

JANUARY – JULY 2026



NEWSLETTER

<https://yihr-ks.org/>

Dear readers, friends, and supporters,

The first half of 2026 was defined by dialogue, resilience, and action. From standing up against disinformation and defending civic space to advancing inclusive memorialization, youth engagement, and human rights, YIHR Kosovo has continued to create spaces where memory inspires change and communities come together.

Throughout these six months, we strengthened partnerships, engaged with communities across Kosovo and beyond, and amplified voices that contribute to truth, accountability, and reconciliation. Every initiative reflected our commitment to building a more inclusive, democratic, and peaceful society.

This report highlights the people, partnerships, and initiatives that shaped our work between January and June. Thank you to everyone who continues to support our mission and helps turn dialogue into meaningful action.

The YIHR Kosovo Team :)

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

The year began with a strong focus on advancing human rights, accountability, and protecting civic space. Together with fellow civil society organizations, YIHR Kosovo welcomed the European Union's response to the Kosovo Law Institute's public letter calling for the lifting of restrictive measures against Kosovo, emphasizing the importance of constructive dialogue between Kosovo and the EU.



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

During this period, YIHR Kosovo also became the target of a coordinated disinformation and smear campaign. In response, we issued a public statement condemning the attacks and reaffirming our unwavering commitment to defending human rights and democratic values. We were encouraged by the broad solidarity shown by local and regional partners, including the Human Rights Network, as well as by numerous organizations and individuals who publicly expressed their support.

We also welcomed Switzerland's continued support for the Outreach Programme of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers, recognizing its important role in promoting public understanding of transitional justice and encouraging informed dialogue about Kosovo's past.



HRN Condemns the lynching campaign Against YIHR KS and Xhevdet Doda High School

The Human Rights Network (HRN) strongly condemns the recent online attacks and intimidation directed at the Youth Initiative for Human Rights in Kosovo (YIHR KS) and Xhevdet Doda High School following the organization of a public information session on the mandate of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers (KSC).

The Kosovo Specialist Chambers (KSC) is an institution established by Law No. 05/L-053 on Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor's Office adopted by the Assembly of Kosovo. As such, it is part of Kosovo's legal and institutional framework, and learning about its mandate, structure, and procedures is a legitimate and necessary part of civic and legal education.

For many years, YIHR KS has organized educational activities and information sessions on human rights, transitional justice, and justice institutions, including courts, with the aim of promoting informed public debate and critical thinking. Informing students and citizens about the mandates and competences of the KSC should be seen as a public responsibility that institutions themselves are encouraged to support. We emphasize that citizens have the right to be informed about the justice institutions established by their own country.

HRN firmly condemns all forms of lynching, intimidation, disinformation, and attacks against individuals and organizations engaged in education, dialogue, and human rights work.

We call upon the Municipality of Prishtina to stop its attacks on YIHR KS which directly violate its freedom of expression and freedom of association. Such attacks are a threat to human rights and democracy in Kosovo.

We stand in solidarity with YIHR KS and Xhevdet Doda High School and reaffirm our support for open, informed, and respectful public discourse.

Human Rights Network members:

HANDIKOS

Center for Equality and Liberty (CEL Kosovo)

Kosovo Law Institute (KLI)

Kosovo Center for Gender Studies (KCGS)

New Social Initiative (NSI)

A photograph of two women sitting on a blue sofa. The woman on the left is wearing a grey and white striped blazer. The woman on the right is wearing a brown leather jacket over a beige top. Behind them is a large blue poster with the Council of Europe logo and the text 'GUARDIAN OF HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW'. The poster also features a grid of human faces.

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Through interactive discussions and practical exercises, participants learned how false and misleading information spreads online, how to verify digital content and sources, and how to recognize common manipulation tactics used on social media.



March was a month of meaningful dialogue, youth engagement, and international cooperation. YIHR Kosovo continued to advance inclusive memorialization and transitional justice while creating spaces for young people to reflect on the past and build stronger connections across communities.

Throughout the month, we marked Zero Discrimination Day by bringing participants together to discuss equality, inclusion, and the importance of challenging discrimination and disinformation. As part of our regional engagement, YIHR Kosovo participated in the study visit, "Different Memories, Shared Futures: Towards Inclusive Memorialisation," exchanging experiences and good practices with partners working to promote inclusive approaches to remembrance.





The month concluded with meetings at the United Nations in Geneva, where YIHR presented the work of Kosovo's civil society and reinforced the importance of international cooperation in advancing human rights and transitional justice.

We also continued our "Biseda t'masluftës" (Post-war Conversations) series with anthropologist Çlirimtare Januzaj and artist Zgjim Zyba, while bringing together 20 young people from diverse communities across Kosovo for an interactive workshop on dialogue, trust-building, and reconciliation.

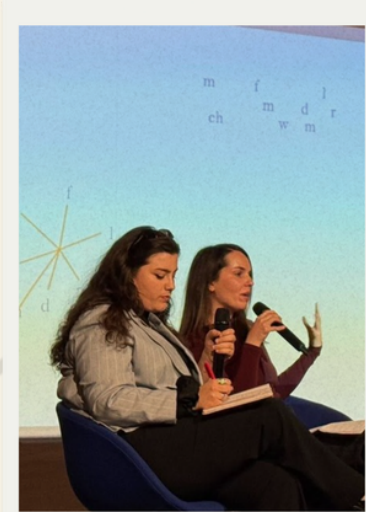


April was a month of important achievements in YIHR Kosovo's work on memorialization, media, integrity, peacebuilding, and youth empowerment.

YIHR launched Rewriting Memorialization, a two-day training that brought together 15 journalists to explore ethical and memory-sensitive reporting on the past—the initiative aimed to strengthen responsible journalism and encourage narratives that contribute to reconciliation and inclusive remembrance.



ADVANCING MEMORY, PEACE, & JUSTICE



The Children of War Museum was presented at the Museum of Ethnography of Geneva and the University of Geneva through the panel "Living as a Child Born from War," bringing the experiences of children affected by the Kosovo war to an international audience and fostering dialogue on memory, identity, and justice.

ADVANCING MEMORY, PEACE, & JUSTICE

In another significant milestone, YIHR officially joined the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) network, expanding its engagement with European civil society organizations working on peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and human rights.



Throughout the month, YIHR continued its advocacy for dealing with the past by marking the National Day of Missing Persons in Kosovo through a public awareness action and unveiling a mural dedicated to remembering victims and reinforcing the ongoing call for truth and justice.

ADVANCING MEMORY, PEACE, & JUSTICE

In May, YIHR Kosovo continued advancing its work on memorialization, human rights, and accountability through research, dialogue, and public reporting.



As part of the Memory for Peace project, YIHR organized the Rewriting Memorialization Training, bringing together young journalists to strengthen ethical, conflict-sensitive, and memory-informed reporting. The training encouraged participants to critically reflect on the role of media in shaping public narratives about the past and promoting reconciliation.

YIHR also convened a roundtable discussion on memorialization in Kosovo, gathering representatives from civil society, institutions, and experts to discuss current challenges, opportunities, and the importance of developing inclusive and sustainable approaches to remembrance



We published our 2025 Annual Report, highlighting key achievements, impact, and activities carried out throughout the year in advancing human rights, transitional justice, and youth participation.

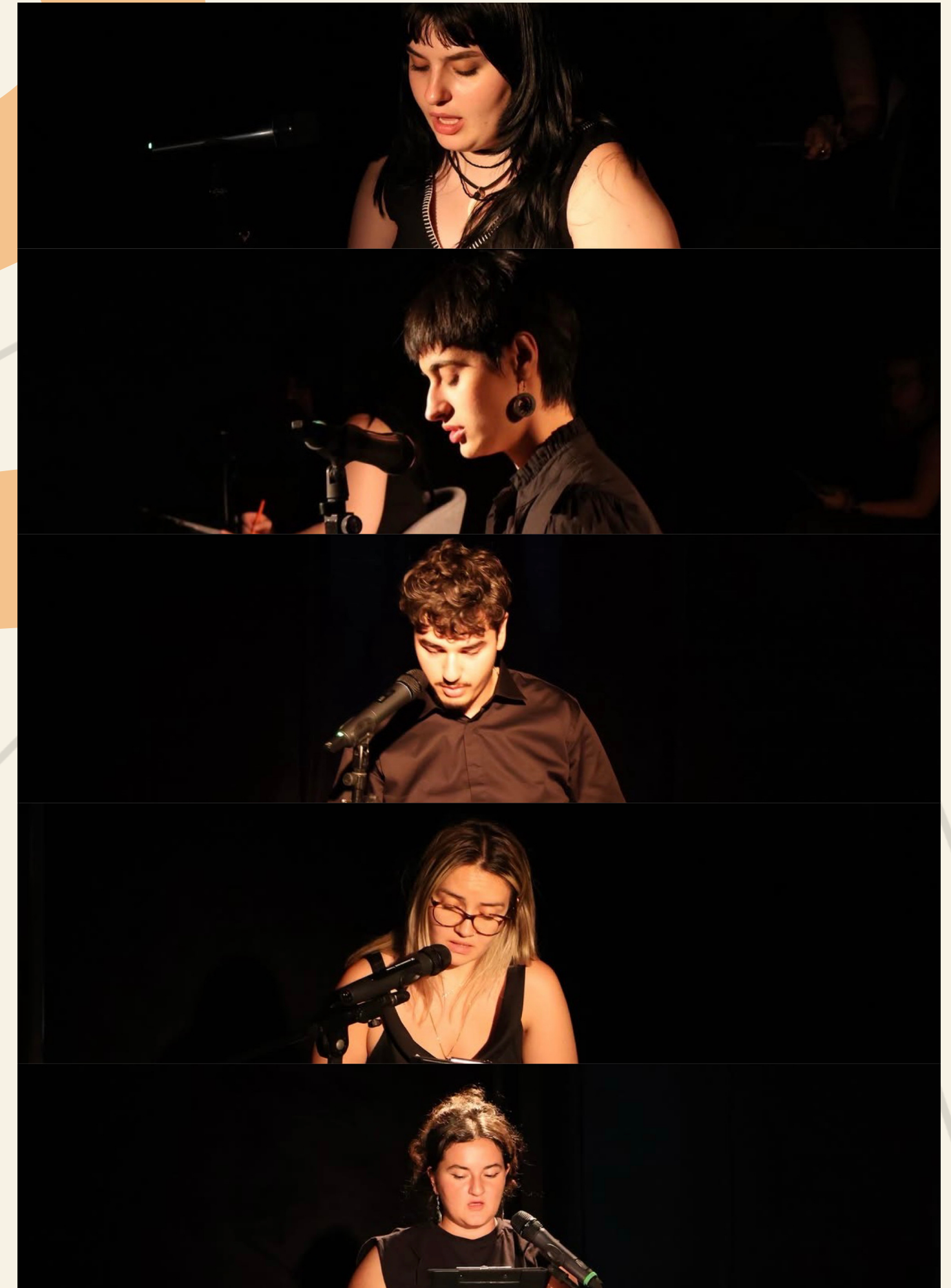


June was marked by YIHR Kosovo's continued commitment to human rights, inclusive remembrance, and youth engagement through advocacy, artistic expression, and regional cooperation. As part of Prishtina Pride Week, YIHR participated in activities promoting equality, inclusion, and the rights of the LGBTQ+ community, reaffirming its support for a society free from discrimination and hate.

YIHR KS also took part in the Regional Forum of Human Rights Defenders, bringing together activists and organizations from across the region to exchange experiences, strengthen cooperation, and discuss current challenges facing human rights defenders in the Western Balkans.



YIHR also presented “Në Ikje” (On the Move), an exhibition based on stories from the Virtual Refugee Museum, using personal testimonies to explore displacement, memory, and the long-lasting impact of war. Through art and storytelling, the exhibition encouraged public reflection on forced displacement and the importance of preserving personal histories.



FROM PRIDE TO POST-MEMORY



Throughout the month, we also continued our Post-Memory Talks series with discussions held in Ferizaj, Gjilan, and Prizren, creating spaces for conversations on memory, identity, and dealing with the past through dialogue with local communities.



 Youth Initiative for
Human Rights-Kosovo

 @yihhr_ks

 Youth Initiative for Human
Rights-Kosovo (YIHR-KS)

 YIHR KS

 <https://yihhr-ks.org/>

