



**Advocacy Center**  
for **Democratic Culture**

**JUNE**  
**2023**

# NEWSLETTER

Through a series of conferences, discussions, and events, NGO ACDC in June actively worked towards promoting human rights, fighting discrimination, and advocating for justice in Kosovo.



## **CONFERENCE ON TACKLING DISCRIMINATION IN KOSOVO**

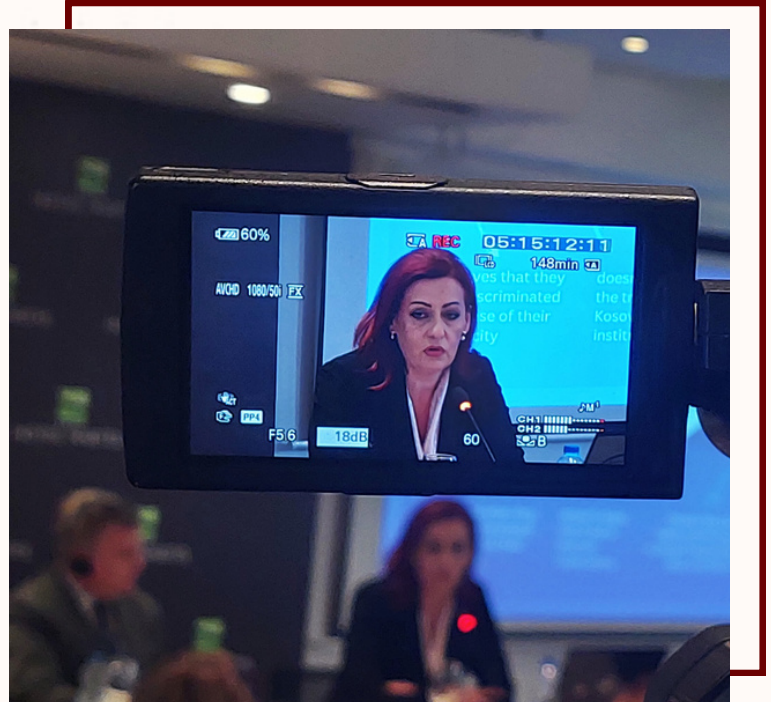
On June 8th, in Pristina, the NGO ACDC organized a conference focused on addressing the issue of discrimination in Kosovo. The panelists included Frank Power, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Pristina, Art Vula, Program Coordinator at the Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR), and Dusan Radakovic, Executive Director of ACDC.



During the event, Dusan Radakovic presented the research on Discrimination in North Mitrovica, conducted by ACDC in April 2023. The analysis aimed to address discrimination issues in North Mitrovica and provided insights into citizens' perceptions and knowledge of existing anti-discrimination legislation.

**SRB** **ALB** **ENG**

Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo, Emilija Redzeqi, also addressed the attendees, emphasizing the importance of fighting against discrimination, condemning hate speech, and fostering the development of a harmonious society.



The conference was organized within the project "Promoting human rights and non-discrimination principles at the local level, implemented by Council of Europe Office in Pristina and supported by UNMIK.



Media coverage of the conference:





## CONFERENCE ON POSITION OF PREGNANT WOMEN AND YOUNG MOTHERS

The conference on improving the position of pregnant women and young mothers was organized in EU House in North Mitrovica on June 27th. The panelists included Gordana Djoric, President of the Business Women's Association "Avenija," and Ines Aljović Mihajlović, Program Officer at ACDC.

The event featured insightful research conducted by ACDC, highlighting the challenges faced by pregnant women and emphasizing the importance of non-discrimination in labor laws.

The conference was organized within the project Advancing for a better position of pregnant women and young mothers, implemented by NGO ACDC.



## MOOT-COURT SIMULATION

On June 26, the law interns concluded their three-month internship with a moot-court simulation. Despite the inability to hold the simulation in an actual courtroom, as had been the practice in previous years, ACDC managed to conduct the final simulation that provided valuable practical experience for young law graduates.

*The Internship program was part of the project "Enhancing Transparency and Rule of Law in Kosovo-Serb Majority Communities", funded by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), and implemented by the ACDC in partnership with the NGO AKTIV.*





## Podcast on discrimination

Radio Kontakt Plus released a podcast episode as part of a project conducted by ACDC and funded by the Council of Europe.

In the episode, Milica Radovanović from the New Social Initiative shared observations on long-standing discrimination and dysfunctional systems faced by citizens from northern Kosovo.



## Equality for all

In line with this, ACDC implemented an awareness-raising campaign that involved the production of brochures, aimed to inform and empower citizens by emphasizing the importance of combating discrimination and promoting unity and solidarity to foster an inclusive society free from discrimination.



## Equal Access to Justice

In June, we also published a video spot to raise awareness about the necessity of equal access to justice and promote key principles supporting it.



## DISCUSSION ON TREATMENT OF SERBIAN POPULATION



In response to the ongoing political crisis and escalating tensions in northern Kosovo, ACDC took measures to address the treatment of the Serbian population by special police forces in the north of Kosovo, and organized a discussion with Mr. Naim Qelaj, the Ombudsperson of Kosovo.

The discussion, brought together activists and representatives from various organization who expressed deep concerns about arbitrary arrests, mistreatment of individuals, instances of hate speech, and provocative statements made by political figures, all of which have contributed to the prevailing sense of instability in the region.

The focus of the discussion was the urgent need to address these pressing issues and take concrete actions to ensure the well-being and protection of the citizens residing in northern Kosovo.

## APPEAL FOR PEACE

Furthermore, ACDC, together with InTER, New Social Initiative and Aktiv, drafted appeal for peace, endorsed by 160 Kosovo Serbs, expressing concerns about repressive measures by the Kosovo government and special police forces.

The letter highlighted that the future of Kosovo and the maintenance of peace in the region depend on the resolve and swiftness of actions taken by international community and countries that have recognized Kosovo.

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NGO ACDC also signed a press release condemning recent attacks on Serbian and Albanian media outlets in northern Kosovo.

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## FURTHER SUPPORT TO ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN MITROVICA REGION

### EQUIPMENT DONATION AND COURTROOM RENOVATION

Within the framework of a project funded by UNMIK, ACDC donated IT and technical equipment to the Detention Center in North Mitrovica and the Basic Court in Mitrovica. The equipment was delivered in the presence of UNMIK's representatives from the Justice section, including Chief of Justice Section, Andrea Lako.



Furthermore, as part of the same project, a new courtroom in the Basic Court in Mitrovica has been fully renovated, furnished, and equipped. The donation and renovation are part of UNMIK's ongoing programmatic activity, which is dedicated to advancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the justice system in Kosovo.

### RAISING AWARENESS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ROMA MAHALA

On June 14, NGO ACDC, with the support of UNMIK, organized an event in Learning Center in Roma Mahala, South Mitrovica aimed at raising the residents' awareness of their rights. The event featured a presentation by Arber Berisha from the Ombudsperson's Office, who highlighted the role of the Ombudsperson Institution of Kosovo in promoting human rights.



The project "Further Support to Access to Justice and Human Rights in Mitrovica region" aimed to improve access to justice, strengthen human rights protection, and promote the role of the Ombudsperson's Institution in the Mitrovica region of Kosovo.

## New Project

ACDC has launched a new project titled "Strengthening the human rights perspective from the non-majority point of view." The project aims to empower young individuals from non-majority communities in northern Kosovo by promoting active participation and integrating human rights values into education.

The project is supported by Community Development Fund, through HumanRightivism program, funded by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency – Sida.

As part of this initiative, NGO ACDC has issued a public call inviting young high school or university students interested in human rights to participate in workshops aimed at enhancing their understanding and engagement in the protection and promotion of human rights.

## Participation in Event: Advancing Language Rights

Dusan Radakovic, Executive Director of ACDC, and Aleksandar Rapajic, Program Director, participated in an event marking the completion of the "Advancing Language Rights in Kosovo" project funded by UNMIK and implemented by IOM. The event focused on research findings and newly drafted guidelines for implementing the Administrative Instruction on the Law on Use of Languages.



## ACDC in Media

Dušan Radakovic for Al Jazeera Balkan about the new arrests in the north of Kosovo



Aleksandar Rapajic for N1 about the crisis in the north of Kosovo



## OP-EDs on Human Rights

In June, ACDC published two op eds on human rights.

Danica Kompirović, MA of Law, provided a comprehensive explanation of free legal aid and highlighted the significance of the Kosovo Free Legal Aid Agency in advancing human rights and access to justice,



while Nevena Vulović, MA in Environmental Engineering, emphasized the crucial role of environmental awareness in achieving the right to a healthy life, specifically addressing the existence of dumpsites in Northern Kosovo.



## Marking International Days

ACDC marked the International Day for Environmental Protection and World Refugee Day, emphasizing the importance of environmental protection and supporting refugees worldwide.

