



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

2022

NEWSLETTER

JULY - SEPTEMBER

Dearest Reader,

We as YIHR KS hope you are having a lovely Autumn Start. Our team had an amazing summer and is thrilled to finally tell you all about it!

Throughout the past months, young people across Kosovo have inspired and empowered us with their motivation to learn and dedication to protect human rights. Although we have witnessed and are truly disturbed by a lot of social turmoil, including acts of inter-ethnic hatred, sexual violence and homophobia, we continue to not back down. Instead, our resistance keeps growing, our work keeps expanding, and dedication to promoting human rights keeps getting stronger.

We kindly invite you to read our June - August Newsletter of 2022, to hear more about our social activism efforts and feel inspired to join and keep the fight!

Best wishes,

YIHS KS Team

NEW TEAM MEMBER



URESA AHMETI

PROGRAM AND COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT

Uresa Ahmeti joined the YIHR KS team in August 2022 as a Program and Communications Assistant after graduating with an Arts Bachelor Degree from Wesleyan University, CT, USA. She double-majored in Sociology and Feminist, Gender & Sexuality Studies. She is a recipient of the Davis Scholarship and finished her high school studies at United World College Maastricht in the Netherlands. Alongside her scholarly interests, she is an activist and an artist.

Her solo interactive performances *From Other to Self*, *Interrogating Power*, *Ho-me is Where the Breath Is / (Be)longing*, the podcasts she's produced, and her recently published poetry book *How the Hell Do I Abort a Demon* among other works, call for self-agency, social awareness, and collective recognition and resistance of the ways in which systems of oppression co-exist and subjugate bodies. At YIHR KS she will focus on issues of dealing with the past, human rights and using communication tools to promote and advocate for human rights and democracy.

ACTIVITIES

MEETINGS ABOUT CIVIL SOCIETY REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Human Rights Network (HRN) met with the President of the Republic of Kosovo, Vjosa Osmani and the Prime Minister of Kosovo in the regular advocacy meeting to address the recommendations from the Civil Society Report on Human Rights.

HRN advocated for the protection and advancement of the rights of women, non-majority communities, youth, LGBTQI+, and people with special needs, considering that they continue to be extremely vulnerable groups of our society.

Representatives of organizations belonging to the HRN presented the report and discussed the possibilities of cooperation with public officials in pushing forward these recommendations in order to improve the human rights situation in Kosovo.



ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL STUDENTS MEET THE OMBUDSMAN

In the framework of the “Youth for Justice” project, through alternative opportunities, students are gaining more knowledge and practice in the field of human rights, as well as being informed in more detail about the justice system in Kosovo.

Today, students were informed about the mandate and powers of the People’s Advocate, the expanded powers arising from numerous laws as well as the issues handled by the IAP related to the rights of children and young people.



STUDENTS OF THE ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL MEET REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE OSCE MISSION IN KOSOVO

Students had the opportunity to discuss with representatives from various departments and learn more about the work and mission of the OSCE.

*This activity is supported by the U.S. Department of State: Bureau of Intl Narcotics & Law Enforcement (INL)



PROTEST

PROTECTION FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS!

Following the case of the rape of the 11-year-old girl by 5 boys and men, together with other organizations and independent activist groups, we organized the protest calling for 'Protection for Women and Girls.'

Together with thousands of citizens/we raised our voices and made our calls more than clear:

1. State protection and security for girls and women;
2. Fair handling of cases of violence against women and meritorious punishments for the perpetrators;
3. Legalization of the use and distribution of irritant gas for self-defense (pepper spray).



PROTEST AT THE PROSECUTORIAL COUNCIL OF KOSOVO

Our first protest against the rape of an 11-year-old girl by 5 boys and men led us to new information that doubles the state's guilt in this crime. 6 more men were arrested who in June had trafficked, raped and exploited the minor for sexual services. Despite this, we are without accountability from the State Prosecutor's Office who failed to protect the victim and prevent her rape in August.

Under these conditions, our second protest did not stop at the Government. It continued to the Prosecutorial Council of Kosovo, where we demanded the dismissal of the Chief Prosecutor of the Basic Prosecution in Pristina, Kujtim Munnishi.



SYMBOLIC PROTEST ACTION AT THE PCK

We closed the entrance of the Prosecutorial Council of Kosovo with two ribbons demanding the PCK to dismiss the prosecutor Ruhan Salihu and the chief prosecutor of the Basic Prosecution in Pristina, Kujtim Munishi.

We declared the Prosecutor's Office and the KPK as crime zones. Through these institutions, negligent, sexist and racist prosecutors are maintained and reproduced, who then become complicit in gender-based crimes. Also, we reiterated that we will continue to protest until:

1. The Prosecutorial Council to dismiss the prosecutor Ruhan Salihu;
2. The Prosecutorial Council to dismiss the chief prosecutor of the Basic Prosecutor's Office in Pristina, Kujtim Munishi;
3. The Prosecutorial Council to request the removal of the case from the Basic Prosecutor's Office in Pristina and the transfer to the Special Prosecutor's Office of Kosovo for further investigation.

YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM 7 (YEP)

Youth Exchange Program in one of the 3-one-week residential exchanges under the 'Kosovo Youth Dialogue' project with the main goal of empowering young people to participate in confronting the past and the reconciliation process in Kosovo by encouraging inter-ethnic communication, interaction and cooperation, addressing common ground interests, building trust and promoting mutual understanding and positive attitudes.

YEP 7 gathered 30 young people from the Albanian and Serbian communities, in order for young people to have the opportunity to exchange experiences, ideas and opinions, as well as learn about transitional justice, dealing with the past, intercultural dialogue and other communication skills.

The program will continue in other phases in the following weeks. A one-day trip awaits us in various cities of Kosovo that are inhabited by a majority of Kosovo Albanians and Kosovo Serbs. And last but not least YEP participants will have the opportunity to design small projects for community change around the theme of reconciliation under the guidance and financial support of YIHR.



YEP 7 ACTIVITIES



STREET ACTION

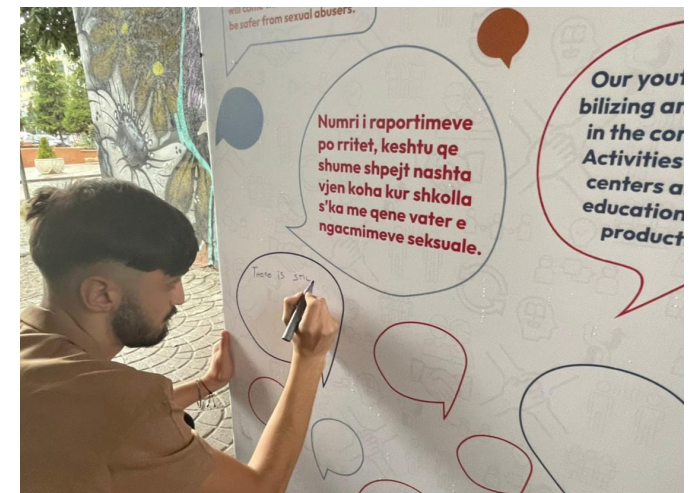
INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY, GJILAN

We marked the International Youth Day in Gjiilan through the street action “We are here, hear our voices”.

Citizens and activists joined the action by writing positive and negative messages on the “Wall of Youth” about the reality that the youth of Kosovo continues to face.

The diverse experiences of young people must be heard and institutions must make a serious effort to include the wishes and needs of young people in their policy making.

* This event is a part of the Reconciliation & Conflict Transformation Activity, implemented by Community Building Mitrovica and partners from New Social Initiative and Youth Initiative for Human Rights - Kosovo (YIHR KS), and supported by the American people through USAID Kosovo.



STREET ACTION

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY, PRISHTINË

Day by day, the youth are ready to leave Kosovo for their fundamental human rights, so on August the 12th, we marked International Youth Day with the street action “When is it going to get better?!” in “Mother Teresa” Square, paying attention to the phenomenon of the migration of Kosovo’s youth. Many suitcases were placed on the street as a symbolic sign of resistance to injustices and demand for the rights that belong to us.

Many citizens joined our cause by reflecting on the situation in Kosovo, as well as by reading the stories shared by the Kosovar youth that were placed in the suitcases. You can read the full stories at: When is it going to get better?! – E drejta jem.

*This activity is part of the “Youth for Justice” project supported by the US State Department - INL.



CAMPAIGN VIDEO ON YOUTH MIGRATION

Check our campaign video that marked the International Youth Day by showing the youths’ perspectives and concerns.

Click here

<https://fb.watch/fZlpJOKh2E/>

STREET ACTION

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

We marked August 30, the International Day of Enforced Disappearances, showing solidarity with the pain and revolt of the family and the wider society for establishing justice and finding the truth for the 1,621 missing persons.

The Waiting Door symbolized our long wait and distress from the delayed resolution of this matter for so many years.

In this street action, we covered the door with black ink because every day of waiting is darker and more difficult for the families of the disappeared. Every day that their fate is not enlightened and justice is not served is more gloomy for our families and citizens.

Therefore, we continue to urge our institutions to prioritize this issue as a key factor in the process of dealing with the past.



STREET ACTION

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

We marked the International Day of Peace with a street action in Zahir Pajaziti Square. This year, we dedicated Peace Day to the Peace Generation as a way to recognize the efforts, contribution and influence of young people in social change.

Together we celebrated our young generation that actively and tirelessly works to undo injustices and build peace once and for all.

This day served as a good opportunity to reflect on what we have done so far, and what we can do further on building peace.

*This activity is supported by USAID and NED.



REACTIONS

The YIHR offices from Kosovo and Montenegro strongly condemn the behavior of the fans in the football match between Budućnost and Llapia clubs in Podgorica and Pristina

Such messages contribute to the already existing nationalism in the Western Balkans area and to the deepening of divisions between people.

The process of reconciliation must come from all elements of society to have a country and a region that works for democracy and justice.

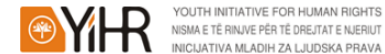
We expect the competent institutions to react and punish the participants of this demonstration and in this way send the message that this type of behavior is not tolerated.

[RTCG - Radio Televizija Crne Gore - Nacionalni javni servis :: Fudbal :: Provokacija navijača Lapija: Vi ste sljedeći / fbclid=IwAR0S8Ok-4QOfBiWLrdQ7w7y-q4wy_w-l7SvCfrDk5q55yfaNdQ5kjp-9JBXL8](https://www.rtcg.me/vesti/1754847-RTCG-Radio-Televizija-Crne-Gore-Nacionalni-javni-servis-Fudbal-Provokacija-navijača-Lapija-Vi-ste-sljedeći-fbclid=IwAR0S8Ok-4QOfBiWLrdQ7w7y-q4wy_w-l7SvCfrDk5q55yfaNdQ5kjp-9JBXL8)

Youth Initiative for Human Rights - Kosovo (YIHR KS) and YIHR Srbija calls on both the government of Kosovo and the government of Serbia as well as on all citizens to refrain from statements and actions that could escalate the situation in the north of Kosovo, as well as promote inter-ethnic hatred.

[https://yibr-ks.org/statement-regarding-the-recent.../...](https://yibr-ks.org/statement-regarding-the-recent.../)

Reaction to the prohibition of the Summer University of Pristina students at the “Adem Jashari” Memorial in Prekaz



Reaction to the prohibition of the Summer University of Pristina students at the "Adem Jashari" Memorial in Prekaz

YIHR KS strongly condemns the recent action of “Shqiponjat e Zeza”, fanclub of the football team “Drenica”, who have blocked the way of Summer University Prishtina students, making it impossible to visit the memorial complex in Prekaz.

Part of the Summer University Prishtina agenda, which is attended by foreign as well as Kosovar students, was a visit to the memorial complex in Prekaz.

It has been reported in the media that a few Serbian students will be part of this group, too. The fanclub “Shqiponjat e Zeza” did not permit the bus or the students to enter Prekaz, by blocking the road which leads to the “Adem Jashari” memorial complex in Prekaz.

YIHR KS condemns such behavior that contributes to the incitement of inter-ethnic hatred and further deepens the existing nationalism in the Western Balkans, as a result of which comes formations of additional divisions and the difficulty of the ethnic group’s common life.

Such study visits by new generations are an extremely important step in the process of dealing with the past, and achieving peace and reconciliation. In accordance with the principles of dealing with the past, the wrongdoings and war crimes should not be attributed collectively to a group or ethnicity, as this, among other things, will prevent the process of establishing justice for the victims and will hinder the process of reconciliation.

However, it is important to focus on peace-building, reconciliation and justice for the victims and not inciting inter-ethnic hatred.

Thus, we expect the responsible institutions to react and penalize the participants of this group so that a message that such behavior is not tolerated will be delivered.

Youth Initiative for Human Rights - Kosovo

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Together we remember the victims of Operation Storm

On the occasion of the twenty-seventh anniversary of the military police operation VRO Oluja (Operation Storm), the regional network of the Youth Initiative for Human Rights calls on institutions in Croatia and Serbia to cooperate more on the issue of rights and justice for victims of war crimes, and that the highest state officials of the countries affected by the wars of the 1990s to contribute more seriously, responsibly and courageously to the building of peace and responsible dealing with the past.

Read the full statement of YIHR in English here:

<https://bit.ly/3OXEVmn>



(Activist of YIHR Croatia and YIHR Serbia in visit of village Gošići)

Youth Initiative for Human Rights Network (YIHR) stands in solidarity with LGBTIQ+ community in Serbia after the latest official statements of the President and the Government of Serbia announcing the possibility of banning the scheduled EuroPride 2022 march in Belgrade.

Read the full statement in English:

[https://yihr-ks.org/euro-pride-is-the-most-important.../...](https://yihr-ks.org/euro-pride-is-the-most-important.../)

YIHR KS IN THE MEDIA

Executive Director of YIHR KS - Marigona Shabiu was one of the panelists for the TEMPUS show on KTV and TV Arta where 'American messages for the rule of law' were discussed. Ms. Lisa A. Johnson also gave an exclusive interview on this topic as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

We had the pleasure of welcoming Mrs. Johnson in one of our activities of the project 'Youth for Justice' where young people had the opportunity to meet and talk with her about the situation of corruption in Kosovo.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wYfk-shUISac>

OPEN CALLS

[#KosovoChildrenofWarMuseum](#)

CHILDREN OF WAR MUSEUM

YIHR KS invites you to be a part of our up and coming Kosovo Children of War Museum!

YIHR KS will soon launch the Children of War Museum which aims to enhance collective memory about the recent war in Kosovo as a way of dealing with the past. Childhood stories and, in general, the daily life during the last war have remained on the margins of collective memory and remembrance. That is why, we invite you to contribute to this museum through your personal objects (toys , diaries , clothes , etc.) and as well other audio-visual testimonies that represent your experiences of the war.

Building collective memory through inclusive memorialization is one of the most important criteria of transitional justice. Therefore, every object, memory and experience is equally important and deserves to be seen and heard.

Contact us at this number +383 49 795 021, by email ksoffice@yih.org or via Facebook message .

TRAINING ON MINORITY YOUTH RIGHTS IN YOUTH WORK

The Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR) within the Erasmus program invites young people from the Western Balkan region to apply for the seven-day training “Promotion of minority youth rights in youth work” who are active in the civil sector or their local communities in the field of youth work.

Find more about the training and how to apply here:

<https://bit.ly/3dXLZ63>

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS PROMOTION OF MINORITY YOUTH RIGHTS IN YOUTH WORK

19-25 NOV // SREMSKI KARLOVCI



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Youth Initiative for Human Rights Kosovo

Kosovo

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