



# NEWSLETTER



JULY / AUGUST 2023



## Meeting of the UNMIK HR OFFICE and NGOs: Addressing Human Rights Concerns in Northern Kosovo

On August 23rd, the NGO ACDC arranged a meeting between Mr. Jerome Bouyjou, Chief of the UNMIK Human Rights Office and Representative of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Kosovo, and NGOs from northern Kosovo to discuss ongoing developments in northern Kosovo and the prevailing political crisis with impact on human rights and fundamental freedoms.

NGO representatives raised issues such as special police presence, trust among residents, the ban on Serbian products, food shortages, and school safety. They also highlighted the increasing number of people leaving Kosovo, due to prolonged political and security crises. Mr. Bouyjou highlighted that the Human Rights Office will continue supporting efforts of institutions and civil society to promote and protect human rights, including in the north Kosovo.



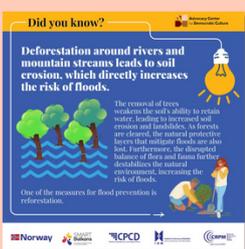
## Contract extension with translators and legal associates signed

The executive director of the NGO ACDC, Dušan Radaković, signed a contract extension with four translators and five legal associates at the Basic Court of Mitrovica. They will continue to assist judges in clearing the backlog of cases and reducing the number of pending cases. The translators and legal associates are engaged through the NGO ACDC on the UNMIK-funded project "Supporting Access to Justice in Northern Kosovo," which aims to advance the efficiency and effectiveness of the justice system in Kosovo.



## New Publication – Research on Inter-Ethnic Cooperation in Zvečan

As part of the project "Promoting inter-ethnic dialogue in local self-government", financed by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), and implemented by the NGO ACDC, an analysis entitled "Enhancing inter-ethnic cooperation in Zvečan" was published in July. The research conducted in the Municipality of Zvečan aimed to assess the perception of communities in the area regarding inter-ethnic relations and cooperation. The research is available on ACDC website in all three languages.



This summer, NGO ACDC has launched a social media campaign spotlighting human-driven factors contributing to flooding, such as deforestation around rivers, gravel extraction from riverbeds, random disposal of waste and construction of buildings around rivers.

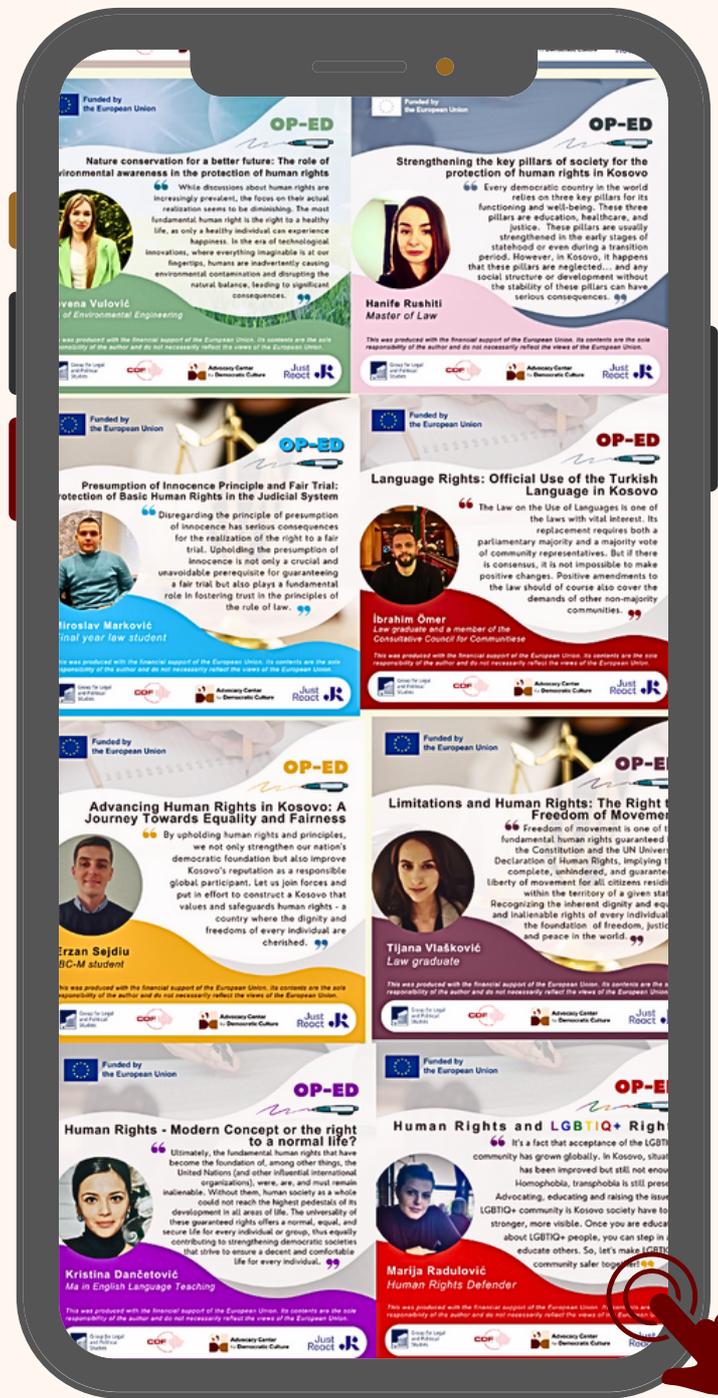
Through this campaign, we aim to increase awareness about the significant role human actions play in exacerbating flooding issues, ultimately promoting responsible environmental practices for a sustainable future.

In recent months, ACDC has been actively engaged in fostering discussions on human rights and societal issues in Kosovo.

Through a series of Op-Eds, we have not only provided an opportunity for young individuals to express their perspectives but also highlighted the crucial significance of human rights in today's society.

The articles have covered a range of vital topics including Land Expropriation in the North Kosovo, Challenges in Education, Healthcare, and Justice, Right to a Fair Trial, Environmental Rights, Language Rights, Right to Freedom of Movement, LGBTIQ+ Rights, Free Legal Aid, and other topics related to the concept of human rights. These texts were published as part of a CDF-funded project that aims to enhance conditions for human rights defenders, promoting the understanding and exercise of human rights, critical thinking, active citizenship, and universal human rights values through social media campaigns and Op-Eds.

ACDC will continue this publishing initiative to promote human rights awareness and advocacy.



## Youth Voices on Human Rights in Kosovo - From Land Expropriation to LGBT+ Rights





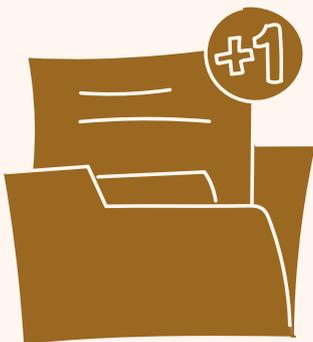
The entire program is supported by the Government of Japan through the Japan Social Development Fund, and with the involvement of the Republic of Kosovo's Ministry of Local Government and Administration, along with the Community Development Fund (CDF).

### The M4Y project continues

The project's impact is expanding to 15 municipalities in Kosovo, further enhancing its reach and influence. ACDC will continue overseeing the following municipalities: Ranilug, Srbica/Skenderaj, Vuçitrn/Vushtrri, Gračanica/Graçanicë, and Kosovo Polje/Fushe Kosove.

The M4Y project, supported by the Japan Social Development Fund and the Ministry for Local Government, and led by the World Bank, aims to empower young individuals aged 15 to 24 in Kosovo by fostering their active participation in community development.

### New Project – Enhancing of employability of Serbian and Bosnian communities



Overall objective is to contribute to economic development and to increasing employment in the labor market in northern Kosovo through empowerment of young people. This goal will be achieved through empowerment of young people to be more competitive in the labor market.

This project is supported by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Federal Republic of Germany.

## Participations in different meetings and events



NGO ACDC together with other representatives from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from different ethnic backgrounds in Kosovo and International Communities Organization (ICO) in partnership with Community Building Mitrovica (CBM), gathered to explore potential ways for strengthening peace-building efforts in Kosovo.

NGO ACDC also joined a discussion with journalists, media professionals and NGO representatives from different communities in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica South on representation, portrayal and safety of women in the local media, organized by OSCE Mission in Kosovo.



Furthermore, NGO ACDC participated in an informative session on 'Efficient Fundraising through Financial Literacy,' organized by CBM.

During a recent debate at the Media Center in Čaglavica, Aleksandar Rapajić, Program Manager, emphasized that the situation in Kosovo deteriorated significantly following the departure of Serbs from the North's institutions.

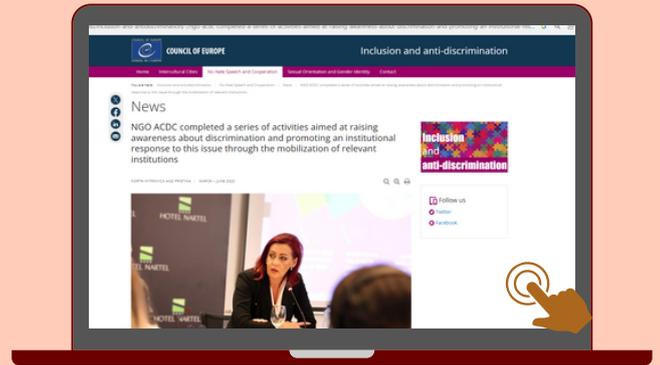


## Marking international Days

NGO ACDC continues to observe various international days that hold significance in promoting global awareness and values.



NGO ACDC was featured on the Council of Europe's website regarding one of our projects that aimed to promote non-discrimination. For more detailed information about the project, you can visit the official Council of Europe website.



## ACDC in Media

ACDC's Program Officer, Ines Aljovic Mihajlovic on labour rights of women



ACDC's Program Officer, Ines Aljovic Mihajlovic in the "Parenting in Practice" show on RTK 2, discussing the impact of pregnancy and childcare on employers.



ACDC's Executive Director, Dušan Radaković for Kosovo Online about the withdrawal of police in the north.



ACDC's Executive Director, Dušan Radaković on the shutdown of the Telecom in northern Kosovo



ACDC's Program Director, Aleksandar Rapajić for Kosovo Online on North Mitrovica's membership in the Association of Kosovo Municipalities

