the forefront of the fight to ensure that human rights and freedoms for all people are fulfilled, in particular for the most vulnerable groups, such as women, LGBTI people, people with disabilities, non-majority communities, and children and youth. These CSOs will play a critical role in analyzing, monitoring, reporting, and advocating on the realization of human rights in Kosovo.

The CSOs in this network pledged to commit to continue their joint activism towards reducing inequalities, fighting injustices, and demanding accountability and responsibility from the Kosovo institutions in respecting human rights for all. The CSOs committed to promote a more cohesive and comprehensive approach towards human rights monitoring, reporting, and advocacy, hence encouraging partnerships and strengthening civic space in Kosovo. In the beginning of 2022, HRN will hold three Human Rights Capacity-Building workshops for Grassroot CSOs as well as publish the third CSOs Report on Human Rights in Kosovo in 2021.



Annual CSOs Report on Human Rights in Kosovo

YIHR KS — on behalf of HRN — had contacted over 100 CSOs to contribute their inputs for the CSOs Report on Human Rights in Kosovo in 2021. HRN also held a Consultative Session with CSOs working in the Human Rights field. Eleven CSOs were part of this meeting, where they were presented the layout of the 2020 report. These organizations were carefully informed how they could contribute to this report. YIHR KS, on behalf of HRN, added their suggestions which will be part of the third report.

By the end of 2021, HRN had collected 42 inputs from 22 CSOs from all over Kosovo. These inputs were all included in the first draft of the report. YIHR KS has engaged two editors to write the report. These editors finished the first draft of the report and are working on collecting more information on the human rights situation in Kosovo for the period January 2021-December 2021. The report will be published in March 2022.



Living Libraries

On the 10th of December, Human Rights Day and the last day of Human Rights Week, YIHR KS organized the first Living Library in Vitia/Vitina. The “books” were the activists, who spoke about their human rights activism and the participants were the “readers.” Forty-five young men and women had the chance to enhance their knowledge on human rights and activism and to be informed and empowered to stand up to claim their rights and the rights of their peers.

Human rights education, especially through engaging and interactive formats like living libraries, does just that by promoting values, beliefs, and attitudes that encourage all individuals to uphold their own rights and those of others by developing an understanding of everyone’s shared responsibility to make human rights a reality in each community. The Living Library works like a normal library, where a reader chooses the book they want to read. However, in the Living Library, each book is an experienced activist who shares their long-lasting activism.

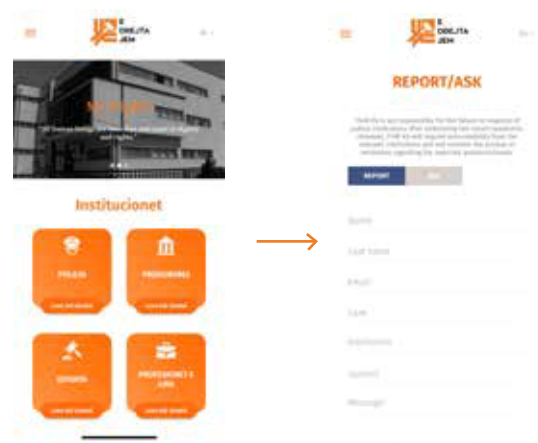


Project: Youth for Justice

“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 to information for citizens, establishing and maintaining a dialogue process between judicial institutions and citizens, and building professional capacities for young lawyers.

My rights platform

During 2021, YIHR KS team has continued to promote the “My Rights” platform in all activities. The aim of this platform is to empower young people in the justice sector, to raise awareness among young people about accountability and transparency, and to raise their knowledge about human rights and justice institutions in Kosovo through the content it contains.



The platform also offers a 'Report and Ask' section where the general public can report a case or inquire about a case in which human rights have been violated. YIHR KS will require accountability from the relevant institutions and will monitor them for actions or omissions regarding the reported questions / cases. Throughout the year we have received 18 reports which have been addressed by the organization team to the relevant institutions. In some cases YIHR KS was able to establish communication between reporters and the relevant institutions, while many citizens have been advised to state their claims to the competent authorities and for the legal procedures that can be taken.

Training of Law Students

In October, 20 law students were part of the training organized in order to prepare them to deliver lectures on the justice system and human rights to high school and university students. The training was conducted by a legal professional and facilitated by YIHR KS.



Justice Lectures

YIHR KS organized a total number of 31 lectures with more than 400 participants from high school and university students in the region of Prishtina, Peja, Gjakova, and Ferizaj. Human Rights Education Program trained 20 law students to deliver informative lectures and to interact with the students on human rights and justice institutions in Kosovo.



Partnership with Grassroots NGOs

YIHR KS signed six MoUs with grassroots organizations in six target regions in order to establish a cooperation in promoting and protecting human rights. The aforementioned NGOs are “Activism Roots” in Gjakova, “Syri i Visionit” in Peja, “Vullnetaret e Qytetit” in Gjilan, “Kuvendi i te Rinjve te Ferizaj” in Ferizaj, “REC” in Mitrovica, and “THY” in Prizren.

Local Mock Trials

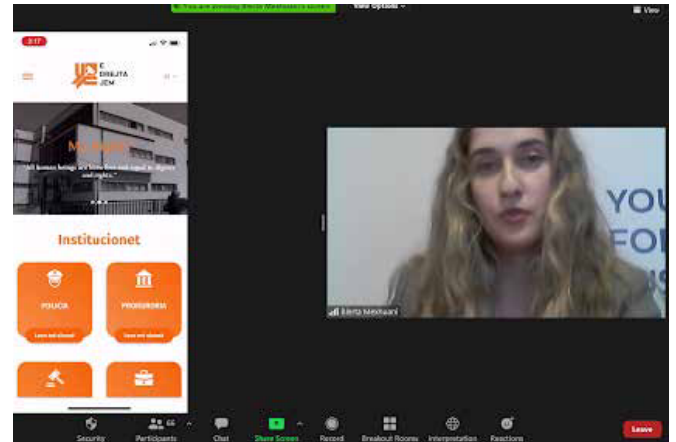
In November 2021, YIHR KS held the Local Mock Trial activity with high school students from the region of Prishtina. A total of 32 young people attended the activity and received information on human rights, the justice system in Kosovo, and simulated a court hearing playing the role of a judge, a prosecutor and a lawyer.



Panel Discussion

In order to mark the Constitution Day on April 9th, 2021 within the My Rights App Launch virtual event, YIHR KS held a panel discussion with more than 60 participants on the topic "Challenges in the justice system and protection of constitutional rights during the pandemic" with Deputy Chief State Prosecutor Sevdije Morina, Director of the Legal Department at the Kosovo Judicial Council Astrit Hoti and Kosovo's Ombudsperson Naim Qelaj.

The panelists spoke about the challenges they faced during the pandemic period, emphasizing the protection of human rights during the restrictive measures. The event raised young people's interest as they had many questions about the measures taken to protect human rights especially during the pandemic.



Internship Program

In March 2021, 10 interns that were placed in the Basic Court of Prishtina, Peja, Gjakova, and Ferizaj completed their six-month internship. The interns gained knowledge in practice by working closely with judges in different departments and were part of court hearings. In order to continue the cooperation with the basic court and provide hands-on experience for the law students, an MoU with Kosovo Judicial Council was signed in November 2021. Therefore, the employment of 20 interns in the basic court in seven regions was made possible. By doing this, YIHR KS has offered a tremendous opportunity to Kosovo youth, specifically for law students and law graduates.

The interns, besides getting to see the daily work undertaken in a judicial institution, had the opportunity to aid the courts in their daily tasks. Most importantly, they had the opportunity to follow the day-to-day activities of a legal professional and to learn how to report ethical, professional, and legal violations when and if they witnessed any.





Open Court Days

Throughout the year, YIHR KS held 3 Open Court Days where 87 high school students had the chance to visit the Basic Courts of Gjakova, Peja, and Ferizaj. Young students had the opportunity to meet different judges, prosecutors, and lawyers, from which they got to hear interesting cases and learn more about the work of the judges, the administrative procedures, and how the pandemic has affected their work.

Young people had many interesting questions regarding the justice system as many of them were in the final year of their high school and showed interest in studying law.



Project: Kosovo Specialist Chambers outreach event

YIHR KS in cooperation with Kosovo Specialist Chambers organized 6 informative events during 2021. Around 130 high school and university students got informed about the structure, competences, and cases that are being judged before the Kosovo Specialist Chambers. These events will continue to be held in the upcoming years in order to better inform citizens about the mandate of Kosovo Specialist Chambers.



Project: Anti-Hate Speech in Western Balkans

In 2021, in cooperation with regional organizations, YIHR KS started the implementation of Anti-Hate Speech in Western Balkans project. Despite the fact that discrimination against marginalized groups and hate speech have been widespread in the Western Balkans during the Covid-19 crisis, it is clear that public awareness of various forms of discrimination, as well as the possibility of preventing and protecting them, is low, particularly in light of an unprecedented health crisis. In 2021, YIHR KS conducted a situation analysis on hate speech in Kosovo and is working on another research project regarding hate speech in the media towards the most vulnerable groups such as ethnic minorities, women, sexual minorities, (LGBTI) and socially disadvantaged minorities (people with disabilities, low-income individuals/groups), which will be included in the regional joint document.

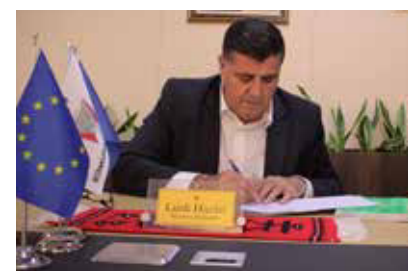
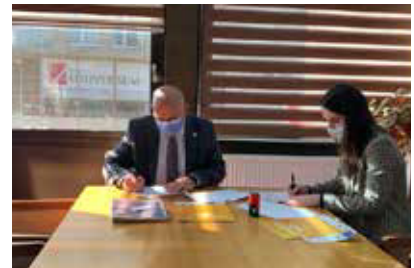
Project: "Improving Access to Justice at the Municipal Level"

"Improving access to justice at the municipal level" is a 12-month project 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. This project has given small grants to 6 local NGOs in the amount of 35000\$ in total. Through this project, we aimed to establish and foster much-needed cooperation and communication between different levels of stakeholders of the justice and administrative system in Kosovo.

Internship Program

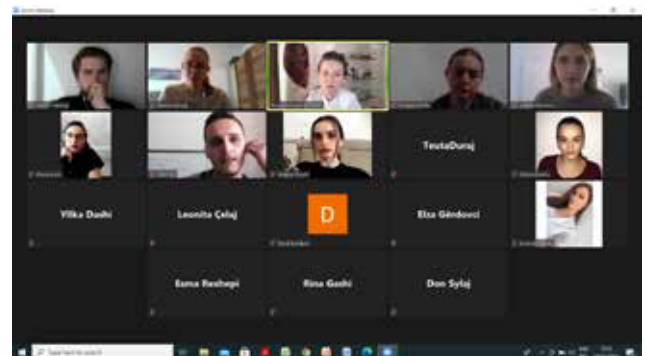
YIHR KS has signed 6 Memorandums of Cooperation in total with the municipalities of Ferizaj, Peja, Gjakova, Prizren, Gjilan, and South Mitrovica.

The purpose of these Memorandums is to facilitate access to public spaces of the municipality and to accommodate interns in the municipal administration of each municipality. 23 law students were successfully placed either in targeted municipalities or law offices to complete the internship program.



Training: "Access to public documents"

The training "Access to public documents" was held with the lecturer Flutura Kusari, who is a media law lawyer and expert in the field of rule of law, and students of the Faculty of Law - University of Prishtina. The training discussed ways to provide access to viewing, accepting, and reusing public documents, which as a fundamental right contributes to the development and strengthening of democratic and transparent institutions of contemporary society. In particular, the legal violations that various public institutions commit in the practice of not providing access to public documents were discussed.



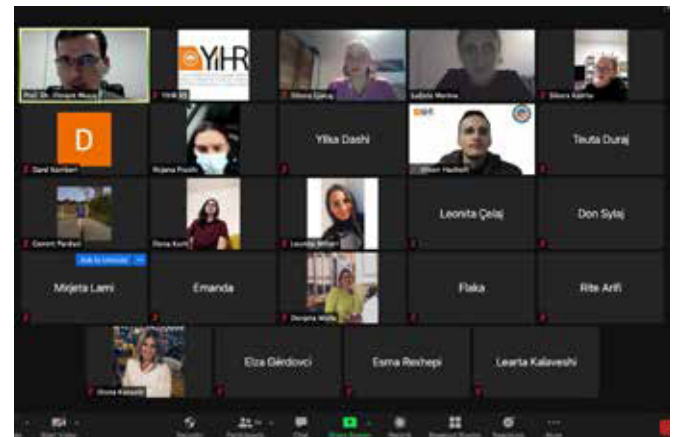
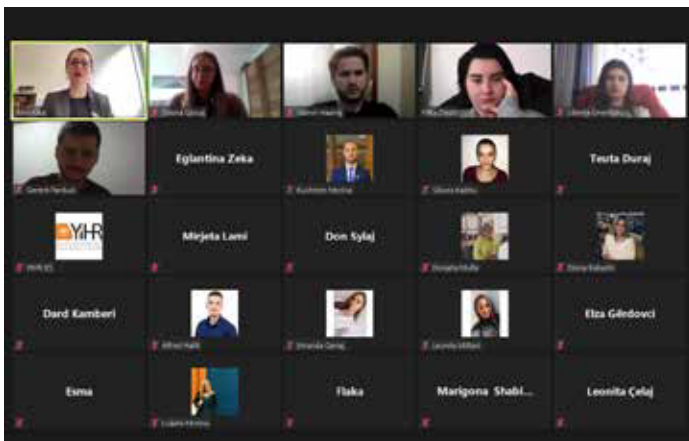
Constitutional and Administrative Clinic

A total of 16 lectures were organized during the implementation of the project and the team engaged Professors, Teaching Assistants, and Law Practitioners to deliver the lectures.

While maintaining the diverse nature of the lectures, YIHR KS delivered lectures on basic concepts of Administrative Law then continued with local level practices as well as court decisions related to Administrative Conflict to 25 chosen to partake in the course and internship.

The Clinic was divided into the following thematic parts:

- 1 Decision-making process at the municipal level and hierarchical control of this process;
- 2 External and judicial control of the decision-making process at the municipal level;
- 3 The final assessment and the procedure of initiating a case before the Constitutional Court of Republic of Kosovo. Each theme is categorized into specific subtopics that were and will be discussed during the course so students are prepared for their internship program.



Legal Research and Writing Workshops

A total of 198 young people benefited from 7 workshops held throughout May and June.

During these workshops, participants gained knowledge about the legal and state system of Kosovo through step-by-step instructions on how to conduct legal research. The workshop continued with the analysis of different cases from the courts of Kosovo. These workshops contributed to increasing efficiency, transparency, accountability, and professionalism of legal services within the municipal administrations through professional support.





Simulation of Assembly Sessions

More than 350 young people aged 16-24 from 16 different municipalities had the chance to participate in the Municipal Assembly Sessions simulation training where they learned more about the functioning and the role of the Assembly, as well as were divided into different roles to simulate a session.

Based on the feedback of the participants and the organizers of the training, the simulation of the Assembly sessions resulted to be one of the most interesting and intriguing activities of the project.



Essay Competitions

With the aim to stimulate critical thinking among young people, to awaken their creativity, and to define their opinion on justice matters, YIHR KS through its sub-grantees active in different regions, opened an Essay Competition with the theme of "Why corruption exists?" Out of 63 essays received, the three best essays from each region got awarded with books.



Reflection Meeting - Constitutional and Administrative Clinic

In June, YIHR KS in cooperation with the Faculty of Law of the University of Prishtina held a meeting with students of the extra-curricular semester course "Constitutional and Administrative Clinic" and the beneficiaries of the internship where they shared their experiences and the lessons learned throughout the internship program and the clinic.



Closing Conference

In September, YIHR KS organized the closing conference of the project with stakeholders and beneficiaries. In this conference, YIHR KS also held a panel discussion on “Youth participation in the upcoming local elections” with Prof. Dr. Visar Morina from the Faculty of Law of the University of Pristina, Eugen Cakolli from Democracy in Action, and Blerina Ukshini from Democracy for Development. Discussions were raised on the importance of integrating young people in public decision-making and local governance.



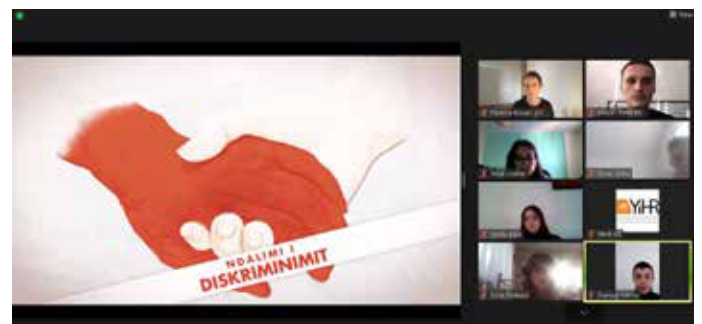
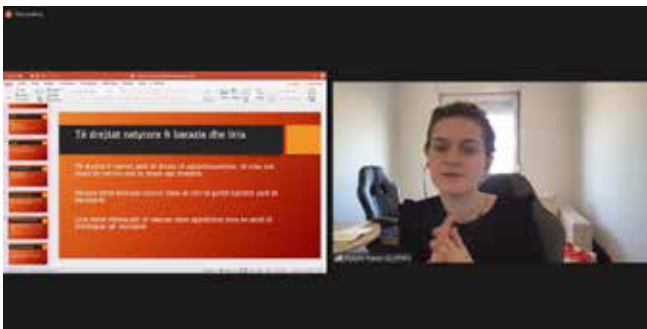
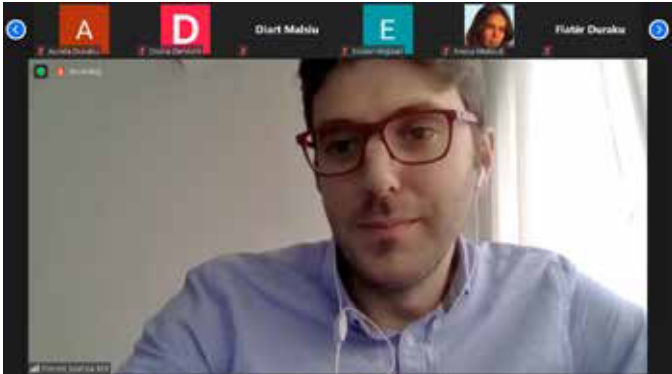
Project: "Empowering Communities, Youth and Women for an Effective Rule of Law and Access to Justice in Kosovo"

"Empowering Communities, Youth and Women for an Effective Rule of Law and Access to Justice in Kosovo" is a five-month educational project developed by YIHR KS in cooperation with the NGO Social Knowledge for Real Accountability and Transparency - NGO "SOKRAT" based in Parteš/sh. The project will apply a comprehensive theoretical and practical approach in educating high school students to become empowered agents in protecting and promoting human rights and peace-building processes in Kosovo.

Webinar series 'Youth as Human Rights Defenders'

YIHR KS in cooperation with NVO Sokrat, supported by UNDP Kosovo, successfully held 7 informative and interactive webinars on human rights and community challenges with young people from the Serb community in Kosovo.

The two-day interactive training engaged around 22 young people in Kosovo with the aim of introducing them to the concept of human rights as well as to improving their critical thinking on identifying, addressing, and solving community issues. Besides introducing them to the legal and institutional mechanisms in Kosovo that directly defend and guarantee non-majority rights, YIHR KS aimed to show the participants that YIHR KS remains committed to creating a safe space and inclusive society for people from all communities in Kosovo.



World Café

World Café activity brought more than 50 young people from different communities in Kosovo together.

In February, 25 participants from the webinar series "Youth as Human Rights Defenders" had the chance to meet each other in person and discuss various topics from the lessons learned throughout the training. Divided into 4 ethnically diverse groups, they brainstormed on important issues such as the right to language, non-majority communities' rights, LGBTQ+ rights, and women's rights at the First World Café. Later on, on May 20th, the Second World Café was held with around 30 participants.



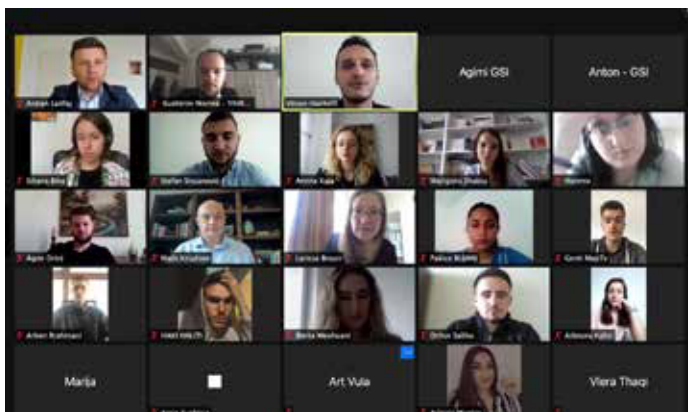


Essay Competition

YIHR KS in cooperation with the partner organizations NVO Sokrat, UNDP Kosovo, and UNICEF held a closing online ceremony of the project “Empowering Communities, Youth and Women for an effective Rule of Law and Access to Justice in Kosovo.”

The ceremony started with opening remarks by Mr. Niels Knudsen, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, and was followed by Ms. Larissa Bruun, UNICEF Deputy Head of Office, who spoke about UNICEF's work on youth empowerment. Ms. Marigona Shabiu and Mr. Stefan Stojanovic also shared their experience on NGO multi-ethnic youth partnership and cooperation.

During this ceremony, YIHR KS announced the 4 winners of the competition for the best essay on "Human Rights and Access to Justice" with a focus on the rights of marginalized groups and possible solutions to the problems faced by different communities in Kosovo. Youngsters coming from different communities admitted their individual work or teamed up to write together on such matters that affect and interest them.



Project: "Protecting economic and social rights during and after COVID-19 pandemic" - UNMIK - United Nations Mission in Kosovo.

"Protecting economic and social rights during and after COVID-19 pandemic" project aimed to build on results from past interventions by empowering participants to stand up for the human rights of their peers from different communities, thus contributing to broader trust-building and reconciliation efforts through interactive and innovative human rights activities, including a story-telling camp, a bus tour, living libraries, and various communication visuals.

Living Libraries

More than 140 young people participated in the Living Libraries in Kamenica, Ferizaj, and Lipjan to learn about economic and social rights through reading and hearing each others' stories like books.

The Living Libraries enabled young people to share their stories during the pandemic from which many inspiring messages emerged.



Ferizaj



Kamenicë





Lipjan



Online campaign for Economic and Social Rights

In order to promote human rights and trust-building, an online campaign was organized with key messages about human rights. To focus on the economic and social rights during the pandemic, YIHR KS shared posts that displayed crucial human rights such as access to healthcare during the pandemic, safety during the pandemic, and freedom during the pandemic.

WHICH ARE SOME OF MY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS?

RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING RIGHT TO SOCIAL PROTECTION

- The right to food, water, clothing and housing.
- The right to social assistance, social security and social insurance.



This project has been funded by UNHCR.



WHICH ARE SOME OF MY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS?

RIGHT TO WORK AND WORKER'S RIGHTS RIGHT TO EDUCATION

- The right to safe and healthy working conditions.
- The right to available and accessible secondary and higher education, progressively made free of charge.



This project has been funded by UNHCR.



WHICH ARE SOME OF MY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS?

RIGHT TO HEALTH

- The right to access health facilities, goods and services.
- The right to healthy occupational and environmental conditions, and protection against epidemic diseases.



This project has been funded by UNHCR.



34-36

**YOUTH
EMPOWERMENT
PROGRAM**

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.

Storytelling Workshops

In May 2021, YIHR KS implemented the first Storytelling Workshop where 20 participants from different communities in Kosovo had the opportunity to learn more about dealing with the past and the importance of activism and storytelling. Furthermore, they learned how to conduct interviews for the Virtual Museum of Refugees. The second workshop was conducted during the 17th-20th of June consisting of 20 participants, many of whom encountered interactions with youngsters from other communities living in Kosovo for the first time.



Multiplier Events

Within the project “Common Ground Common Future”, YIHR KS organized 3 multiplier events that were involved in the design of the project aimed to disseminate the results of the project in a strong way. YIHR KS shared our vision with 90 local participants introducing the results of the case studies and the Common Ground, Common Future Toolkit based on the compendium research and development of theories and approaches.



‘Common Ground Common Future’ Conference

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Project: 'Champion Schools for Social Change'

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.

Anti-bullying and Discrimination Virtual Campaign

In February, YIHR KS launched the Anti-bullying and Discrimination Virtual Campaign as part of the Champion Schools for Social Changes project supported by GIZ Kosovo on behalf of the German Government.

The purpose of this campaign was to raise awareness of all citizens, especially young people, on the importance of promoting personal narratives and non-violent tools that can be used in schools.

The content of this campaign showed anti-bullying initiatives that the 20 champion schools around Kosovo have implemented and was published every day at 7 pm, from 15 February until 6 March 2021.



37-44

**ADDITIONAL
ACTIVITIES
YIHR-KS**

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES YIHR-KS

International Women's Day

YIHR KS in support of the call 'Marshojmë S'festojmë (We don't celebrate, we march!)', on March 8, marked International Women's Day by marching to show our resistance to the patriarchy that continues to take the lives of many women in Kosovo. On this day, YIHR KS commemorated all the women who were killed just because they were women and demanded and will continue to demand justice and equality.



National Day of Missing Persons

1,639 names that Kosovo has been missing for 21 years!

On April 27th, YIHR KS marked the National Day of Missing Persons through an installation in the square "Skenderbeu" in which all the names of missing persons from the last war in Kosovo were placed. Through this street action, justice was demanded on behalf of our fellow citizens and their families and YIHR KS showed its frustration with the state's efforts to clarify the fate and whereabouts of missing persons for more than two decades.

In addition, at 20:00, YIHR KS made a call to all citizens and the square of Prishtina to turn off the lights for 5 minutes to show solidarity with the pain of family members who continue to wait in the dark. Various videos were created and shared social media stories with the hashtag #inthedarknessofmissingpeople.



Pride Week

As part of the working group, YIHR KS supported Pride Week (June 28 - July 1st) this year by co-organizing numerous events together with CEL Kosovo and CSGD Kosovo. Pride Week this year aimed to bring light to the issue of the Civil Code and same-sex marriage. Through the slogan "Together and Proud," YIHR KS made a call for solidarity, equality, justice, and social change. On July 1st, the 5th Pride Parade was held by a march in the streets of Prishtina. YIHR KS stands in solidarity and continues to support, advocate, and resist together with our queer friends on the fight for freedom, acceptance, and equality!



Protest: 'Justice for murdered women'

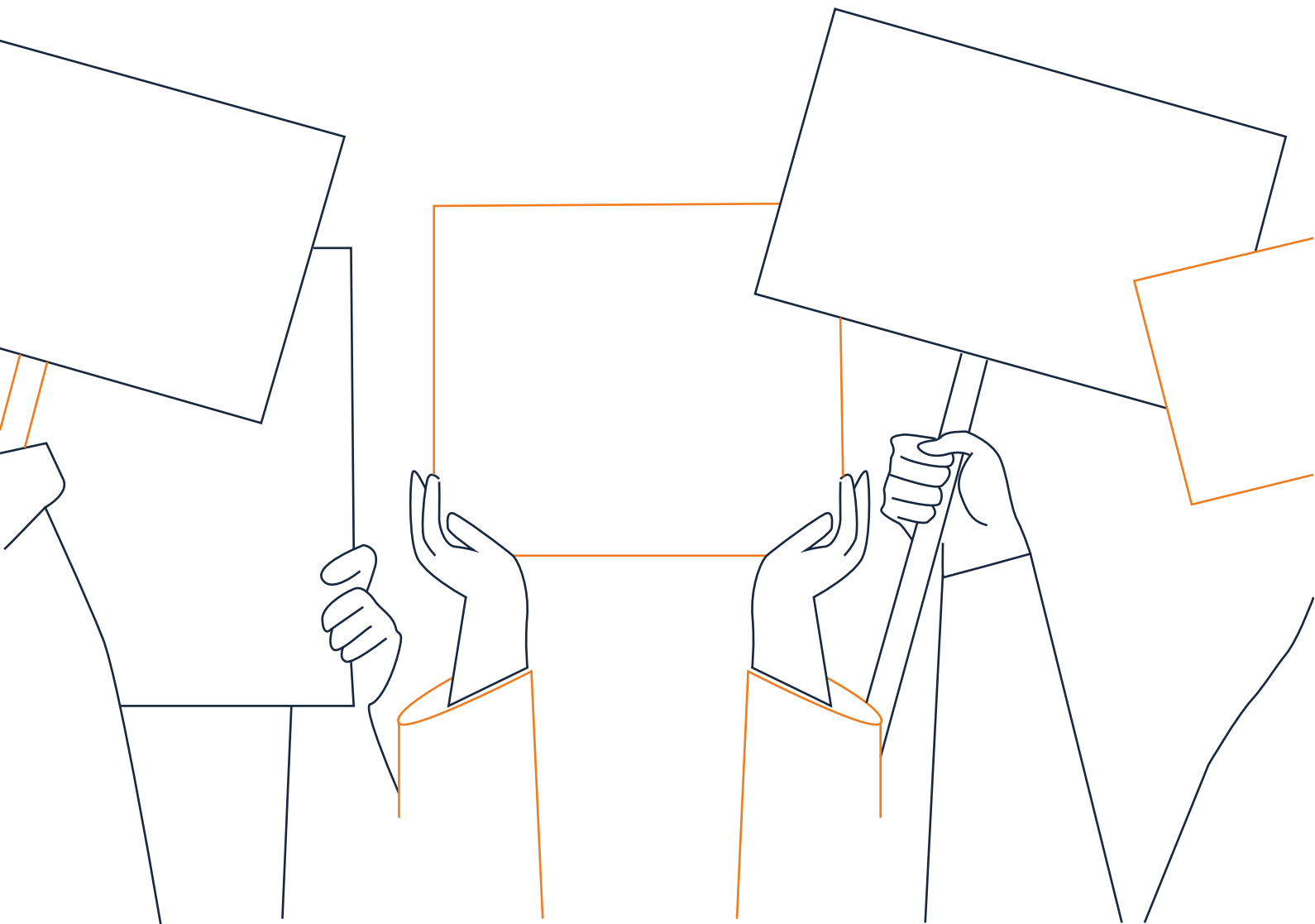
Concerned and aggravated by the case of the murder of an 18-year-old girl in Ferizaj, on August 24th YIHR KS protested together with the organizers and citizens in front of the Police Station and Prosecution and Basic Court in Ferizaj under the slogan "Justice for the murdered women!" with a request that justice is carried out immediately by punishing the suspects and demanding that such cases not be repeated again!



Protest: 'The killing of women must be treated as national urgency!'

Through this protest, YIHR KS in cooperation with the organizations QIKAT, the Kosovo Women's Network, and the Kosovo Center for Gender Studies demanded that the killing of women be treated as a national emergency. This call on August 26th came as a consequence of the macabre murder that took place in Ferizaj, a case that reminded us once again that the lives of women and girls in Kosovo are in constant danger. Therefore, worried and concerned about the precarious situation of girls and women and the violence that is nurtured by state institutions, YIHR KS protested collectively near state institutions in Pristina.







**HUMAN
RIGHTS
WEEK**

VOL. 8

6-10 DECEMBER, 2021

Human Rights Movie Night



Workshop - 'Activism and Hope'



Discussion - 'Corruption and Human Rights'



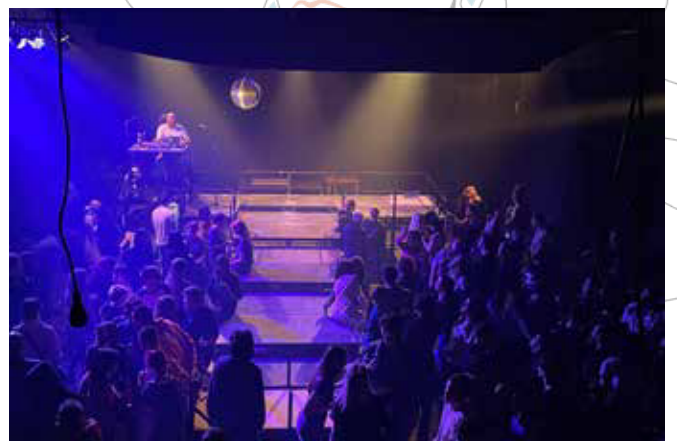
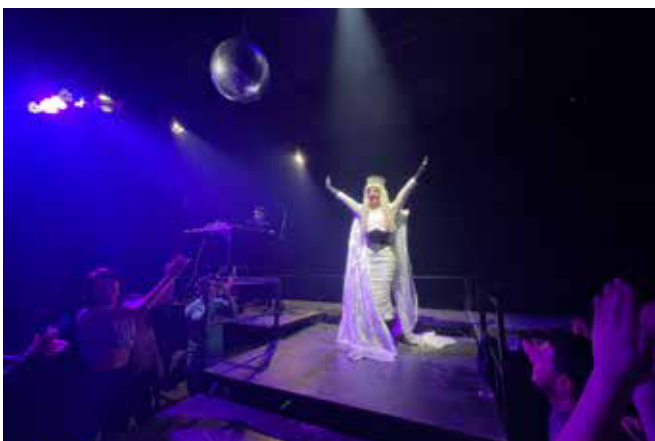
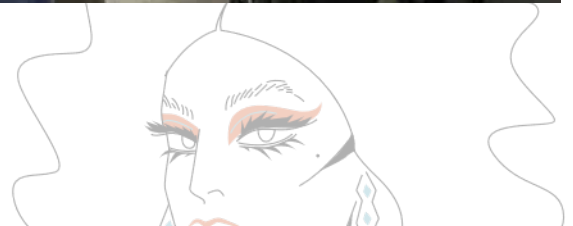
World Cafe with Decision Makers



Away from Home Exhibition with Artan Hajrullahu



Drag Show with HYJNESHAT



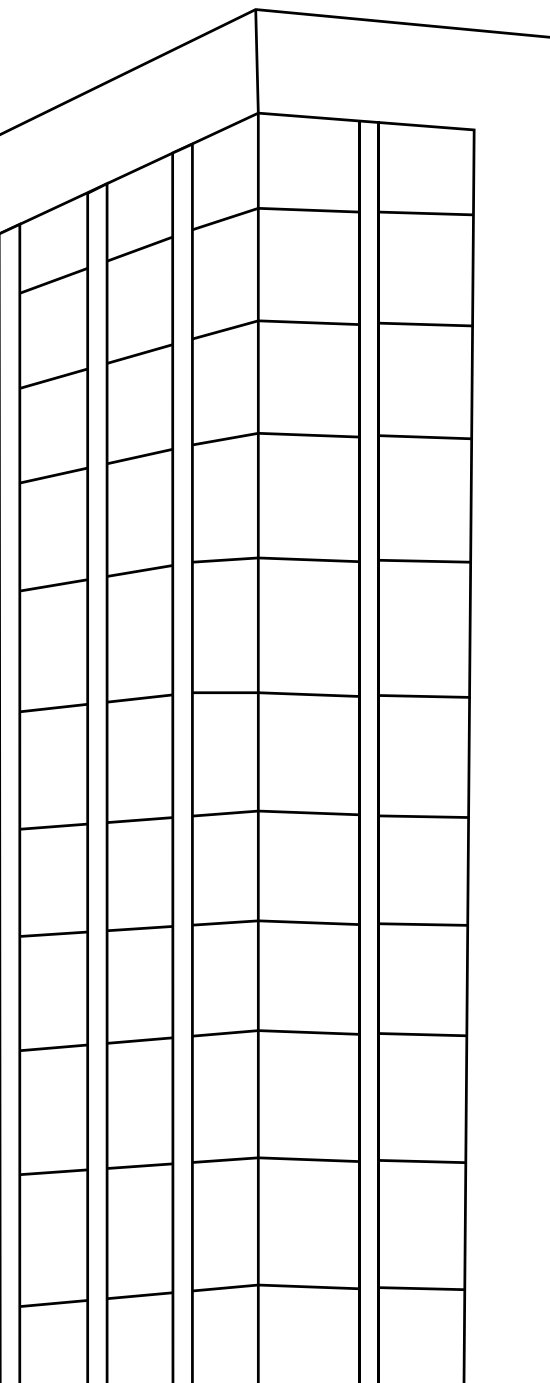
Street Actions in 6 regions of Kosovo



Protest: 'Protect, Promote, Protest!'

On December 10, 2021, at 12:00 on the International Human Rights Day, YIHR KS in cooperation with the organizations CEL, KWN, KLI, VoRAE, HANDIKOS invited all activists and citizens to gather in the square "Zahir Pajaziti" in Prishtina to protest against injustices and institutional violence. At the same time, this protest concluded the 8th edition of the 'Human Rights Week' marked by YIHR KS.

Through this peaceful protest, YIHR KS unanimously demanded from the responsible institutions to fulfill their legal responsibilities and to take urgent measures in the protection, respect, and guarantee of fundamental human rights and freedoms for all without distinction. Under the slogan 'Protect RIGHTS, Promote ACTIVISM, Protest INJUSTICE', citizens joined the protest in solidarity with all victims of violations of fundamental human rights and freedoms.



**Mbroj,
TË DREJTAT,** **Promovo,
AKTIVIZMIN,** **Protesto
PADREJTËSITË**



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